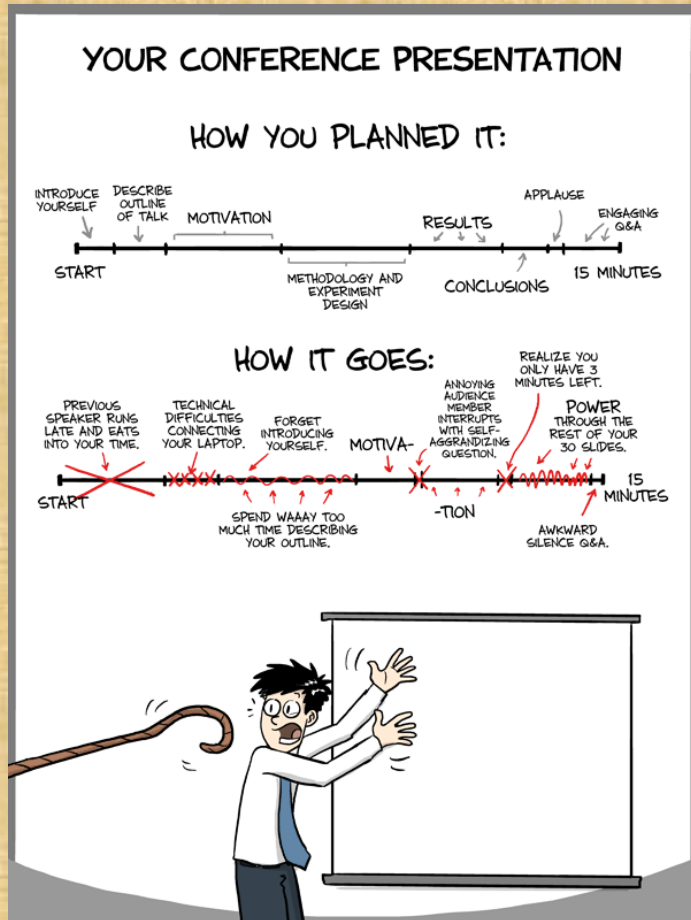


# Collect Homework 3 & return Homework 2

Please take a couple of minutes to look through the corrections of your paragraphs to see where you made mistakes

# Introduction to English for Scientific Communication

## Lesson 4



# Quiz time

Hand out the quiz

You have 10 minutes!

# Common Paragraphing Problems 1

The supporting sentences do not directly relate to the topic

Example

**Topic Sentence:** We all live on the Earth.

**Supporting point:** The Sun is the closest star to the Earth, and its light takes 8 minutes to reach here.

The topic is 'we live on the Earth', but this supporting point doesn't support the topic.

# Common Paragraphing Problems 1

The supporting sentences do not directly relate to the topic

Solution

**Topic Sentence:** We all live on the Earth.

**Supporting point:** The Sun is the closest star to the Earth, and its light provides the energy we need to live on the Earth.

The topic is 'we live on the Earth', and now the supporting point directly relates to this topic.

# Common Paragraphing Problems 2

The connection between sentences doesn't exist.

Example

1. The topic sentence

2. Supporting points

a. Supporting point 1 (+ Supporting detail)

b. Supporting point 2 (+ Supporting detail)

c. Supporting point 3 (+ Supporting detail)

3. Concluding Remark

# Common Paragraphing Problems 2

The connection between sentences doesn't exist.

Example

**The topic sentence.** Supporting point 1 (+ Supporting detail). Supporting point 2 (+ Supporting detail). Supporting point 3 (+ Supporting detail). **Concluding Remark**

Remember that the sentences are actually connected, as that is what a paragraph is. Always read the sentences as a continuous chain when checking your work.

# Any Questions?

There will be a quiz on the Homework 2 content next lesson (20<sup>th</sup> May)



# **SPECIAL TOPIC 4**

**among, between, of**

# Example 1

- (a) Jim is the fastest among the trees.
- (b) Jim is the fastest between the trees.
- (c) Jim is the fastest of the trees.

# Example 1

(a) Jim is the fastest among the trees.

(Interpretation: People are running around many trees, and Jim is running fastest of all.)

(b) Jim is the fastest between the trees.

(Interpretation: There are people running in the gap between two groups of trees. Jim is running fastest of the people in the group)

(c) Jim is the fastest of the trees.

(Interpretation: Jim is a tree, and he is faster than all the other trees)

## Example 2

- (a) Choose your favourite among the birds and the bees.
- (b) Choose your favourite between the birds and the bees.
- (c) Choose your favourite of the birds and the bees

# Example 2

(a) Choose your favourite among the birds and the bees

(Interpretation: There are many different types of bird and bee, choose your favourite type.)

(b) Choose your favourite between the birds and the bees

(Interpretation: Choose whether you like either birds or bees.)

(c) Choose the favourite food of the birds and the bees

(Interpretation: Could have the same interpretation as (a), but often cannot be used in that way. The sentence “what is the favourite food of the birds’ and the bees’?” is acceptable.)

# Usage

- ... **comparative/selective verb** between  $N_1$  and  $N_2$
- ... **comparative/selective verb** among  $N_1, N_2, N_2, N_3$  &  $N_4$
- ... **comparative adjective (noun)** of  $N_1$  and  $N_2$  (or  $N_1, N_2, N_2, N_3$  &  $N_4$ )

# **SPECIAL TOPIC 5**

**“on the other hand”, “on the contrary”**

# On the other hand

The misuse of this expression results from the mistranslation of 一方. It must be realized that 一方 can be used in many situations that *on the other hand* would be inappropriate.



# Main point to keep in mind

The phrase *on the other hand* is **not** used to change the topic. It is used to present two points of view regarding a single topic.

1. My friend Bill is always talking, and so it is sometimes tiring to be with him. On the other hand, my friend John is very quiet, and so being with him is very pleasant.

2. My friend Bill is always talking, and so it is sometimes tiring to be with him. On the other hand, his ideas are always interesting.

# On the contrary

The main point to remember about *on the contrary* is that it cannot be used to express contrast. It can only be used to express contradiction.

1. In this paper, we consider the high temperature case. On the contrary, Chu considered the low temperature case.
2. In this paper, we demonstrate a result that  $A > 1$  in all cases. On the contrary, Williams found that  $A < 1$  in certain cases.
3. However our experiments were not carried out in a strong field. On the contrary, in most cases, the effect of the field can be treated as a small perturbation.

As seen from 3, *on the contrary* is used to reassert and emphasize the meaning of the previous sentence.

# **SPECIAL TOPIC 6**

**defining and non-defining  
modifiers**

# 1. Use of commas

Compare the following:

A. Modifier is a noun

(i) My cousin Sam lives in London.

(i\*) My cousin, Sam, lives in London.

(ii) The eigenfunction  $g(x)$  is plotted in Fig.1.

(ii\*) The eigenfunction,  $g(x)$ , is plotted in Fig.1.

## B. Modifier is a participle clause

(iii) The form of the cracks found in this material depicted in Fig. 2 is similar to that studied by Chu.

(iii\*) The form of the cracks found in this material, depicted in Fig. 2, is similar to that studied by Chu.



C. Modifier is a prepositional phrase

(iv) A singular matrix like  $M$  cannot be diagonalized.

(iv\*) A singular matrix, like  $M$ , cannot be diagonalized.

D. Modifier is a relative clause

(v) The solution to this equation that appears above is unstable.

(v\*) The solution to this equation, which appears above, is unstable.

# Main point

In general, a modifier (word, phrase or clause) that is **separated from that which it modifies by commas** presents **non-defining** information, while one that is **not separated by commas** presents **defining information**. In the first case, the information is unessential in identifying the thing in question, whereas in the second case it is essential. Note that the meaning of the sentence can depend critically on the difference between these.

## 2. Relative noun clauses: that vs. which

Rule: In general, a defining relative noun clause must be introduced by *that*, while a non-defining one should be introduced by *which*.

(a defining relative clause may, in some instances, be introduced with *which*. However, this usage is not so common in current English)

# **READING COMPREHENSION 1**

# Hand out the articles

We will now read some articles, one for each group and explain their contents to the other groups