

Book List Academic English

There are so many books for non-native speakers on writing academic English that it is hard to recommend only one. Here is a list of some of the books we have along with our personal opinion of the book. The publication year relates to the version we have; there may be more recent versions. We suggest trying to persuade your faculty/university to obtain a copy of some of these books so that you can work through them. If you can't get them to buy them all, then we would recommend books no. 4,6,7,9,15,19, 22, 24 (and possibly 12 if you work in the social science area).

1. Menasche, L. 2001. <i>Writing a Research Paper</i> . Ann Arbor, University of Michigan Press	Not used myself. Seems like a fairly simple introduction to academic paper writing. Probably too easy for postgrads
2. Zemach, D. & Islam, C. 2005. <i>Paragraph writing: From sentence to Paragraph</i> Oxford, Macmillan	An easy to understand book, probably more suited to undergraduates. Will not really increase vocabulary but does contain a lot of information on and practice for writing paragraphs
3. Zemach, D. & Rumisek, L. 2005. <i>Academic Writing: from paragraph to essay</i> Oxford, Macmillan	This is the follow-on book from the one on writing paragraphs and goes into details of the structure and style of whole academic essays. Possibly more suited to undergraduates. However, it also contains basic information that is important for improving the style and structure of essays.
4. Oshima, A. & Hogue, A. 1999. <i>Writing Academic English</i> . 3 rd Ed. White Plains, Longman	One of the standard books on writing academic English. A long book to work one's way through, but once done, one knows a lot about how to improve an essay. It would be essential to have the answer book too.
5. Weissberg, R. & Buker, S. 1990. <i>Writing up Research: Experimental Research Report Writing for Students of English</i> Englewood Cliffs, Prentice Hall Regents	A good book but really only suitable for those doing experimental research in a lab. Authentic report texts are used as examples and there are numerous exercises. Answers are not provided in the book and will have to be purchased separately
6. Swales, J. & Feak, C. 2004. <i>Academic Writing for Graduate Students: Essential Tasks and Skills</i> . Ann Arbor, University of Michigan Press	Also a standard book on academic writing. This is written specifically for graduate students, so it contains more specific information for those starting PhDs or Masters. Purchasing the answer book is essential if you want to do the tasks
7. Swales, J. & Feak, C. 2000. <i>English in Today's Research World</i> . Ann Arbor, The University of Michigan Press	This is the follow-up book to the one above and is intended for those at a later stage of their PhD. It contains examples of how texts can be improved and has the answers to the (relatively few) tasks it has at the back of the book. This is a good book for postgrads, helping the reader to reflect on what makes academic writing better

<p>8. Siepmann, D., Gallagher, J., Hannay, M., Mackenzie, J. 2008. <i>Writing in English: A Guide for Advanced Learners</i>. Tübingen, A. Francke</p>	<p>This book is really more suited to those studying English as a subject as it uses quite a lot of specific linguistic terms. However, it is good reference book for German academics writing in English as it also takes a specific look at common mistakes/misunderstanding made by German writers. It does not contain exercises</p>
<p>9. Skern, T. 2009. <i>Writing Scientific English</i>. Wien, Facultas Verlags- und Buchhandels AG</p>	<p>This book provides exercises on avoiding problems commonly had by German speakers when writing English and the process of improving academic texts. It gives examples of incorrect texts, why they are incorrect and suggestions for improvements.</p>
<p>10. Legler, B. & Moore, G. 2001. <i>SciencEnglish: Englischer Sprachführer für Wissenschaft und Praxis</i>. Bad Honnef, K.H. Bock</p>	<p>This is more like a dictionary than a book about academic writing. It is intended as a link between specialist and general dictionaries and provides examples of how to use academic terms in sentences.</p>
<p>11. Gopen, George D. 2004. <i>Expectations: Teaching Writing from the Reader's Perspective</i>. New York, Pearson</p>	<p>This book has a large influence on what I teach. It contains a lot of valuable information for improving style, but probably contains too much for someone who doesn't want to teach writing.</p>
<p>12. Lewin, Beverley A. 2010. <i>Writing Readable Research: A Guide for Students of Social Science</i>, London, Equinox,</p>	<p>One of the more recent books on academic writing that caters for social scientists. There are no answers to the tasks included in the book.</p>
<p>13. Cargill, M. & O'Connor, P. 2009. <i>Writing Scientific Research Articles: Strategies and Steps</i>. Chicester, Wiley-Blackwell</p>	<p>Possibly too simple for PhD. and Postdoc academics, and biased towards natural sciences. It contains useful exercises and answers.</p>
<p>14. Sword, H. 2012. <i>Stylish Academic Writing</i>. Cambridge, MA. Harvard University Press.</p>	<p>This book is written in an easy to read style and aimed at those wanting to make their writing easier to understand. It is trying to get its reader beyond the level of writing incomprehensible papers.</p>
<p>15. Graff, G. & Birkenstein, C. 2010. <i>They Say I Say. Moves That Matter in Academic Writing</i> 2nd Edition London, W.W Norton & Company</p>	<p>Using a different way of looking at how to structure academic papers, this book is most valuable for its list of sentence templates used in academic papers.</p>
<p>16. Curry, MJ & Lillis, T, 2013, <i>A Scholar's Guide to Getting Published in English</i>. Bristol, Multilingual Matters</p>	<p>A book with less information about how to write a paper but lots of information on the publishing process.</p>
<p>17. Paltridge, B. & Starfield, S. 2007, <i>Thesis and Dissertation Writing in a Second Language: A handbook for supervisors</i>. London, Routledge</p>	<p>A handbook for supervisors of PhD students – as the title says!</p>

18. Luna, R.E., 2013, <i>The Art of Scientific Storytelling: Transform your research manuscript with a step-by-step formula</i> . Amando International	For those interested in changing a standard scientific paper into a story. Interesting aspects that might not always be well received in the scientific world.
19. Williams, J.M. & Bizup, J. 2014. <i>Style: Lessons in grace and clarity</i> . 11th ed. Boston, Pearson	The fact that this book is now in its 11 th edition says a lot for what people think of the book. If you want to improve your style (rather than e.g. your grammar or basic English), then this is a good book to go for. It includes lots of exercises.
20. Zinsser, W. 2006. <i>On Writing Well: The classic guide to writing nonfiction</i> . New York, Collins	A slightly older book (originally from 1976) but one of the basic style guides. Also contains information about style with texts that aren't scientific papers e.g. Memoirs, interviews
21. Pinker, S. 2015 <i>The Sense of Style The thinking person's guide to writing in the 21st century</i> . New York, Penguin Books	This book has all the classic information about good writing style but contains more on grammar points than the other classic books on the topic. It is also extremely well written in the usual Pinker style.
22. Greene, A. 2013. <i>Writing Science in Plain English</i> . Chicago, University of Chicago	More academically written book than the one by Steven Pinker, this one also has all the usual recommendations for writing good science and concentrates on the story-telling aspect of scientific writing.
23. Englander, K. 2014. <i>Writing and Publishing Science Research Papers in English: A global perspective</i> . Heidelberg. Springer Briefs in Education	A good summary of current research on the topics of The Content, The Text and The People. One of the few recent books that looks at writing in English for those working in a non-Anglo-Saxon country.
24. Schimel, J. 2012. <i>Writing Science: How to write papers that get cited and proposals that get funded</i> . Oxford. OUP	Probably one of the books that has recently most influenced the way I think about scientific writing. It emphasises the story-telling approach to scientific writing, especially important in proposals, and shows the reader how to get from turgid texts to exciting prose, even when reporting science. It's a fairly long book, so don't expect to get through it quickly.

Here is some information about 2 books we've heard about. As we don't have copies ourselves, we cannot comment on their usefulness

1. Academic Writing for International Students of Business (2011)

Most teachers of academic writing will know that one of the principal difficulties with teaching students in higher education is finding relevant material. At undergraduate or graduate level engineering students, for instance, do not want to work with legal texts, nor are law students keen on writing about topics relating to medicine. The result is that course books for writing tend to use rather bland material which bears little relation to the real academic tasks which students confront. To overcome this I have researched and written a writing course especially designed for students of Business and Economics: *Academic Writing for International Students of Business*. The format is based on my *Academic Writing: A handbook for international students*, but the texts and exercises are entirely focused on business language. Following extensive feedback from lecturers in various business schools I have tried to encourage a more rigorously critical approach to sources, as well as a focus on activities such as group work which are often emphasised in business schools. Full details can be found on this link: <http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415564717/>

2. SCIENCE RESEARCH WRITING FOR NON-NATIVE SPEAKERS OF ENGLISH

by Hilary Glasman-Deal (Imperial College London, UK) (2009)

This book is designed to enable non-native English speakers to write science research for publication in English. It can also be used by English speakers and is a practical, user-friendly book intended as a fast, do-it-yourself guide for those whose English language proficiency is above intermediate. The approach is based on material developed from teaching graduate students at Imperial College London and has been extensively piloted. The book guides the reader through the process of writing science research and will also help with writing a Master's or Doctoral thesis in English.

Science writing is much easier than it looks because the structure and language are conventional. The aim of this book is to help the reader discover a template or model for science research writing and then to provide the grammar and vocabulary tools needed to operate that model. There are five units: Introduction, Methodology, Results, Discussion/Conclusion and Abstract. The reader develops a model for each section of the research article through sample texts and exercises; this is followed by a Grammar and Writing Skills section designed to respond to frequently-asked questions as well as a Vocabulary list including examples of how the words and phrases are to be used.

Contents:

- Introduction: How to Use This Book
- How to Write an Introduction
- Writing about Methodology
- Writing about Results
- Writing the Discussion/Conclusion
- Writing the Abstract
- Appendices