

Introduction on syntax and emphasis when giving a talk.

Take notes on the 5 strategies presented.

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1. Style and brevity in a paper: some solutions

English style does not tolerate long sentences well!

Duality is a pervasive theme in *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, a novella which R. L. Stevenson published in 1886 in the late Victorian era, and that motif is obvious in many scenes of the text, for example when one character wakes up in the body of the other after a transformation – such incidents occur many times, in Jekyll's bedroom or in a public park – and the transformation is then made visible through the physical characteristics of the protagonists (e.g. their hands, their height), but it is also made obvious through the psychological character traits of the two men (e.g. Hyde's explosive temper), which always causes panic for Jekyll, who after all metamorphoses into a wanted criminal following the murder of Sir Danvers Carew.

Is this paragraph easy to read? It's even worse when punctuation is not mastered.

1. Some solutions!

- Use a stronger punctuation to compress/shorten your text, for instance with a period instead of a comma

Stem cells research carries huge potential for the treatment of rare genetic disorders, but it remains controversial for ethical reasons.

Stem cells research carries huge potential for the treatment of rare genetic disorders. But it remains controversial for ethical reasons.

- Use a pronoun to eliminate long subordinate clauses (this/that, he/she, they)

The government decided to bail out the banks instead of holding them accountable, which has angered many voters.

The government decided to bail out the banks instead of holding them accountable. This has angered many voters.

- Use periods and linking words

The question of racism is obviously central to Othello, although many critics argue that...

The question of racism is obviously central to Othello. However, many critics argue that...

- Detach complements of place, time, etc
- Avoid redundancy, with lots of qualifying adjective

2. Application Exercises

Style et concision

Marquardt, Anne-kathrin. *Exercices Pratiques Pour Mieux Rédiger En Anglais Dans Le Supérieur B2-C1*. Paris: Ellipses, 2019. Print.
(style, concision)

2. Shorten and compress the following sentences

2.1 Coupez les phrases suivantes, notamment en reprenant les éléments qui se répètent (par ex. le sujet de la phrase), par l'emploi de pronoms (he, she, it, they...).

The Amazon forest is threatened because farmers destroy trees to create more farmland, but other industries such as fishing or mining are equally responsible for a lot of the environmental damage that can be seen in the region, which, in the final analysis, is also explained by a lack of government action to put in place meaningful protections.

2.2. Remplacez les mots de liaison soulignés par des mots de liaison qui s'emploient en début de phrase. Coupez ainsi les phrases et opérez tous les changements qui vous paraissent nécessaires.

In certain specific urban areas – often disaffected parts of cities where underprivileged citizens gather – it can be difficult to access medical care or good quality education, so that people who live there often remain stuck in poverty for their whole lives, and there is such strong social determinism that even the following generations are affected, so that in these specific areas life expectancy is actually dropping below the average usually observed in developed countries.

2.3 Détachez les exemples et les compléments circonstanciels (de temps, de lieu, de manière, etc.) pour couper les phrases.

Food production is bound to become a major issue in the next decades, since for example meat production, which releases greenhouse gases such as methane and often contributes to water pollution, will have to be managed in a more environmentally friendly way, but the question is even more pressing in light of increasing urbanization and, in big cities with many high-rise buildings and little space for extensive agriculture, architects might have to come up with innovative solutions to enable city-dwellers to produce their own food, thereby shortening supply chains, increasing food quality and ultimately preserving the environment.

2.4. Allégez les phrases suivantes en supprimant toutes les redites.

2.4.1. Scientists generally tend to agree among themselves that we need to focus our attention in particular on the discovery of new and unknown interstellar objects.

2.4.2. A good, high-quality education system delivering satisfactory tuition to each and every student, regardless of their social background or class, has been designed, organized and built from the ground up in the space of just two years.

Going further

3. Répondez au sujet suivant en écrivant un paragraphe dans lequel aucune phrase ne dépasse 15 mots – idéalement 10 mots max.

Do you think that Artificial Intelligence (AI) will replace humans in future?

