

# How to deal with plagiarism

## How to deal with plagiarism?

This is a very common question among writers/researchers, and indeed this is a very serious topic. In academic field this issue is even larger because most of the studies are very similar. This means it is highly probable that the data, sentence structure, and overall contents of one research paper might look alike to several other studies. While the mentioned type of plagiarism is happening unconsciously, doing it consciously is considered extremely unethical. It is good to mention that if the plagiarism is detected within your writings it would be considered a crime, even if it has been done unconsciously. That is why all academic institutions ask the researchers/writers to check their papers/manuscripts properly before the final submission.

## How is the plagiarism measured (Unit)? How much plagiarism within a manuscript is allowed?

Usually, international journals use plagiarism detecting software and the results are shown in percentage. It is good to know that international journals are flexible, and they can accept the submitted papers/manuscripts with up to maximum 10% plagiarism, but it is usually related to the guidelines of every scientific journal and this requirement changes from one journal to another.

## How to find out about plagiarism within my manuscript?

Most of the international scientific journals use software to detect the plagiarism, fortunately some web sites are available on the internet, but they charge for their services. Two of the highly used websites for detecting the plagiarism with high accuracy are as bellow:

- Grammarly
- Turnitin

Free Websites for plagiarism checking:

- [Plagiarisma](#)
- [PlagScan](#)
- [Copyleaks](#)
- [Viper](#)
- [Quetext](#)
- [Edubirdie](#)
- [Paperrater](#)
- [Small seo tools](#)
- [Grammarly](#)
- [Search Engine Report Plagiarism Checker](#)

The free websites might not be 100% helpful, but they can give the researcher/writer the idea on how much changes are expected in the final version of the paper/writing.

## So, if plagiarism is detected within my paper/writing how to solve it?

Well, first it should be noticed that the plagiarism detector is a software/website, so it focuses on every single word written in the paper/writing and match the sequence of the written words with the bank of writings/paper which it has access to it digitally (the bank includes millions of previous writings). So, to tackle this challenge there are two ways mentioned as bellow:

**1: Paraphrase:** Re-write the sentence where plagiarism was detected with totally new words, while the words you choose should be different, but the meaning should be the same. This way the researcher/writer can keep the consistency and connection of the idea within his/her writing and only change the words.

**2: Modify the existing sentence:** If there is no other way of expressing the same idea/sentence then try to add some extra words or figures like numbers and try to break the sequence of the words within the sentence to avoid being detected.

Writers should try their best to keep the plagiarism as low as possible, and never attempt to submit a manuscript without being sure of its validity both in terms of quality of writing, idea and plagiarism.

## Finally, how to detect/solve grammatical/writing errors within a writing?

There are several ways to detect/solve grammatical errors mentioned as bellow:

**1:** After the writing process, writer should proofread it him/herself at least one time, because even if the writer has good writing skills, still it is possible that he/she makes unconscious mistakes.

**2:** Ask a friend/colleague with higher English language proficiency to proofread it.

**3:** After friend/colleague, ask someone senior within the lab, it can be your senior friends within the laboratory or your supervisor, this time they will focus on both parts of your writing; technical terms (Terminology) and normal text.

**4:** Another way to detect and solve grammatical/writing errors within a writing is to use the internet, there are several websites providing such services. The above-mentioned websites for detecting plagiarism also help to detect grammatical/writing errors.

“This guide on (How to deal with plagiarism) has specifically focused to help new researchers/writers on how to write error free manuscripts with minimum plagiarism and how to deal with plagiarism if it is detected in their writings”

\*\*If you need more help, please ask Learning Support Desk Within Library of University of the Ryukyus.