

Titles and Subtitles Quiz

by Laura King, MA, MFA, ELS

ANSWER KEY

Directions: Titles should be concise, specific, and informative and should contain the key points of the work. Population type should be specified in the title, when possible (eg, Men With Atrial Fibrillation). For scientific manuscripts (eg, reports of research), neither overly general titles nor “cute” titles are desirable; these may be better suited to subtitles of opinion pieces (eg, Early Palliative Care in Advanced Illness: Do Right by Mama). Avoid the use of causal language in reporting the results of observational research; cause-and-effect wording is best reserved for reports of randomized trials and laboratory-based controlled experiments. Consult the journal’s instructions for authors regarding any limitations on length of titles. For further explanation of the correct answers, refer to the cited section of the *AMA Manual of Style*.

1. Sleep Patterns: Differences Between Elderly Men and Women

ANSWER: Differences in Sleep Patterns in Elderly Men and Women

Editor’s Note: Subtitles of scientific manuscripts may be used to amplify the title; however, the main title should be able to stand alone (ie, the subtitle should not be a continuation of the title or a substitute for a succinct title) (§2.1 Titles and Subtitles).

2. Observational Study of the Effect of Dual Use of Department of Veterans Affairs and Medicare Part D Drug Benefits and Potentially Unsafe Prescribing

ANSWER: Association Between Dual Use of Department of Veterans Affairs and Medicare Part D Drug Benefits and Potentially Unsafe Prescribing

Editor’s Note: For observational studies in which causation cannot be demonstrated, titles should not include cause-and-effect terms. Other phrases, such as “association of,” are preferred. In randomized clinical trials, in which causality can be demonstrated, the use of such phrases as “effects of” is appropriate (§2.1 Titles and Subtitles).

3. Patients With Epilepsy Who Die Suddenly Have Cardiac Disease

ANSWER: Fatal Cardiac Disease in Patients With Epilepsy

Editor’s Note: Declarative sentences are used frequently as titles of news stories and opinion pieces (eg, “World Bank Pledges \$200 Million to Stem Ebola Outbreak in West Africa,” “Lifestyle Counseling Advised for Overweight Adults With Other Cardiovascular Risk Factors”). However, declarative sentences or phrases in scientific article titles tend to overemphasize a conclusion and are best avoided (§2.1 Titles and Subtitles).



4. Use of Warfarin Sodium for the Prevention of Stroke

ANSWER: Use of Warfarin for the Prevention of Stroke

Editor's Note: If drug names appear in the title or subtitle, (1) use the approved generic or nonproprietary name, (2) omit the nonbase moiety unless it is required (see 14.4, Nomenclature, Drugs), and (3) avoid the use of proprietary names unless (a) several products are being compared, (b) the article is specific to a particular formulation of a drug (eg, the vehicle, not the active substance, caused adverse reactions), or (c) the number of ingredients is so large that the resulting title would be clumsy and a generic term, such as “multivitamin tablet,” would not do (§2.1.3 Drugs).

5. Outbreaks of *C pneumoniae* in Nursing Homes**ANSWER: Outbreaks of *Chlamydia pneumoniae* in Nursing Homes**

Editor's Note: Genus and species should be expanded and italicized in the title or subtitle and an initial capital letter should be used for the genus but not the species name, just as in the text (§2.1.4 Genus and Species).

6. *Helicobacter pylori* Infection in Adults With Dyspepsia in New York City**ANSWER: *Helicobacter pylori* Infection in Adults With Dyspepsia**

Editor's Note: Include cities, states, counties, provinces, or countries in titles only when essential, especially for results that may not be generalizable to other locations (eg, unique to that site) (§2.1.7, Names of Cities, Counties, States, Provinces, and Countries). In this example, unless the study results are specific to New York City, delete the phrase From New York City.

7. Avoidable Delays? Factors That Affect Physician Wait Times in Inner-City Clinics

ANSWER: Factors That Affect Physician Wait Times in Inner-City Clinics

Editor's Note: Questions are generally more appropriate for titles of editorials, commentaries, and opinion pieces, all of which may be less scholarly, and perhaps more provocative, than research articles (§2.1 Titles and Subtitles).

8. 5-Year Survival Among Patients With Advanced Skin, Renal, and Lung Cancer Treated With Nivolumab

ANSWER: Five-Year Survival Among Patients With Advanced Skin, Renal, and Lung Cancer Treated With Nivolumab

Editor's Note: If numbers appear at the beginning of a title or subtitle, they—and any unit of measure associated with them—should be spelled out (§2.1.2 Numbers).

9. Cross-sectional Comparison of the Epidemiology of *DSM-5* GAD Across the Globe

ANSWER: Cross-sectional Comparison of the Epidemiology of *DSM-5* Generalized Anxiety Disorder Across the Globe

Editor's Note: Avoid the use of abbreviations in the title and subtitle, unless space considerations require an exception or unless the title or subtitle includes the name of an entity or a group that is best known by its acronym. In both cases, the abbreviation should be expanded in the abstract and at the first appearance in the text (§2.1.5 Abbreviations).

10. Effect of Face-to-Face vs Virtual Reality Training in Patients Randomized to Either Training Type on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Quality

ANSWER: Effect of Face-to-Face vs Virtual Reality Training on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Quality: A Randomized Clinical Trial

Editor's Note: Randomized clinical trials should be described as such in the subtitle because this alerts readers to the level of evidence and the study design and is helpful to researchers performing a meta-analysis (§2.1 Titles and Subtitles).

