

VERB TENSE IN JOURNAL ARTICLES

| | INTRODUCTION | METHODS | RESULTS | DISCUSSION | CONCLUSION |
|----------|--|---|---|---|--|
| CONTENT | 1) what you are studying & why 2) what others (have) found 3) what you wanted to achieve with your study | what you did | what happened when you did what you did (you may get into what something means or how you are presenting it) | 1) what your results mean 2) how your results compare to what others (have) found 3) what the limitations of your study are/were | what the implications are (or will be) of what you found |
| EXAMPLES | 1) Acute nicotine poisoning is an occupational illness that affects... The large numbers of patients are causing ... Community-based cohort studies have advanced our understanding of... Over the past decade, farming has been changed by... ** These changes had been established by 1980 when the law went into effect. ** 2) In 1972 Smith and Jones reported ... Smith and Jones have reported ... ("probably published in the recent past and continues to have intellectual importance"-Huth) On the other hand, Smith and Jones report ... ("just published with messages of current importance"-Huth) Smith et al. reported Jones, on the other hand, had found 3) This study had , as its primary goal, ... | Keokuk County was chosen ... ** We determined the household was the most appropriate sampling unit... Sleep apnea was measured by... ** We had previously measured the temperature of... The datalogger used in this study is only capable of...Therefore, a voltage amplifier was used to... ** | 1) In the course of the study, 245 subjects experienced ... Smoking history was more closely associated with... ** Nearly all farm household men currently (94.8%) or previously (4.8%) farmed . As shown in Table 2, correlations varied considerably between... 2) ... This variation is more an indication of An example of sensor drift is presented in Figure 1. ** | 1) These results demonstrate ... Some of the variation between sampling methods can be attributed to... ** 2) By comparison, Smith found that... 3) Therefore, the results may not generalize to... Our sample size limited comparisons to... We enrolled only subjects with a previous history of... | These observations suggest that... The time-weighted averages were unreliable for indicating... Helping farmers understand the risk is crucial to... These programs might capitalize on... These activities could extend the benefits to... |

** verb in passive voice (all others in active voice)

Examples are from various journal articles, "Writing and Publishing in Medicine" (3rd ed, 1999) by Edward J. Huth, and "Publishing and Presenting Clinical Research" (1999) by Warren S. Browner