# English for Uni

# Reading and Writing Strategies

## Step 1. Analyse the reading in your units to identify how the writer uses:

* **verb tenses** to present arguments, data, research findings etc.
* **linking words** and phrases to join sentences and paragraphs
* **reporting verbs** to talk about other authors or previous research
* **modal verbs** to express degrees of caution.

## Step 2. Apply what you learned to your own writing

* Create your own paragraphs using the language (e.g. verb tenses, linking words, reporting verbs or model verbs) from the readings to explain ideas.
* Choose 1-2 language features at a time.
* Read the paragraph aloud or record it and see if it flows.
* Try rewriting it in different ways. For example, change active sentences to passive sentences. Use a Thesaurus to find words that might have a similar meaning.

## Step 3. Get feedback

* You may find that you do not always get detailed feedback on your language from a tutor. Seek feedback from a [Writing Mentor](http://www.deakin.edu.au/students/get-involved/shs-hub/writing-mentors), a [Language and Learning Adviser](http://www.deakin.edu.au/students/study-support/ask-us), or a friend.
* Create time in your study schedule to do this often. Keep a notebook of the feedback you are given and use it to remind yourself of the areas you need to focus on.
* Go back to a grammar resource and review some of the rules of grammar. Then try writing practice sentences about topics in your unit.