
Preface

After the publication of *Medical English* (R. Ribes, P.R. Ros: Springer. Nov 2005) and *Radiological English* (R. Ribes, P.R. Ros: Springer. Nov 2006), Ramón Ribes became the first editor and coordinator of a series of books on medical English for different specialties. These books are mainly written by non-native-English-speaking doctors who know how hard it can be to learn a second language and understand the challenge of dealing with the acronyms, abbreviations, and jargon that are so important in medical English.

Learning scientific and medical English is extremely demanding. A sound knowledge of English grammar lays the foundations on which you can build your medical English. Just as physicians of all specialties need to know anatomy and physiology (i.e. the normal structures of the body, how they relate to one another, and their functions), professionals from non-English-speaking countries who want to learn English will need to become familiar with different linguistic structures and their functions. Furthermore, Latin and Greek terminology are so prominent in medical English that some basic knowledge of these “dead” languages is essential to speak and write medical English properly. Being fluent in medical English implies being able to communicate effectively in speech and in writing in a wide variety of situations with a wide variety of interlocutors. This book focuses on one small but important aspect of medical English: formal scientific presentations.

Nobody doubts that English is the language of science and medicine, and nowhere is this more evident than at international meetings and courses. If a researcher or physician wants to communicate his or her results and conclusions to the scientific community, he or she must do so in English. Many careers have been stunted by poor English, and many more have never gotten off the ground because physicians failed to take advantage of the opportunity to speak at a meeting because of fears that their English was not up to the task. Indeed, presenting an oral communication at an international congress can be daunting for even the most fluent of non-native-English-speaking doctors. Yet, at the same time, with proper preparation, even relatively weak speakers can rise to the challenge.

We have watched and listened to over one thousand scientific presentations at American and European courses and congresses. We have also had the experience of speaking to a wide variety of audiences on many occasions. We would

like to share our experience both as members of the audience and as lecturers, and we sincerely hope this humble manual helps you improve the overall quality of your presentations.

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