

University of Catania

Scientific Writing Resources

Words and phrases that can confuse





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Particular - Peculiar

These two words are often used incorrectly.

Particular means special

synonyms: special, extra special, especial, exceptional, unusual, marked, singular, uncommon, notable, noteworthy, remarkable, outstanding, unique.

Peculiar means strange

synonyms: strange, unusual, odd, funny, curious, bizarre, weird, uncanny, queer, unexpected, unfamiliar, abnormal, atypical, anomalous, untypical, different.

Examples:

Personally, I see "perfume" as a product, and the "fragrance" as the particular smell of the perfume.

The peculiar smell of the breath in small-pox seems to indicate the lurking contagion;