

Comparisons between parameters and their values

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Scientific writing should be clear and quick and easy to make comparisons between parameters and their values. There is a new fad in writing that suddenly appears in newspapers and online popular writing that is not good for scientific writing. This is the use of “respectively”.

If you look at manuscripts a few years old, you will not find this because if it is only 2 parameters and their values, it is obvious that you would not switch the rotation and therefore, the word “respectively” is redundant. You are insulting the reader who you don’t think is intelligent to realize that you have kept the same order. Now let us think about more parameters and their values. The easiest way to couple parameters and values is in a table. That way the reader can see all at once and easily make comparisons.

If you are limited to the number of tables or there are just 6, for instance, showing A,B,C,D,E,F parameters and then 1,2,3,4,5,6 values (that are usually at least one line away) and saying “respectively” to make comparisons is not only time consuming but not easy for the mind to make individual comparisons say, of D and its value or between B and F and their values. The best way then, is to couple the parameters with their individual values like this: A(1), B(2), etc. Now the sequences are easy to read and comparisons are easy to make.

