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Scientific Writing Resources

Words and phrases that can confuse

Last Latest





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Last Latest

Last and Latest can appear similar but they are different. Sometimes they mean the same thing, sometimes they do not. Let's have a look at what they really mean:

Latest

•Now it is 6.40pm, the lesson started at 6pm.

1 came at 6.10pm: he arrived late

2 came at 6.20pm: he arrived later

3 came at 6.30pm: he was the latest to arrive

N°3 was the latest, but the nearest to now, so the latest means the nearest to now, the most recent.

•It is now December.

I have 5 issues of the Journal: April, June, August, September and November. So November is the latest issue I have (the most recent).



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Last Latest

This is the latest smartphone, it arrived last week. The latest information, I saw it an hour ago. What is the latest news on the patient? We have the latest technology. The latest news.



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We stopped to analyze the results We stopped analyzing the results

Last

Of any series, this indicates the end. After this there are no more or the cycle repeats. It also means "previous" as in "last week".

This is the last painting by Rembrandt (he painted NO MORE).

Friday is the last day of the working week.

This is your last possibility, I will give you no more.

All gone! That was the last one.

Last, but not least.

Last orders, please. We are closing.

In the race she was the slowest; she came last.

I last saw him in April (the last time I saw him was in April).

Last minute holiday (booked just before you go).