



## Jargon Quiz by Laura King, MA, ELS

**Directions:** Eliminate the jargon in the following sentences based on the information outlined in chapter 11 of the *AMA Manual of Style*. For further explanation of the correct answers, refer to the cited section of the online or print version of the *AMA Manual of Style*.

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1. The baseline exam took place in a mobile unit equipped with ophthalmologic devices.

ANSWER:

The baseline examination took place in a mobile unit equipped with ophthalmologic devices.

**Editor's Note:** *Examination*, not *exam*, is the preferred form (§[11.4](#), Jargon, pp 408-410 in print).

2. The patient had abnormal Pap smear results.

ANSWER:

The patient had abnormal Papanicolaou test results.

**Editor's Note:** Although *Pap smear* is commonly used in conversation, *Papanicolaou test* is the preferred form (§[11.4](#), Jargon, pp 408-410 in print).

## LEARNING RESOURCES

3. Human T-lymphotropic virus 1–associated myelopathy can occur in individuals predisposed to pneumonia and urinary infections.

ANSWER:

Human T-lymphotropic virus 1–associated myelopathy can occur in individuals predisposed to pneumonia and urinary tract infections.

**Editor’s Note:** *Urinary tract infection*, not *urinary infection*, is the preferred form (§11.4, Jargon, pp 408-410 in print). The following terms are also correct: *genitourinary tract infection* and *infection of the urinary tract*.

4. Ten days after discharge from the hospital, the patient came to the emergency room with a distended abdomen.

ANSWER:

Ten days after discharge from the hospital, the patient came to the emergency department with a distended abdomen.

**Editor’s Note:** *Emergency department*, not *emergency room*, is the preferred form (§11.4, Jargon, pp 408-410 in print).

5. Although most of our patients displayed symptoms, only 3 patients had disease.

ANSWER:

Although most of our patients displayed symptoms, only 3 patients had disease.

**Editor’s Note:** The suffix “-ology,” derived from the Greek *logos*, meaning “word,” “idea,” or “thought,” denotes *science of* or *study of*. Terms with this suffix, such as *pathology*, *morphology*, *histology*, *etiology*, and *symptomatology*, are general and abstract nouns and should not be used to describe concrete physical entities (§11.1, Correct and Preferred Usage, p 399 in print). The word *symptomatology* should be edited to *symptoms* and the author queried (§11.4, Jargon, pp 408-410 in print).

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## LEARNING RESOURCES

6. Our study findings suggest that although the overall number of glaucoma surgeries is increasing, payments have been decreasing.

ANSWER:

Our study findings suggest that although the overall number of surgical procedures for glaucoma is increasing, payments have been decreasing.

**Editor's Note:** *Surgical procedures or operations, not surgeries, is the preferred form (§11.4, Jargon, pp 408-410 in print).*

7. Laboratory findings were within the normal range.

ANSWER:

Laboratory findings were within the reference range.

**Editor's Note:** *Reference range, not normal range, is the preferred form (§11.4, Jargon, pp 408-410 in print).*

8. During the patient's stay, she experienced increasing changes in her mental status and was transferred to the psychiatric floor for observation.

ANSWER:

During the patient's stay, she experienced increasing changes in her mental status and was transferred to the psychiatric department for observation.

**Editor's Note:** *Psychiatric department, service, unit, or ward, not psychiatric floor, is the preferred form (§11.4, Jargon, pp 408-410 in print).*

9. A 78-year-old woman with a congenital heart and a history of high blood pressure and heart attack was admitted to the hospital and prepped for surgery.

ANSWER:

A 78-year-old woman with congenital heart disease and a history of high blood pressure and myocardial infarction was admitted to the hospital and prepared for surgery.

**Editor's Note:** *A heart is not congenital; the preferred form is congenital heart disease or congenital cardiac anomaly. Myocardial infarction, not heart attack, is the preferred form. Patients are prepared, not prepped, for surgery (§11.4, Jargon, pp 408-410 in print).*

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10. The patient's blood sugar level was 37 mg/dL and her protein level was 25.0 g/dL.

ANSWER:

The patient's blood glucose level was 37 mg/dL and her protein level was 25.0 g/dL

**Editor's Note:** *Blood glucose*, not *blood sugar*, is the preferred form (§[11.4](#), Jargon, pp 408-410 in print).

11. The patient had an elevated white blood cell count and 4+ albuminuria.

ANSWER:

The patient had an elevated white blood cell count and proteinuria (4+).

**Editor's Note:** *Proteinuria (4+)*, not *4+ albuminuria*, is the preferred form (§[11.4](#), Jargon, pp 408-410 in print).

12. After reviewing the patient's test results, the physician prescribed a diabetic diet.

ANSWER:

After reviewing the patient's test results, the physician prescribed a diet for patients with diabetes.

**Editor's Note:** Terms such as *diabetic diet* and *cardiac diet* should be rephrased to *diet for patients with diabetes* and *diet for patients with cardiac disease* (§[11.4](#), Jargon, pp 408-410 in print).

13. After consultation with the chiropractor, the patient sought care with the orthoped.

ANSWER:

After consultation with the chiropractor, the patient sought care with the orthopedic surgeon.

**Editor's Note:** Avoid trivializing or dehumanizing disciplines or specialties; for example, use *orthopedic surgeon*, not *orthopod*, and *osteopathic physician*, not *osteopath* (§[11.4](#), Jargon, pp 408-410 in print).

## LEARNING RESOURCES

14. The 21 animals assigned to the long-term survival group were examined and sacrificed 90 days after cauterization.

ANSWER:

The 21 animals assigned to the long-term survival group were examined and killed 90 days after cauterization.

**Editor's Note:** Avoid euphemisms. *Sacrificed* should be changed to *killed* or *humanely killed* (query author); *expired*, *passed away*, and *succumbed* should be changed to *died* (§11.4, Jargon, pp 408-410 in print).

15. Of the 32 patients who failed treatment, all underwent successful salvage therapy.

ANSWER:

Of the 32 patients in whom treatment failed, all underwent successful salvage therapy.

**Editor's Note:** Patients do not fail, treatments fail (§11.4, Jargon, pp 408-410 in print).

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