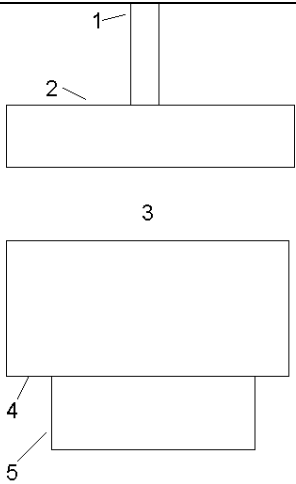
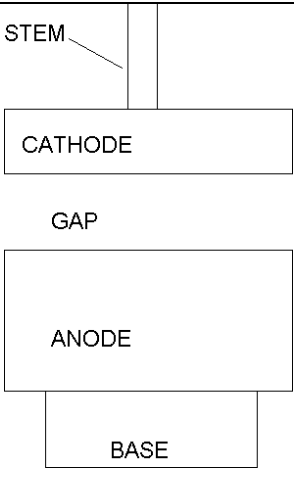


Common Problems for Russian Speakers Writing in English

Word or phrase	Problem/Solution	Substitute
Case of	Over-used -- usually unnecessary and can be deleted	
Essential	Usually misused	Significant
"..one can derive..."	Avoid the use of "one" as a subject in scientific writing. Use a passive sentence instead.	"..it can be derived that ..."
Special	Over-used, and can often be omitted	Custom designed, custom made
Possessive case - (example) Tube's axis Mode's frequency	Avoid in scientific writing. Can usually use a compound noun instead	Tube axis Mode frequency
The equation (9)	"The" inappropriate before construct case	Equation (9)
Xxxx process ...using the HRAVA process (or method).	"Process" is often overused, and usually not needed. Process (or method, etc.) is not needed if the preceding word is a process (or method) Check each instance to see if it can be omitted.	Xxxx ...using HRAVA...
Peculiarities	Means "strange aspects" – usually misused.	Characteristics
Proposed	Overused. Only means "suggested". If a previous researcher did more than merely suggest, e.g. studied, investigated, developed, etc., then the more definitive verb should be used.	Studied, investigated, developed (as appropriate)
sec, mkn	Used SI abbreviations	s, μm
....item 1; item 2; item 3; item 4.	Use the comma (,) to separate items in a list. The last item in a list is usually preceded by "and". (The semi-colon (;) is used to separate independent phrases (phrases which are grammatically complete sentences) in a sentence)item 1, item 2, item 3, and item 4.
"A", "an", and "the"	Major problem for Russian speakers, since there are no equivalent "articles" in Russian, and the rules for their use in English are complicated and often contradictory, and thus experience and judgment are needed re. which rule should apply. The general principle is that the definite article "the" should precede nouns which are specific and known to the reader. In scientific papers, "known to the reader" usually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first time a concept, process, part, etc. is used in a paper, precede it with "a" or "an" • In each following use, precede it with "the" • Do <u>not</u> precede "non-countable" nouns with "a" or "an" (e.g. a happiness)

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Word or phrase	Problem/Solution	Substitute
	means that the noun was introduced to the reader earlier in the paper. The following guidelines cover ~70% of the instances in scientific writing:→	
Granny Smith apples make the best apple pie. A graph showing the test rating of apple pies made with various apples is shown in Fig. 2.	Conclusion or explanation presented before the facts. First present the facts (e.g. “results”), and only then give explanations or conclusions. Strictly follow the following sentence order when presenting results: Location (L), Presentation (P), and Comments (C)	L: . A graph showing the test rating of apple pies made with various apples is shown in Fig. 2 P: It may be seen that the pie made with Granny Smith apples had the highest taste rating. C: Therefore it may be concluded that Granny Smith apples make the best pies.
anode outer surface	When nouns are used as if they are adjectives, i.e. to modify another noun, together they form a compound noun, e.g. “anode surface”. The compound noun must be treated as an integral unit – adjectives cannot be inserted within the compound noun.	outer anode surface
 <p>The diagram shows a cross-section of a cell. Part 1 is a vertical rod at the top. Part 2 is a horizontal bar below it. Part 3 is a larger horizontal bar below that. Part 4 is a vertical rod at the bottom left. Part 5 is a horizontal bar at the bottom right.</p>	Diagrams and graphs with “numbered” parts or curves – forces the reader to repeatedly move his eyes between the figure and the text. Instead, use the “heads-up” display principle – make the figure as self-contained as possible.	 <p>The diagram shows a cross-section of a cell with labels. STEM is a vertical rod at the top. CATHODE is a horizontal bar below it. GAP is the space between the cathode and the anode. ANODE is a larger horizontal bar below the gap. BASE is a horizontal bar at the bottom right.</p>
In a previous work [22], we showed that	“work” is usually overused, and unnecessary. It can usually be eliminated, and so doing usually shortens the sentence.	Previously we showed that[22]