editage
by CACTUS

Editage Language Enhancement Guide
Communicate your research in fluent English

Through this report, your Editage English Coach will help you
- ✓ improve your understanding of English language rules and best practices so that you can gradually write like a native English speaker,
- ✓ communicate your research in fluent English to your target readers across the globe,
- ✓ understand academic language style and conventions, and
- ✓ write papers more confidently in English.

The report contains 3 parts:

- Overall comments on your language skills and guidance for improvements,

- Detailed examples of focus areas found in your original text and corresponding suggestions for accurate ways in which to communicate those examples,

- Recommendations for reading to help you improve your language skills.

Note from your English Coach

Dear author,

My name is Susan, and I am your English Coach for this project. I have 5 years of experience in providing English language guidance. I have reviewed for *Journal of Family Psychology* (IF: 2.35) and published papers in *Psychological Review* (IF: 6.26), *Health Psychology* (IF: 3.53), and *Psychology and Aging* (IF: 2.61).

Publishing academic work in international English language journals can be challenging for native English authors and ESL (English as a Second Language) authors alike, I assure you! Through this report, my goal is to help you overcome this challenge gradually and with confidence.

Below, I have shared my assessment of your paper from the perspective of academic English accuracy and usage. I have read and understood your paper thoroughly before offering suggestions. Please note that your manuscript was to be edited according to British English style and spelling conventions; therefore, although the examples use American English spelling, the revised version uses British English spelling. Studying my recommendations below and applying them will gradually help you become proficient in English.

All the best! All good research deserves to be shared with the world!

Grammar	**Example 1**: "Terakawa (2004) conduct the study on residents of the organization from shared room to private room."
	• **English Coach's revised version**: "Terakawa (2004) *conducted* a study on residents who had shifted from shared to private rooms."
	• **Explanation for the change**: The original construction uses the simple present tense form of the word "conduct." However, the sentence refers to something that has already occurred. Therefore, the verb used in the sentence should appear in its past tense. Revising "conduct" to "conducted" corrects this tense usage error.
	Example 2: "The study employs behavior observation method…"
	• **English Coach's revised version**: "The study employs *the* behavioural observation method…."
	• **Explanation for the change**: Using articles correctly is an essential part of the English language. Articles ("a," "an," and "the") are placed before a noun to indicate its specificity/uniqueness. The definite article "the" is used when a specific noun is being mentioned. In this sentence, a specific method (the behavioural observation method) is being mentioned. Therefore, to indicate the specificity of the noun, the definite article needs to be added before it. If a method in general was being referred to here, then the indefinite article would have been used. For example, "The study employs a method…"
	Example 3: "Even private room also need time to show individual feature gradually …"
	• **English Coach's revised version**: "Even private *rooms reflect* the residents' personalities only gradually …"
	• **Explanation for the change**: The sentence has a subject-verb agreement error. A subject-verb disagreement occurs when the plural form of a verb is used for a singular noun or vice-versa. The error in the sentence occurs because the verb form "need" (plural) is used along with the noun "room" (singular). Here, the subject-verb agreement error has been resolved by revising the word "room" to the plural form "rooms" because the context makes it apparent that more than one room is being referred to here.

Sentence construction/ Phrasing	**Example 1**: "It classifies the observation behavior into basic behavior, quiet behavior, social intercourse behavior, recuperation behavior, mobile behavior, leaving the bedroom, these six kinds of behavior."
	• **English Coach's revised version**: "*According to this method, behaviours are classified into six types: basic, quiet, social intercourse, recuperation, mobile, and leaving the bedroom.*"
	• **Explanation for the change**: The original sentence uses the phrase "these six kinds of behavior" at the end of the sentence without connecting it to any other part of the sentence. This results in a poor construction and gives the impression that a phrase has been tacked on to the sentence. The revised sentence integrates the phrase at the end with the remaining sentence by placing it before the examples of the different

behaviours. The original construction also repeats the word "behavior" five times, which the revised sentence avoids by using the word "behaviours" once in the part of the sentence preceding the colon. The overall readability of the sentence is thus improved.

Example 2: "Previous literatures pointed out that in existing documents that residents of private room or relatives can visit the residents all express their satisfaction."

- **English Coach's revised version**: "*Previous studies* have noted that private room residents and *residents who are allowed visits from relatives have expressed satisfaction*."

- **Explanation for the change:** The original construction mentions "previous literatures" and "existing documents." As both the terms are referring to previous studies, they are logically redundant. The revised construction retains only one mention, namely, "Previous studies." The original sentence also contains the following: "relatives can visit the residents all express their satisfaction." The first part of this phrase is describing a type of residents (those who are allowed to visit their relatives). The second part is referring to how both types of residents described in the sentence have expressed satisfaction. However, this is not clear due to the construction and the lack of any connecting words between the two parts. "relatives can visit the residents" has been revised to "residents who are allowed visits from relatives"; defining "relatives" thus helps clarify the intended meaning. "all express their satisfaction" has been revised to "have expressed satisfaction" so that "express" appears in the correct tense and the phrase becomes meaningful.

Example 3: "It is showed that average possessings 32 accounted for 74% and 11 objects for appreciation accounting for 26%."

- **English Coach's revised version:** "*The study* showed that *their possessions included 32 personal objects (74%) and 11 decorative objects (26%)*."

- **Explanation for the change:** The original sentence has significant word choice, tense usage, and phrase placement issues. These have resulted in an unclear sentence. By correcting the word choice of "possessing" to "possessions," adding the numeral before the noun it is associated with (relocation of 32 and 11), and moving the percentages into parenthesis, the revised version has converted the unclear sentence into a comprehensible one.

Word choice	**Example 1**: "The ratio of elderly population of Taiwan in 2008 is 10.3%, it is predicted that it will reach 14% in 2018. In the situation of rapid population transition, the importance of long-term care becomes more prominent."
	• **English Coach's revised version:** "In 2008, elderly people constituted 10.3% of Taiwan's population, and this figure is slated to reach 14% by 2018. In such a situation of rapid population *growth*, the importance of long-term elderly care has become critical."
	• **Explanation for the change:** The word "transition" is used to refer to a change in a state or the process that accompanies such a change in state. For example, "The transition from the beginner to the intermediate level of the program was really difficult for the new employee." However, the sentences here are referring only to an increase in number (of the population). The correct word to use in the context of increase is "growth."
	Example 2: "privacy recognizing selfhood would be of great help to individual feeling"

	• **English Coach's revised version:** "it would help nurture *individualism* among the elderly"
	• **Explanation for the change:** Individualism is a philosophical standpoint that emphasizes the self over the other. An individual is prioritized over the collective in this outlook; consequently, values such as independence and priority for the self take precedence. "individual feeling," which is unclear, appears to be referring to this concept (sense of individuality or individualism), particularly because the sentence is referring to it in the context of "a great help" or "nurturing."
	Example 3: "…we can decide our feeling by our selection"
	• **English Coach's revised version:** "…the ability to decide one's feelings *independently*"
	• **Explanation for the change:** The original sentence is referring to the ability to determine one's own feelings but uses the word "selection." The word "selection" is used to refer to choosing one out of multiple available options. The context of the sentence suggests that the intended meaning here is that of determining meaning by oneself. To capture this sense, the word "selection" has been replaced with the word "independently."

	Example 1: "…life quality…"
	• **English Coach's revised version:** "…*quality of life*…"
	• **Explanation for the change:** In psychology papers, "quality of life" is a key index term that is used to refer to the general and overall well-being of individuals or study participants. The term "quality of life" is usually abbreviated as QOL when there are several instances in a paper. Using the term "life quality" might confuse the readers as well as journal reviewers because "quality of life" is the accepted term in the field in this regard.
	Example 2: "…disability elderly people"
	• **English Coach's revised version:** "…differently abled elderly people…"
Academic language conventions	• **Explanation for the change:** The use of politically correct language is preferred in academic writing, as it ensures that the language used is free of biases and does not describe members of a particular group in society as being placed at a disadvantage. The history of using politically correct language is tied in with the understanding that the very nature of language is political and that power relations determine language similar to other aspects of society. Hence, care should be taken, particularly in academic writing, to ensure that references to gender, race, disease, economic class, and social class do not result in marginalization. The use of "differently abled" (suggesting that a disease leads to a different subjective access of reality and consequently, "different abilities") or "people with disabilities" (suggesting that the disability is something the person has instead of something that defines them) instead of "disability people" or "disabled people" (suggesting that the disability defines the person) thus becomes politically correct language. Other examples include the use of "she/he" instead of "he," "Afro-American" instead of "black person," etc. A search on Google can help determine the latest politically correct terminology in a field.
	Example 3: "…The paper bridges this gap…"
	• **English Coach's revised version:** "…The study bridges this gap…"
	• **Explanation for the change:** In academic writing, "paper" refers to a formal written composition that reports on certain details of a conducted research study. A paper contains sections describing the method used in the study, its findings, and conclusions

derived from the study. "Study," on the other hand, is used to refer to the actual research work that led to the writing of the paper. Therefore, it would be odd to say that the paper bridges the gap. The study bridges the gap, and the paper reports on how the study does so. Hence, it is appropriate to use the word "study" and not "paper."

Punctuation	Example 1: "The ratio of elderly population of Taiwan in 2008 is 10.3%, it is predicted that it will reach 14% in 2018."
	• **English Coach's revised version**: "In 2008, elderly people constituted 10.3% of Taiwan's population, and this figure is slated to reach 14% by 2018."
	• **Explanation for the change:** A comma is incorrectly used in the original sentence to connect two independent clauses (parts of a sentence that can act as standalone sentences themselves), leading to an error called comma splice. When such standalone parts are connected, the comma should precede the word "and."
	Example 2: "…space and privacy protection, etc, "
	• **English Coach's revised version:** "…space, privacy, etc."
	• **Explanation for the change:** The original sentence is listing separate elements (space, privacy). However, the use of the word "and" instead of a comma to separate the elements is making them appear to be connected (space and privacy). Additionally, a comma is used after the word "etc" instead of a period. A period always follows the word "etc." (abbreviation of Latin word et cetera, which is used in English to mean "so on") and not a comma.
	Example 3: "… two types of shared room style…"
	• **English Coach's revised version:** "…two shared-room styles …"
	• **Explanation for the change:** The word "style" is being used in the original to refer to "shared room," referring to the styles of shared rooms. Without the hyphen, it appears that the styles are relevant only to "rooms." To indicate that the styles being referred to here apply to "shared rooms," a hyphen has been added between the words "shared" and "room."

RECOMMENDED READING
As a bonus, I have shared a list of articles divided by areas of improvement. I do hope you find them informative!

Area of improvement	Description
Grammar	https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/grammar/index.html
Sentence construction	https://www.editage.com/insights/6-actionable-tips-to-improve-academic-writing
	https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/mechanics/index.html
Word choice	https://www.editage.com/insights/a-vocabulary-lesson-for-clear-writing-commonly-confused-words
Academic language convention	https://www.editage.com/insights/sensitivity-in-scientific-writing
	https://www.editage.com/insights/using-past-and-present-tenses-in-research-writing
	https://www.editage.com/insights/how-to-effectively-use-active-and-passive-

	voice-in-research-writing
Punctuation	https://www.editage.com/insights/6-unnecessary-comma-errors-to-avoid-in-your-research-paper
	https://www.editage.com/insights/punctuation-a-useful-guide-for-academic-writing
	https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/punctuation/index.html