

Seminar on Master's Thesis Writing

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Dangling modifiers

- Showing an increase of 5%, Stanhope [2] claims that the method of virus detection is feasible.
- After participating in the beta version of the software, the survey showed that the users had found the user interface too complex.

Linking words

- The results have shown that the application was successful. _____, the process has commercial application.
- The way the users behaved affected the overall performance of the application. Howard [5], _____, explains that the larger the user base, the more computer errors should one expect. _____, Allen [6] notes that 50% of these errors occur on a smaller scale.

Reporting verbs

- Howard [5], for instance, _____ that the larger the user base, the more computer errors should one expect. However, Allen [6] _____ that 50% of these errors occur on a smaller scale.
- Howard [5], for instance, **argues** that the larger the user base, the more computer errors should one expect. However, Allen [6] **points out** that 50% of these errors occur on a smaller scale.
- Howard [5], for instance, **discredits** that the larger the user base, the more computer errors should one expect. However, Allen [6] **refuses the notion** that 50% of these errors occur on a smaller scale.

Commas

- Separating multiple nouns (or other elements in a series)
 - The first, second and third experiment have shown that...
- Separating two independent clauses
 - Can stand on their own: “We first concluded that the results were an error in computation, but the second experiment showed that the error was due to the incompatibility of...”
 - Use little conjunctions – FANBOYS (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so)
- Separating a modifier from the main clause
 - Modifier of place, time, ... (In 1998 at Berkeley University, the first computation was made...)

Commonly misspelled words in CS

right

- Adaptation
- Apparent
- Argument
- Consistent
- Definite
- Existence
- Foreign
- Grammar
- Heterogeneous
- Homogeneous
- Independent
- Insoluble

wrong

- adaption
- apparant
- arguement
- consistant
- definate
- foriegn
- grammer
- heterogenous
- homogenous
- independant
- insolvable

Commonly misspelled words in CS

right

- Miniature
- Occasional
- Occurred
- Participate
- Preceding
- Primitive
- Propagate
- Referred
- Separate
- Supersede
- transparent

wrong

- minature
- occaisional
- occured
- particepate
- preceeding
- primitive
- propogate
- refered
- seperate
- supercede
- transparant

Misused words in CS

Usual

- Alternative
- Comparable
- Complement
- Dependent
- Descendant
- Discrete
- Emit
- Ensure
- excerpt

other

- Alternate
- Comparative
- Compliment
- Dependant
- Descendent
- Discreet
- Omit
- Insure
- exert

Misused words in CS

Usual

- Foregoing
- Further
- Elusive
- Manyfold
- Omit
- Partly
- Principle
- Simple
- solvable

Other

- Forgoing
- Farther
- Illusive
- Manifold
- Partially
- Principal
- Simplistic
- soluble

References

- Justin Zobel. *Writing for Computer Science: The Art of Effective Communication*. Singapore: Springer, 2000.