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## Book Review

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### **English Writing for Anaesthesiologists and Other Physicians**

*J.W.R. McIntyre and A. Matsuki.* Kokuseido Publishing Co., Tokyo 1992. pp. 93. ISBN 4-7719-0116-3.

This small, easy-to-read book is introduced by its authors as a manual of "how-to" improve writing skills for anesthesiologists and is intended for "anesthesiologists for whom English was not the primary language ...".

The authors categorize publications into five basic types and offer guidelines for clarity when composing each section of a publication. Although these guidelines for clarity are intended for authors, readers may find the guidelines invaluable as a focus for information they should seek in published scientific work.

The book also deals with the mechanics of English sentence structure, punctuation, clarity of usage and conciseness. Generally, the information is basic. Some of the more subtle uses suggested might be difficult for non-English-speaking authors to employ.

There are, at least, 20 pages of sample usages in the book, presumably to aid the non-English author by example. The book also contains an Appendix with The Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals.

Aside from the technical details of English composition, the authors' broader messages are brevity and simplicity. The reader of a scientific publication should not have to waste valuable time on literary interpretation.

In summary, this is an excellent little book, not only for writers, but for readers of scientific literature, as well.

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