

Description

Non-native speakers of English have a particular need for [a scientific editor](#), since mastering the nuances of another language take half a lifetime. But native English speakers tend to think that they have no need for [copy editing](#) because, after all, it's their own language. It isn't quite so. Just because you can speak a language doesn't mean you can write it well. Many oily tongued speakers freeze up when confronted with a blank computer screen. And spoken language doesn't trouble itself with punctuation, all those pesky commas, colons, semicolons, dashes, and hyphens. A [professional copy editing service](#) can be a great benefit to a native speaker.

Faster Publication

Journals are increasingly [deluged with manuscript](#) submissions. They don't have time to do a lot of editing. A reputable journal will reject a [poorly written manuscript](#), sending it back to the author with a note to edit and resubmit. This wastes time. Careful [proofreading](#) will get past this initial screen.

Enhanced Reputation

There are some journals that will accept and publish a paper that has bad grammar, clumsy phrasing, and faulty proofreading. But at what cost to the researcher's reputation? Once an article has been published, the [embarrassing errors](#) are there forever. They can't be corrected. A reputation for sloppy writing is perhaps not as damaging as one for sloppy research, but it definitely should be avoided.

The Value of a Second Opinion

It is remarkable how we can see errors in other peoples' writing that we can't see in our own. When I was in graduate school a fellow student took a look at a paper I was writing and pointed out a number of mistakes. I appreciated his help, remarking later to my lab mate, "Mike may not have the greatest lab technique, but he is a good writer." A few months later I leafed through Mike's dissertation. The writing was awful. Although he could see the mote in my eye, he couldn't see the beams in his own.

Having a professional [copy editing](#) service [proofread a manuscript](#) is a good investment. For a modest cost it can save you a great deal of time, and time is money. It can also save your reputation from being tarnished from errors that might slip past a journal editor.

Category

1. Manuscripts & Grants
2. Reporting Research

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