

# Writing an abstract in English



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# AN ABSTRACT IS ...



- a SINGLE PARAGRAPH (100-120 word) SUMMARISING the whole research paper.
- a condensed version of a full scientific paper.
- NOT an introduction to the paper.
- an overview of the work that enables to reader to understand what question the report addressed, how it addressed it and what the conclusions were.

# IT INCLUDES ...

- The problem under investigation (in one sentence if possible)
- The subjects (including number, type, age and sex)
- The experimental method
- The results
- The conclusions and the implications or applications





# Four C's of Abstract Writing

- Complete — it covers the major parts of the project/case
- Concise — it contains no excess wordiness or unnecessary information.
- Clear — it is readable, well organized, and not too jargon-laden.
- Cohesive — it flows smoothly between the parts.



# Characteristics

- 1 paragraph
- 100 – 150 words
- Simple past
- 3rd person singular
- No opinion – stick to facts





# An example of an abstract

*This investigation focuses on three different bilingual populations: children, adolescents and adults. The variables of this research were age and learning context on oral skills. The measures used to evaluate these variables were (i) fluency, (ii) lexical richness and (iii) complexity and accuracy. An oral description of a picture and an L2 questionnaire were used to evaluate the participants' performance before and after the studying abroad experience. The results of these tests indicated that from the three study abroad groups children improved in all the measures, adolescents increased their level in most measures and adults only improved in one of the measures. In the case of studying at home students, only the adolescents showed improvement.*