Main issues	Comments
Function words	Function words serve to clarify relations between content words (nouns and verbs describing the subject of your research, theory, data, methodology and findings. Function words are prepositions, articles, auxiliary verbs, pronouns. Structure words are the glue that holds sentences, or parts of the sentence, together. Although structure words have meaning, they carry minimal content within the larger scope of the article. Because you want your reader to focus on the content of your article, you want the shortest structure words possible.
Fuzzy & smothered verbs	Fuzzy words say that something happened but not what. Fuzzy verbs (conduct, have, analyse, etc.) are energy thieves. In English grammar, the term "smothered verb" refers to a verb whose strength has disappeared into a black hole of nominalisations (assessment, development, indication, etc.)
Hedging	Hedging is the natural language of uncertainty. Hedging "protects" the speaker from possible charges of uttering false information. For some cultures, hedging represents professional modesty or cautiousness. Others defend hedging in terms of professional purism. However, every theory, methodology, conclusion in a research paper takes place within a context, and the writer has to limit himself or herself to what is true for that context, study or argument.
I/We	The first person pronoun plays a key role in the construction of the writer's persona in research articles. First person pronouns are a powerful tool that you can use to sound confident to show that you take the responsibility for the research.
Modality	<table><tr><th>High Modality</th><th>Medium modality</th><th>Low modality</th></tr><tr><td>will / must / shall / ought to / have to</td><td>should / can / need to</td><td>may / would / might / could</td></tr><tr><td>Surely / certainly / be necessary that / always I believe / trust / think To my knowledge / At the very least</td><td>probably / be likely / be unlikely suggest / It appears / looks / suggests It appears likely / It is believed / roughly / generally / occasionally</td><td>maybe / be possible / I assume / suppose It seems reasonable to assume / There is a possibility / As far as I know To the best of my knowledge</td></tr></table> A moderate 'low modality' statement of opinion allows for a more tentative conclusion. It also presents a reasoned and objective argument because it allows for the possibility of evidence contrary to your own claims. In comparison, a 'high modality' opinion can appeal to the emotions and so can be perceived as persuasive and subjective.
Modifiers	Adjectives modify nouns, and adverbs modify everything else (including adjectives). However, good words do not need modifying. Strong clear nouns and verbs give writing power. Eliminating unnecessary adjectives and adverbs will make your writing stronger and tighter.
Negation	Words with "negative connotation" (rather than negative words, i.e. not, never, no, etc.) are useful because 1) they are often more polite than negatives of a more obvious kind; 2) they allow variety in the way that negative meaning is expressed. Kill "not" is a rule of thumb. Avoid negative sentences because affirmative sentences are usually clearer than negative sentences.
Voice	Of all the strategies for creating strong, readable academic writing, every writer should place pruning and active voice at the top. Active voice is clear, concise and direct. It is also visual and evocative.
Who, which or that?	The use of "which" and "that" differs in the UK and the US. Although both traditions agree on the absence of a comma for essential clauses, the US English only uses "that", whereas UK English tends to use "that" and "which" interchangeably. Therefore, because the US style will work for both US and UK English, your best strategy is to follow the US style of using "which" for nonessential clauses and "that" for essential clauses.
Wordiness & redundancies	Having too many words in one written sentence creates too much of a bad thing. The cause can be redundancy, poor editing, or a learned behavior (from the writer's first language) that the more one crams into a sentence, the more intellectual one is. For a scientist, writing compact English is an act of success or maybe survival. When your areas are buried in words, cluttered sentences, and extraneous information, readers get confused and frustrated. There are a few strategies to condensing your paper.

Fuzzy verb	Strong verb
affect	accelerate
analyze	accomplish
conduct	become
discuss	compare
evaluate	create
explore	decrease
facilitate	detect
implement	develop
occur	diagnose
perform	establish
plan	examine
	execute
	gather
	generate
	improve
	increase
	investigate
	modify
	react
	research

Smothered verbs		Action verb
make a suggestion		suggest
make an improvement	→	improve
encourage	→	develop
development make a	→	present
presentation conduct	→	investigate
an investigation come	→	agree
to an agreement	→	experiment
conduct an experiment	→	tend
have a tendency	→	consider
give consideration	→	state
make a statement	→	assess

Language used in hedging:

certain verbs	seem, tend, look like, appear to be, think, believe, doubt, be sure, indicate, suggest, assume, suppose, try
certain modal verbs and modal expressions	can, would, may, might, could, maybe, must
adverbs of frequency	often, sometimes, usually, occasionally
adverbs	certainly, definitely, clearly, probably, possibly, perhaps, conceivably, hardly, apparently, partially, partly, nearly, fairly, hopefully, likely, mainly, almost, mostly, presumably, quite clearly, quite, rather, supposedly, somewhat
prepositions	about, around, near
vague phrases	in general, kind of, sort of, more or less, pretty (strong/ weak), and so forth, etc.,
nouns	assumption, possibility, probability
impersonal constructions	It could be the case that… / It might be suggested that… / There is every hope that…
adjective + to-infinitive	It may be possible to obtain … / It is important to develop … / It is useful to study…