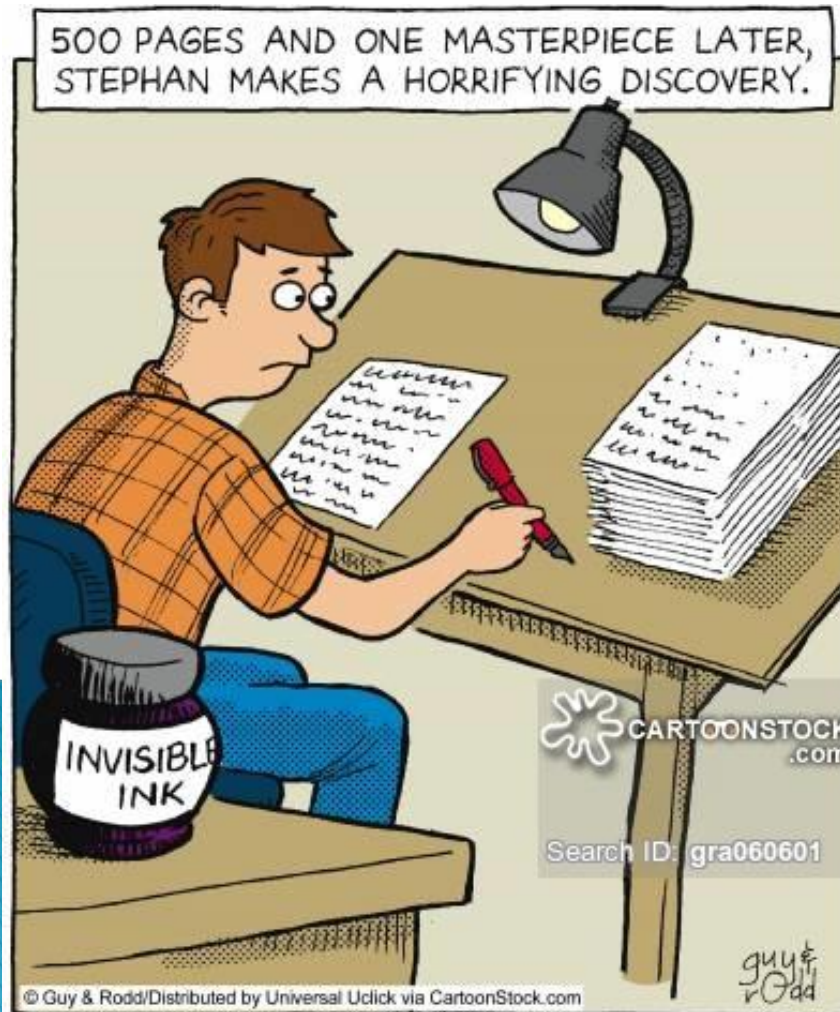


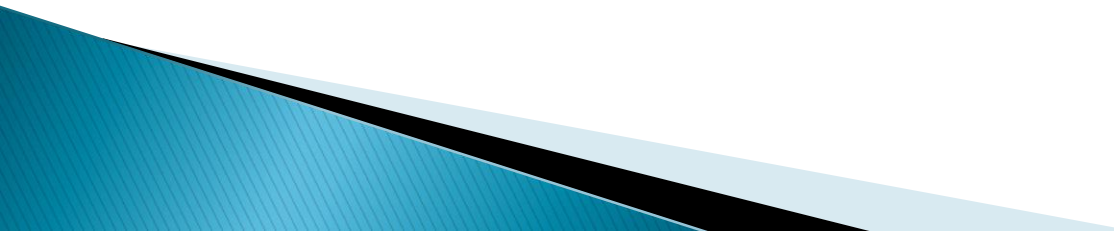
Common Russian Mistakes in Academic Writing



What are some of the
problems you face in
academic writing?



Some of the most common problems in academic writing

1. Russian style
 2. Wordiness / clarity
 3. Problems with structure / writing process
 4. Punctuation
- 

style

style



A

- ▶ There is growing evidence that the lack of competence of university ESL students in academic writing affects their overall academic performance. Olivas and Li (2006) connected low second-language proficiency levels in English to poor academic performance of international students studying at both university and college levels in the United States.

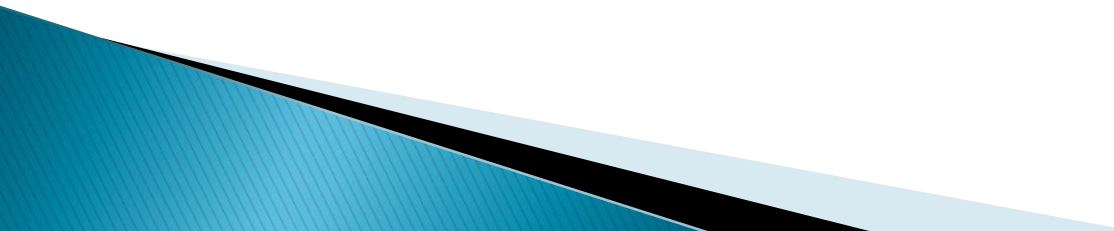
B

- ▶ One of the major trends of the XXI century business environment is inter-organizational networking. The dynamic of society has changed “from one of strong boundaries between separate institutional spheres and organizations to a more flexible overlapping system, with each taking the role of the other” (Etzkowitz, 2002, p.2).

C

- ▶ Over the last decades fertility behavior endured greater changes in many European countries. Except investigating research on fertility decline and factors that impact this process, researchers ponder a question on fertility ideals or desires and realized fertility. [Miller and Pasta 1995]

D

- ▶ The phenomena of failures and success of companies during economic crises is a largely discussed issue. It has been considered in conceptual and empirical research papers, in analytical overviews and consulting reports.
- 

E

- ▶ Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) and Academic Literacies (AcLits) can be positioned as contrasting approaches to the investigation of academic writing where SFL has been successful in explaining how meanings are construed through written texts, while academic literacies builds on New Literacy Studies as ‘a framework for understanding university writing practices’ (Lea & Street, 1998, p. 157 *italics added*).

F

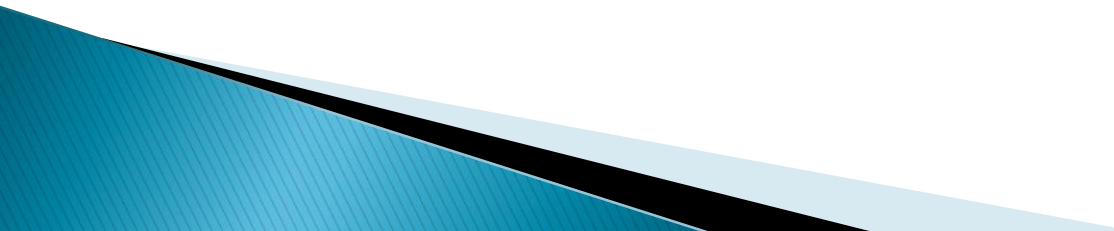
- ▶ There is interest in economics, finance, and econometrics in the solutions to functional equations where the arguments of the solution functions are the values of an autoregressive process. A typical problem is to characterize the price of an asset, where the law of motion for the dividend is a logarithmic AR(1) process.

G

- ▶ The article considers the version of the ontological argument, proposed by Norman Malcolm and Charles Hartshorne. The first objective of the study: to reinvestigate the key theme for this issue – the precise distinction between modalities *de re* and *de dicto*.

H

- ▶ Whereas uncorroborated empirical research outcomes must be considered tentative, their successful replication promotes confidence in the veracity of a discipline's cumulative knowledge base. Other things being equal, replication protects against the uncritical assimilation of specious empirical results into the literature.

- I
- ▶ In his article “Anselm’s Ontological Argument” Norman Malcolm puts forward an idea about the two versions proving the existence of God in Anselm’s “Proslogion”. While in the second chapter proved the existence of God, in the third chapter proved the *necessity* of God’s existence.
- 

J

- ▶ The dissemination of research results and findings is an integral part of the research process. Researchers write to keep records of their work for themselves, but more importantly also for the readers and peer researchers who are expecting a standard form, language, and style when reading research papers. Writing in a scientific style may be hard in the beginning for novices, but clear communication and concise writing have no magic involved [1].

Answer keys

- ▶ NS A E F H J
- ▶ RS B C D G I

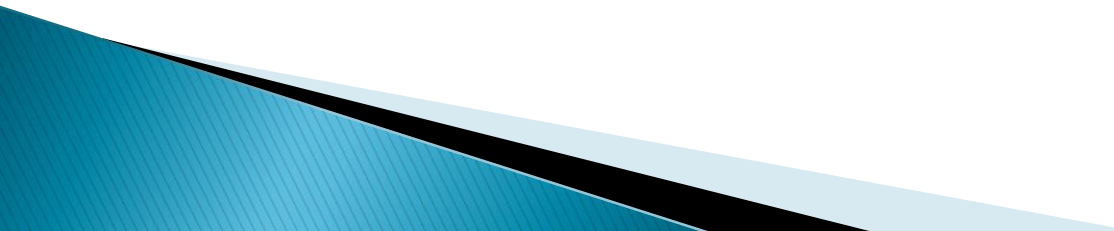


KEEP
CALM
AND
WRITE IN
PLAIN ENGLISH

Before

- ▶ Young people pass a long way in their political socialization undergoing different influences – educational sphere, parents and a family in general, TV and literature,

After

- ▶ Young people begin to be involved into political sphere from their childhood. They experience influence from different factors: educational sphere, parents and a family.
- 



Do you know this woman?



- ▶ **Kristin Sainani**
- ▶ **Clinical Assistant Professor, Stanford University**
- ▶ **Clinical Chemistry Guide to Scientific Writing**
<http://bit.ly/1CUBPpu>

Writing in the sciences



- ▶ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=68N-xrlzK64&index=6&list=PLUk4uy2jPpXVGXqVhgs352q6jOdl608Qg>


Before

- ▶ The main idea of the passage is to consider a human factor at the center of the study though such an approach is fairly in contrast with the traditional school of political science and is largely influenced by the behaviorist interpretation of the politics where it “would open the doors to considerations of all elements that make up a nation, and to their relations with the State”


After

- ▶ The main idea of our paper is to emphasize the role of a human factor. This very approach is fairly in contrast with the traditional school of political science. It is largely influenced by behaviorist interpretation of the politics where it “would open the doors to considerations of all elements that make up a nation, and to their relations with the State” (L.Dittmer 1977: 553)

Before

- ▶ Such areas of knowledge as Philosophy, Philology and Classical Studies (Altertumswissenschaft) tried not only to be the stages of education or academic courses – they made an attempt to be realized as holistic ways of representation of the world with a specific subject or a unique methodology.
- 

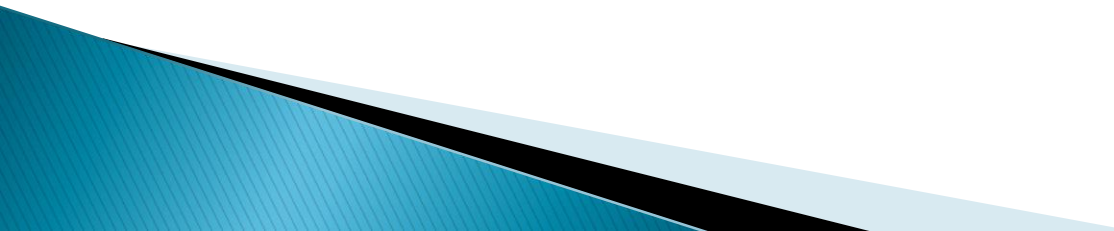
After

- ▶ Philosophy, Philology and Classical Studies (Altertumswissenschaft) served as a basis for academic education. Also, these disciplines may add to world representation views within specific subjects or a unique methodology.
- 

Before

- ▶ We offer that as in the case of a university professor under a great influence of romantic ideas while establishing the concept of his academic seminar it is crucial for

After

- ▶ We suggest that it is crucial for a university professor of history to consider philosophical, religious and political factors during seminar preparation.
- 

Before

- ▶ Then for both countries (there) was quite a similar stage of rise in 70 millions during the period from 1985 to 2005.

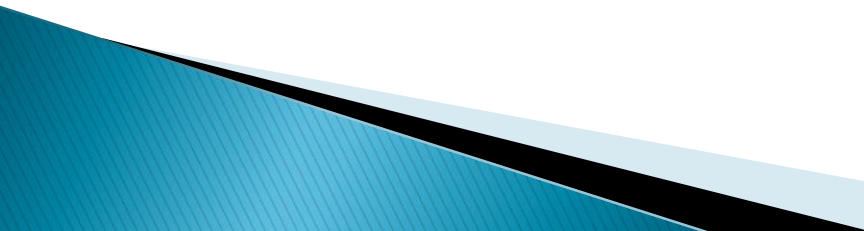
After

- ▶ In both countries the number of cinema admissions increased by 70 million between 1985 and 2005.

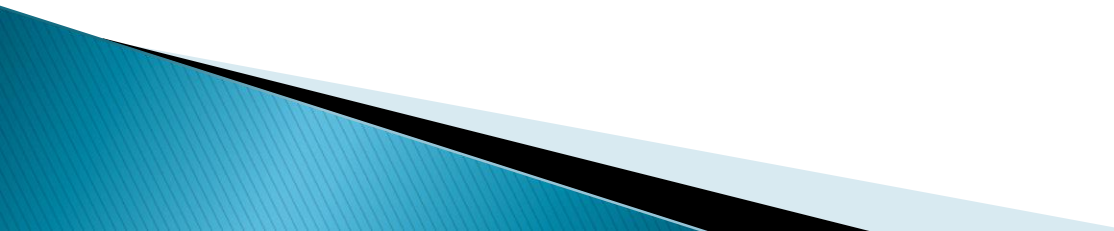
Before

- ▶ From the chart B it is clear that in general, film admission in UK was higher than in Australia for all the period from 1975 to 2005.

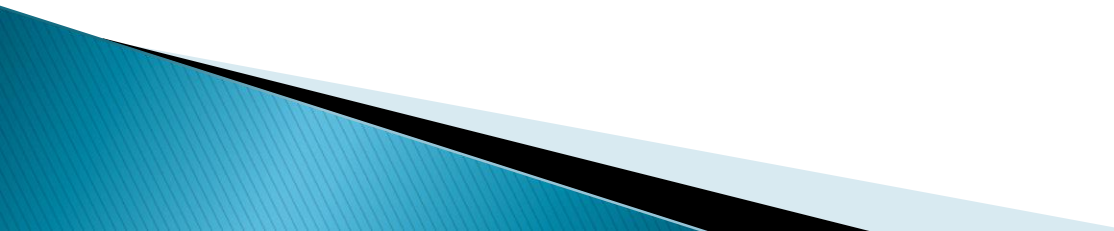
After

- ▶ We can (clearly) see from the second chart that in the UK people went to the cinema more often than in Australia.
 - ▶ We can see from the second chart that in general there were more cinema admissions in the UK than in Australia between 1975 and 2005.
 - ▶ As we can see from the second visual, cinema admission rate in the UK was higher than in Australia from 1975 to 2005.
- 

Before

- ▶ This article is motivated by growing interest to problem of assessment of merger control quality. This paper aims to build and empirically evaluate a discrete choice model of merger remedies implementation in Russian merger control.
- 

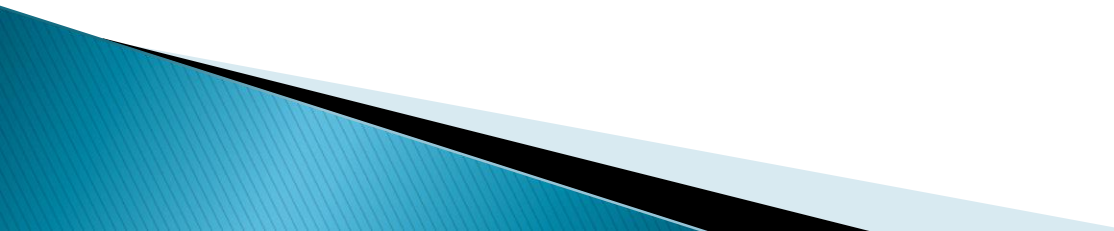
After

- ▶ This article is motivated by growing interest to the problem of control quality assessment. It aims to build and empirically evaluate a discrete choice model of merger remedies implementation in Russian merger control.
- 

Before

- ▶ Furthermore, in spite of existence a vast number of studies on determinants and scheme of fertility preferences formation much less it is said on determinants of fertility gap and influence of ideals on actual behavior.

After

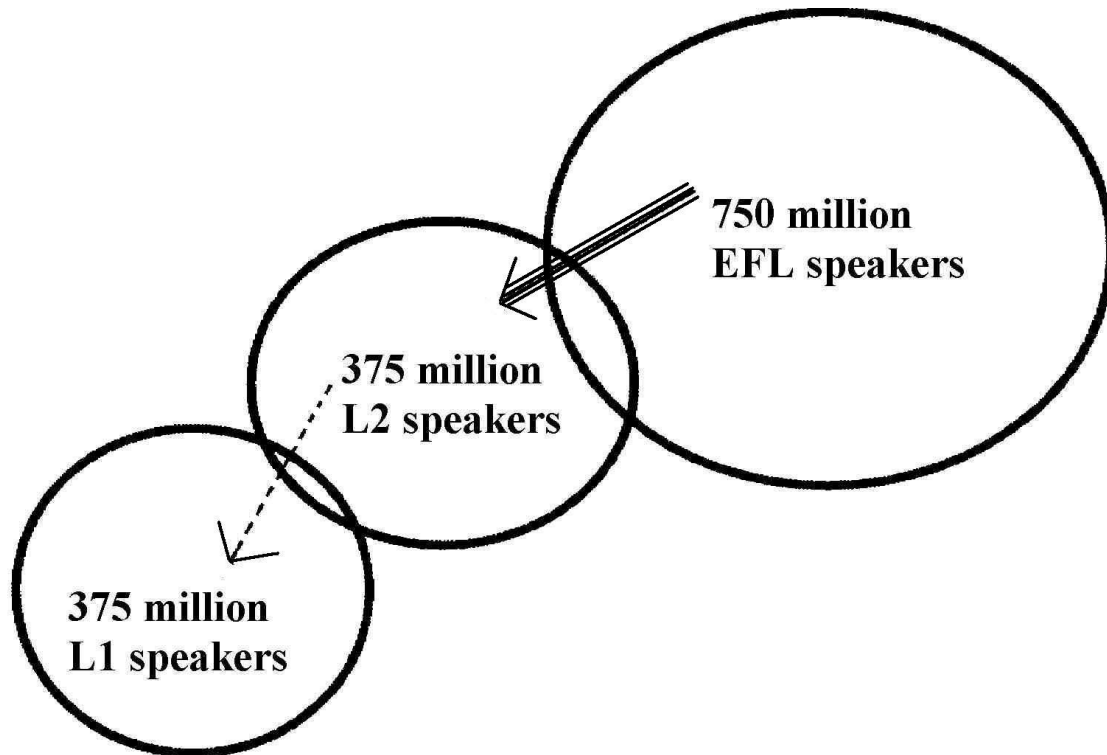
- ▶ Furthermore, in spite of a vast number of studies on fertility preference formation, little is said about determinants of fertility gap. Also, it is unclear how the ideals actually influence behavior.
- 



**KEEP
CALM
AND
Help
Yourself**

Applied linguistics

NS vs NNS




NS vs NNS

- ▶ Conference abstracts in English and in Russian
- ▶ Native speakers of English
- ▶ Non-native speakers of English with Ukrainian/Russian as their first languages

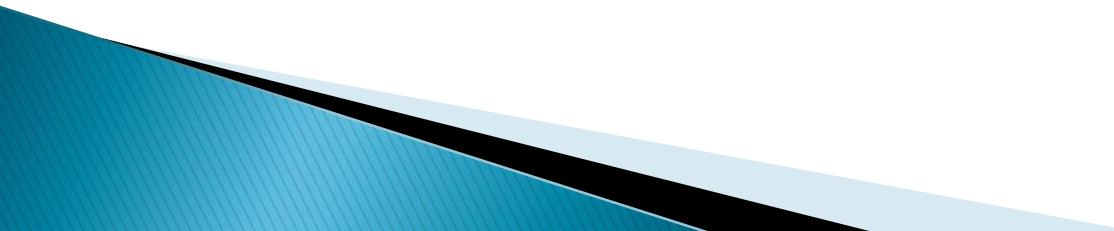
Tatyana Yakhontova (2002) **“Selling” or “telling”? The issue of cultural variation in research genres.** In J. Flowerdew (ed.), *Academic discourse*. London: Longman.

Organization of abstracts

1. **Outlining the research field**
 2. **Justifying research**
 3. **Introducing the paper**
 4. **Summarizing the paper**
 5. **Highlighting its outcome**
- 

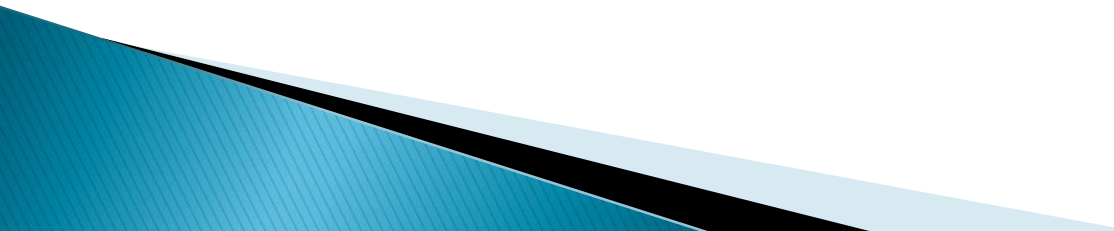
Summary of the observations and findings

The English native texts and Ukrainian Russian abstracts differ significantly.



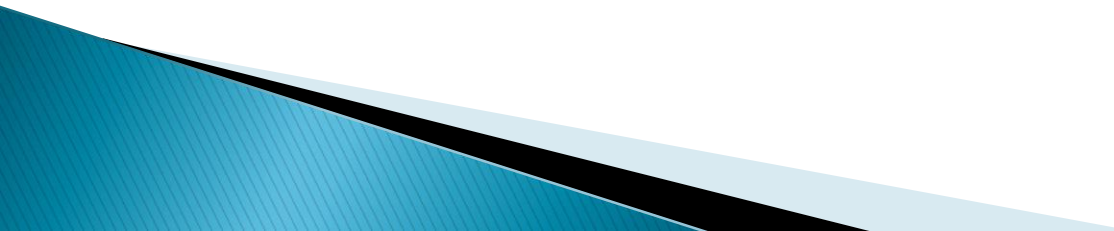
Summary of the observations and findings

Abstracts (EE) produce the impression of clearly cut and quite ‘abstract-like’ texts that **emphasize the originality** of a particular piece of research.



Summary of the observations and findings

Ukrainian and Russian abstracts in these languages look like short research papers (and) **tend to be rather global** in describing their research.





**KEEP
CALM
AND
KEEP
TRYING**



Which sentence is correct?

1. It is not simple to answer the question about lives of all people on the earth, because people are different.
2. The number of the voters was low because many people had left the conference early.

No comma!

The number of
the voters was
low



independent
clause



because many
people had
left the
conference
early.



dependent
clause

No comma!

**independent
clause**



... because ...

... that ...

... if ...

... when ...

... where ...




**dependent
clause**

No commas!

1. It is not simple to answer the question about lives of all people on the earth because people are different.
2. The lecturer states that the decision dramatically disappointed the audience.
3. The contractor testified that the house was completed and that the work had been done properly.
4. And I believe that if people know when to stop, this approach will have only beneficial consequences for humanity.

Comma needed!

Because many
people had
left the
conference
early,



dependent
clause

the number of
the voters was
low.



independent
clause

Comma needed!

Because ...

If...

When ...

Where ...



**independent
clause**



**dependent
clause**

Comma needed!

- ▶ Because people are different, it is not simple to answer the question about lives of all people on the earth.
- ▶ Because of dramatic changes in the quality of food, we can now observe a decrease in the level of general health among students.
- ▶ If certain measures take place, the situation might change.

More mistakes:

– hyphen
: colon
; semi-
colon



Let's eat grandma!



Let's eat, grandma!

**PUNCTUATION
SAVES LIVES!**



**KEEP
CALM
AND
PUNCTUATE
PROPERLY.**

Bottom Line

- ▶ Plan well
- ▶ Work on clarity
- ▶ Pay attention to punctuation

Common Russian Mistakes in Academic Writing



What have we done today?

- ▶ Needs analysis
 - ▶ Writing strategies (freewriting, sandwich writing and prompts)
 - ▶ Writing an abstract (peer feedback & error correction)
 - ▶ Sources: vocabulary and referencing
 - ▶ Common Russian mistakes (and how to avoid them)
 - ▶ Writing in the sciences
 - ▶ Academic writing rubrics
 - ▶ Spoke a lot and had fun! **Didn't we?**
- 