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words at work

YOUR TEN-POINT PLAN

1. Use of a hyphen for two-word adjectives

Language Notes	<p>It is possible to write two-word adjectives using a hyphen. This makes them easier to read, especially in a specialised and complex piece of writing such as a thesis.</p> <p>'post' is a prefix that can stand alone, but it is unusual for 'pre' and 'non' to do so.</p> <p>In time, two-word adjectives may lose the hyphen and become a single word, eg. premenopausal, postmenopausal</p>
Examples	<p>✓ <i>pro-inflammatory, hyperosmolarity-induced, non-invasive, pre-menstruating, self-reported, receptor-hormone, androgen-receptor, double-masked, placebo-controlled, non-contact, 30-day, longer-term, aesthesiometer-based, well-characterised</i></p>

2. Use of a comma with connectors ('however', 'furthermore' etc)

Language Notes	<p>Connectors are often used with a comma. This improves readability. Likewise for 'respectively'.</p>
Examples	<p>✓ <i>Ocular surface staining was, however, not associated with age and gender in a large dry-eye epidemiological study (McCarty et al 1998b).</i></p> <p>✓ <i>Furthermore, the lowest androgen metabolite level was shown in the dry-eyed PMW group.</i></p> <p>✓ <i>These were measured with Schirmer and tear break-up time (TBUT) tests, respectively. However, a possible association with oestrogen or progesterone levels was not investigated.</i></p> <p>✓ <i>Nevertheless, the COBO may still be considered a good corneal threshold measuring instrument with acceptable repeatability, as demonstrated in this study.</i></p>