

Author Services from *The Charlesworth Group*



Newsletter #1 TIPS and TOOLS for success in scientific publishing

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WRITING TIPS

A or an? Many nonnative speakers of English struggle with when to use the definite article ('the') or an indefinite article ('a' or 'an'). But when 'a' or 'an' is to be used, deciding whether to use 'a' or 'an' can sometimes also be tricky ... even for native speakers and writers of English.

So here's the tip!

To figure out if you should use 'a' or 'an' use a sound rule, not a spelling rule!

If a word starts with a consonant sound, use 'a': a table, a chair, a banana, if a word starts with a vowel sound, use 'an': an apricot, an egg, an Indian, an uncle (because uncle begins with a vowel sound), an hour (the h is silent, thus a vowel sound).

Affect or Effect? *Affect* with an *a* means 'to influence,' as in, 'The thunder affected the horses,' or 'The pollen affected Sue's allergies.' *Affect* can also mean, roughly, 'to act in a way that you don't feel,' or to pretend, as in, 'She affected an air of superiority.'

Effect with an *e* has a lot of subtle meanings as a noun, but the meaning 'a result' seems to be at the core of all the definitions. For example, you can say, 'The effect of the medicine was dramatic,' or 'The sound effects were amazing,' or 'The rain had no effect on Sue's allergies.'

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PUBLISHING NEWS: WORLDWIDE TRENDS IN SCIENTIFIC PUBLISHING

The organization **CrossRef** has developed software, **CrossCheck**, that automatically checks manuscripts for plagiarism. Plagiarism is defined as when authors use text, illustrations, other works, or ideas that have been developed by someone else and claim it is their own original work. Publishers are using CrossCheck which is powerful software that finds plagiarized work within articles - pre and post publication. The software does direct comparisons of matched words in documents, and uses pattern recognition to match word for word and paraphrased material. It has been proven to quickly and easily pick up a significant percentage of plagiarized materials. Read more about this new publisher tool here:



<http://www.crossref.org/crosscheck.html>

Retractions Peer review is meant to keep flawed science from being published, but this doesn't always happen. Occasionally, publishers have to retract papers they've published that have been revealed to have significant flaws. For example:

The Journal of Immunology has retracted several papers by a noted author because work in her lab is being investigated for scientific misconduct. (Read more:

<http://retractionwatch.wordpress.com/2011/01/18/four-more-bulfone-paus-paper-retractions-accepted/#more-1390>)

The Journal of Clinical Oncology has retracted a 2007 paper due to the fact that the authors presented a fraudulent analysis of their data on breast cancer and a particular chemotherapy. (Read more:

<http://retractionwatch.wordpress.com/2010/11/17/jco-makes-it-official-retracting-paper-co-authored-by-anil-potti/>)

EDITORS' VIEW

Did you know that many editors like authors to include cover letters when they submit a manuscript? Cover letters give authors the chance to explain the importance of the paper to an editor in plain language and should never be more than one page.

Did you know that many editors will reject a submitted paper without reading it if it is over the maximum word length? Always check the Instructions to Authors and keep your papers within the word length limitations set by the journal.

Do you have a friend or colleague that might find this information useful? If so, enter their name and email address [here](#) and this email will be forwarded to them as well.

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About Charlesworth Author Services

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- Native speakers of English - based in UK and US
- University degrees in the subject area they are editing
- All editors going through rigorous testing and regular assessments

Pricing

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- 5 day and 10 day turnaround times

File Types Accepted

- MS Word, WordPerfect, LaTeX and Tex, plus .jpg, .tif, .eps for figures

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