

Academic English: Getting the tone right for essays & reports

Why so complicated?

A brief survey of English.

How to sound smart?

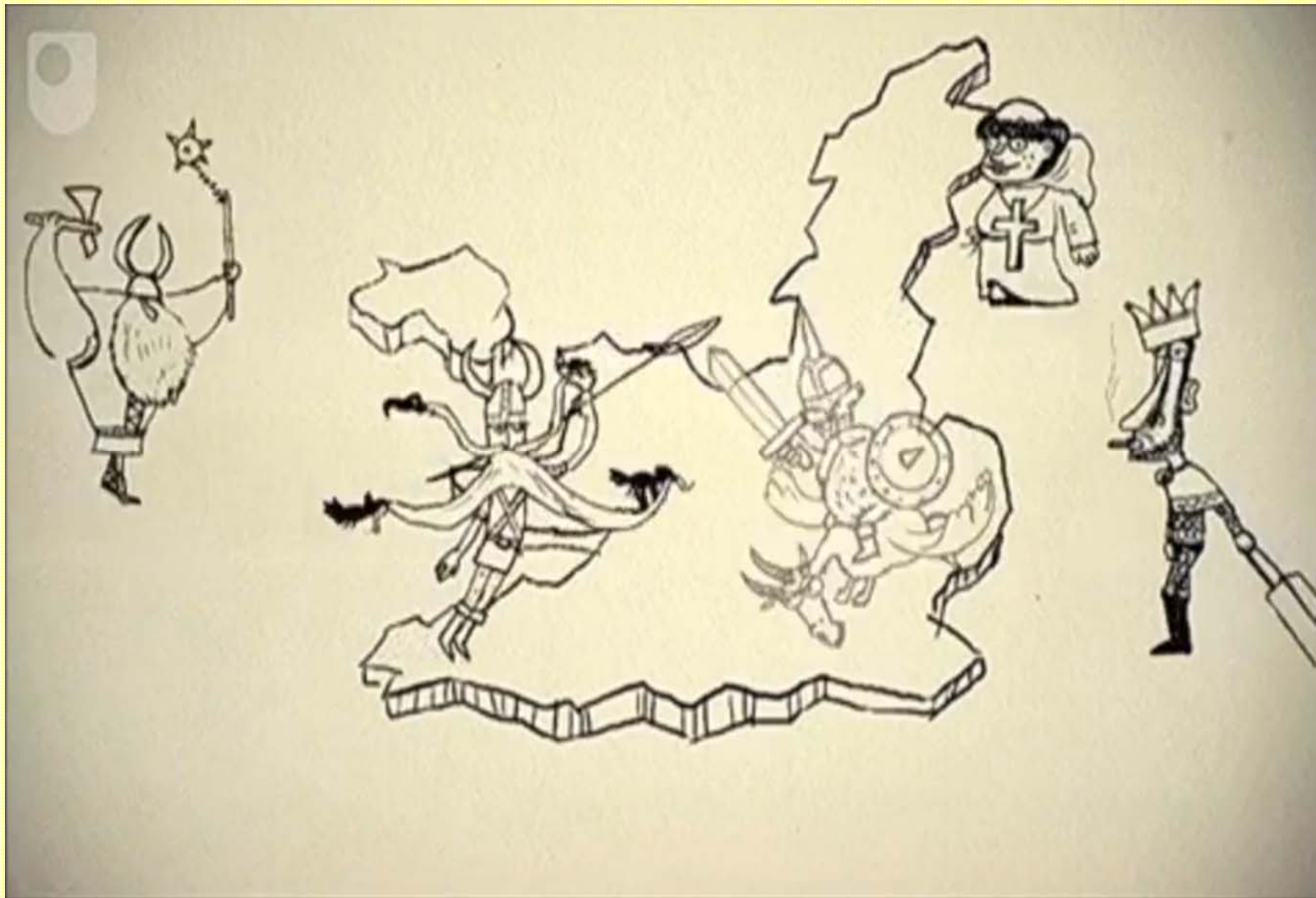
5 rules.

How to make it clear?

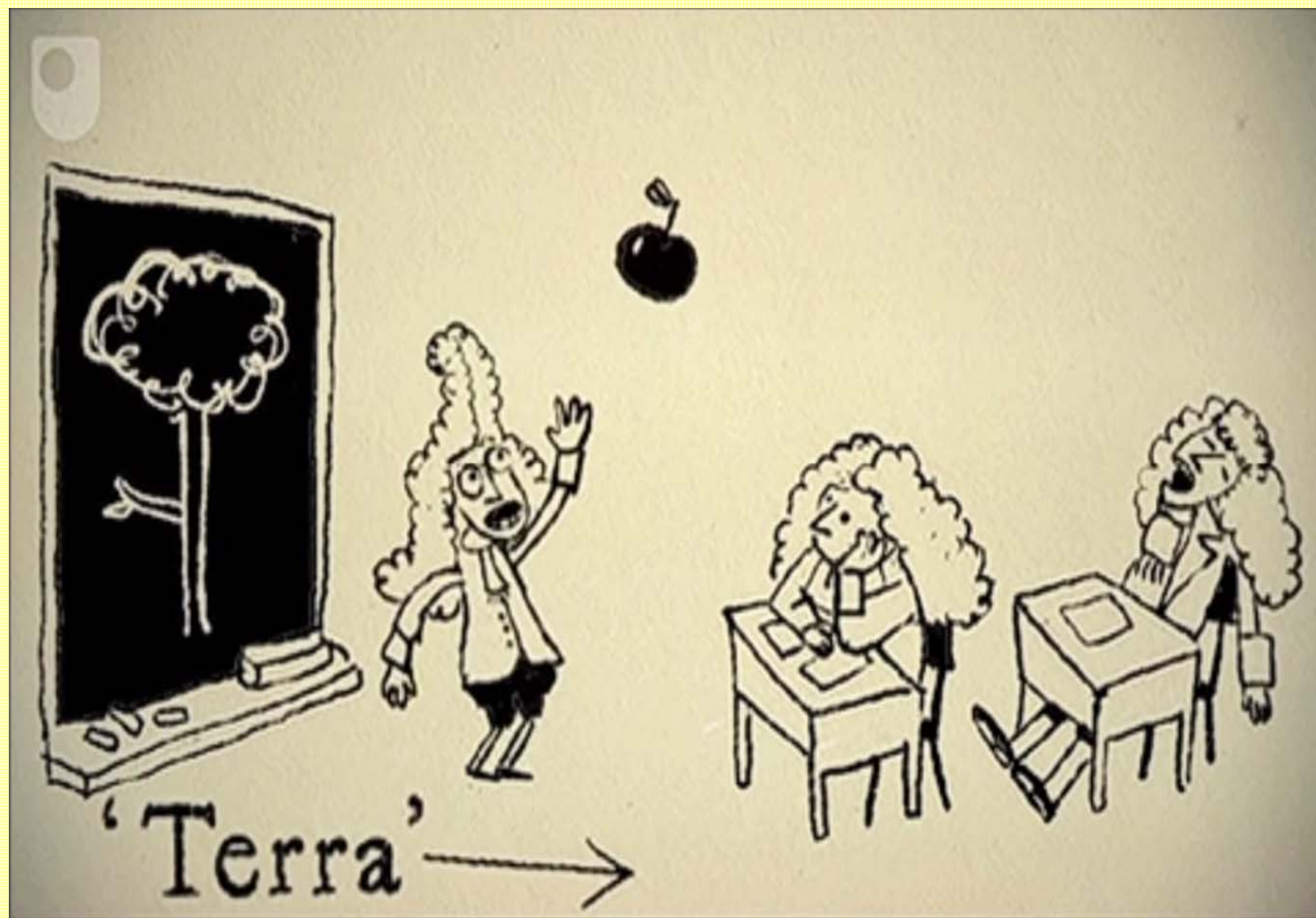
5 more rules.

What can I do in future?

2 suggestions.



Source: The History of English in 10 minutes (Open University)



Noun	Adjective	Prefix for abstract words
earth	terrestrial	terrain, extra- terrestrial
mother	maternal	maternity, matriarch
sea	marine	marina, maritime



How to sound smart?

1. Subject pronouns v. Passive forms
2. Phrasal verbs v. Latinate (one-word) verbs

e.g. We carried out the experiment
The experiment was carried out
The experiment was performed

How to sound smart?

- 1. Subject pronouns v. Passive forms**
- 2. Phrasal verbs v. Latinate (one-word) verbs**
- 3. Be exact and concise**
- 4. Use topic-specific vocabulary**
- 5. Avoid abbreviations and contractions**

How to make it clear?

1. Shorter sentences
2. Lists (using the same grammatical items)
3. Use topic sentences. 1 sentence to **MAKE YOUR POINT!**
4. Use discourse markers to guide your reader
5. Use sub-headings to structure your work

Practical Tips

1 Read!

The New Scientist, The Independent, The New York Times

2 The Centre for Academic Writing, ARC, KTHB www.kth.se/caw