

Jargon Quiz

by Laura King, MA, MFA, ELS

ANSWER KEY

Directions: Eliminate the jargon in the following sentences. Refer to §11.5, Jargon of the *AMA Manual of Style*.

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 (§11.5, Jargon).

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 (§11.5, Jargon).

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 (§11.5, Jargon). 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 (§11.5, Jargon).

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

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

Editor's Note: This suffix, derived from the Greek *logos*, meaning “word,” “idea,” or “thought,” denotes *science of* or *study of*. Many terms with this suffix, like *morphology*, *histology*, *etiology*, and *symptomatology*, are general and abstract nouns and should not be used to describe individual and particular items. *Pathology* is an exception and can be used (§11.1, Correct and Preferred Usage of Common Words and Phrases). The word *symptomatology* should be edited to *symptoms* and the author queried (§11.5, Jargon).

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 (§11.5, Jargon).

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 (§11.5, Jargon).

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 (§11.5, Jargon).

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 (§11.5, Jargon).

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 (§11.5, Jargon).

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 (§11.5, Jargon).

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* (§11.5, Jargon).

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

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* (§11.5, Jargon).

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* (§11.5, Jargon).

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 (§11.5, Jargon).