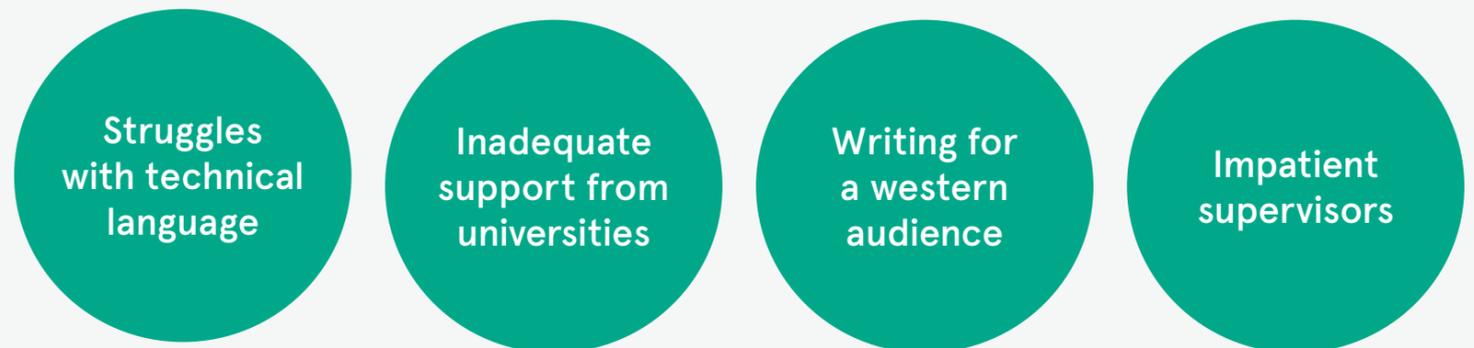


# ESL PhD Students: How To Improve Your Writing

## Challenges



## Things to bear in mind when writing your PhD

### Write concisely

It's not about using the fewest words, but using the strongest ones.

### Have an appropriate tone

Don't be too informal when you write and don't use slang.

### Be critical

Don't accept things at face value.

### Be direct

Get straight to the point using clear, precise language.

### Use medium certainty

Very few things in academia are certain, so always include the possibility that your statement might be proved wrong.

## Quick fixes to improve your writing

### Spot the mistakes

You likely make the same mistakes over and over again. Try and work out what these are and spot them as you write.

### Read, read, read

Read well-written journal articles and ask yourself what makes them so good?

### Write as much as you can

Practice makes perfect.

### Don't stress on individual words

If you're stuck on a word, include it in your native language and come back to it when you're done.

### Bigger is not always better

Use short, concise sentences.

## Where to go for help

### Your university's English courses

They're not perfect, but they're free and convenient.

### The PhD Knowledge Base

A great online resource specifically directed towards ESL PhD students.

### Purdue Online Writing Lab

A collection of resources that teach basic and technical skills for ESL writers.

### The PhD Proofreaders

The experts with specific expertise in working with ESL PhD students.