



TIPS FOR AUTHORS

Preparing a Manuscript When English is Not
Your First Language
By Nellie Kremenak, PhD

Although much of the prosthodontics literature is written in the English language, that literature reflects the achievements and values of an international community of clinicians and researchers. For prosthodontists whose first language is not English, however, preparing a manuscript for an English language journal can sometimes be especially challenging. Here are some suggestions for such scholars who are interested in preparing a report for submission to the *Journal of Prosthodontics*.

First, of course, review the Instructions for Authors on the *JP* website and follow them carefully (<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jopr>—click on “Instructions & Forms”).

Refer often to the **Glossary of Prosthodontic Terms** (*Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry* 2005;94:10-92) to ensure that you are using standard terminology in your report. While terminology may vary from one part of the world to another, the best communication occurs when a common set of terms is used. Keep a copy of the Glossary close at hand as you write so that you can refer to it as needed.

As you prepare to write the literature review for your report, observe the sentence structure and punctuation as well as the content of any English language reports you are reviewing. Try to model the form of your sentences on the sentences in those reports. Although even native-born English-speaking prosthodontists are not always the most eloquent of language users, attention to the details of grammar in these reports may help you construct your own sentences. Reviewing a dental textbook written in the English language may also provide some helpful guidelines for constructing your sentences.

If possible, when you have completed the first draft of your manuscript, find a colleague whose native language is English, who might be willing to read it over and make suggestions. Even a native English speaker who is not a dentist may be able to help with sentence structure and nontechnical vocabulary.

The editorial staff of the *Journal of Prosthodontics* recognizes the importance of serving the international community of prosthodontic scholars and tries to do everything possible to facilitate the publication of worthy reports from everywhere in the world. In some instances, the Editor-in-Chief asks the Manuscript Editor to help improve language usage before the paper goes to the appropriate section editor for review; sometimes, after that review as well. This is not always possible, however, because of the volume of submissions.

Writing a scholarly paper is not an easy task, and having to write in a less-than-familiar language makes it an even more difficult project. Please be assured that the editors of the *JP* appreciate your efforts and welcome your submissions.

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