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**1. How to download the MS Word template**

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**2. Paper structure**

Papers should be prepared in the following order:

**Introduction:** to explain the background work, the practical applications and the nature and purpose of the paper.

**Body:** to contain the primary message, with clear lines of thought and validation of the techniques described.

**Conclusion**

**Acknowledgements** (when appropriate)

**References**

**Appendices** (when appropriate)

**Section headings:** should be left justified, with the first letter capitalized and numbered consecutively, starting with the Introduction. Sub-section headings should be in capital and lower-case italic letters, numbered 1.1, 1.2, etc, and left justified, with second and subsequent lines indented.

Please use US English throughout.

**i. Title page**

The first page should include:

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Click on the existing text and enter the title of the paper using sentence case.

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? Authors' names: Remember to include the correct superscript linking to the appropriate affiliation details.

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Insert an abstract of 50-100 words, giving a brief account of the most relevant aspects of the paper.

**(e) Keywords (5-10)**

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**ii. Tables**

All tables should be numbered with Arabic numerals. Headings should be placed above tables, left justified. Leave one line space between the heading and the table. Only horizontal lines should be used within a table, to distinguish the column headings from the body of the table, and immediately above and below the table. Tables must be embedded into the text and not supplied separately.

**iii. Illustrations**

All figures should be numbered with Arabic numerals (1, 2, ?). All photographs, schemas, graphs and diagrams are to be referred to as figures. Line drawings should be good quality scans or true electronic output. Low-quality scans are not acceptable. Figures must be embedded into the text and not supplied separately. Lettering and symbols should be clearly defined either in the caption or in a legend provided as part of the figure. Figures should be placed at the top or bottom of a page wherever possible, as close as possible to the first reference to them in the paper.

The figure number and caption should be typed below the illustration in 9pt and left justified. For further guidelines and information to help you submit high quality artwork please visit: <https://www.elsevier.com/artworkinstructions>.

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**iv. Equations**

Equations and formulae should be typed in Mathtype, and numbered consecutively with Arabic numerals in parentheses on the right hand side of the page (if referred to

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#### **v. References**

In the text the number of the reference should be given in square brackets. For references with more than two authors, text citations should be shortened to the first name followed by et al., e.g. Jones [1] discovered that...; Recent results from Brown and Carter [2] and Green et al. [3] indicate that (?).

Only essential references, which are directly referred to in the text, should be included in the reference list.

References must be listed in numerical order at the end of the paper. Do not begin them on a new page unless this is absolutely necessary. They should be prepared according to the sequential numeric system making sure that all material mentioned is generally available to the reader.

Journal references should include: author's surname and initials; initials and surnames of remaining authors; article title (where provided); abbreviated journal title (in italics), year of publication, volume number and page numbers.

References to books should include: author's surname and initials; surnames and initials of remaining authors; the book title (in italics); the place of publication and the name of the publisher; and year of publication. References to multi-author works should include author's surname(s) and initials, the chapter title (where provided); "In:" followed by book title (in italics); initials and name(s) of editor(s) in brackets; volume number and pages; the place of publication and name of the publisher, followed by the year of publication.

Here is an example of some references listed according to the sequential numeric system:

[1] Van der Geer J, Hanraads JAJ, Lupton RA. The art of writing a scientific article. *J Sci Commun* 2000;163:51-9.

[2] Strunk Jr W, White EB. *The elements of style*. 3rd ed. New York: Macmillan; 1979.

[3] Mettam GR, Adams LB. How to prepare an electronic version of your article. In: Jones BS, Smith RZ, editors. *Introduction to the electronic age*, New York: E-Publishing Inc; 1999, p. 281-304.

#### **vi. Footnotes**

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Please do not change the margins of the template as this can result in the footnote falling outside printing range.

**vii. General guidelines for the preparation of your text**

Avoid hyphenation at the end of a line. Symbols denoting vectors and matrices should be indicated in bold type. Scalar variable names should normally be expressed using italics. Weights and measures should be expressed in SI units. All non-standard abbreviations or symbols must be defined when first mentioned, or a glossary provided.

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