

Abbreviations: should be listed on the title page, and be defined at first mention in both Summary and main text. The following need not be defined: 1D; 2D; 3D; ACES; ADA; ADP, cAMP, ATP, etc.; AIDS; BES; Bicine; Bistris; bp; b.p.; BSA; CAPS; c.f.u.; CHAPS; CHES; CIE; CM-cellulose; CoA; c.p.m.; Da; DEAE-cellulose; DIG; DMSO; DNA, cDNA, CCC DNA, dsDNA, rDNA, ssDNA, DNase; DNP; d.p.m., d.p.s.; DTT; EC₅₀; ED₅₀; EDTA, EGTA; ELISA; EMS; e.o.p.; EPR or ESR; ES-MS; FACS; FAD; FITC; FMN; FPLC; GC or GLC; GFP; GSH, GSSG; HEPES; HEPPS; HPLC; IC₅₀; i.d.; IEF; IgG, IgM, etc.; IPTG; IR; kb, kbp; LD₅₀; LPS; mAb; MALDI-TOF; MES; MIC; m.o.i.; MOPS; MS; MS-MS; NAD, NADP; NMR; nt; NTA; NTG; ONPG; ORF; PAGE; PBS; PCR; PEG; PFGE; p.f.u.; P_i, PP_i; PIPES; PMSE; ppGpp, pppGpp; p.p.m.; p.s.i.; PVDF; Py-GC, Py-MS; RBS; RFLP; RNA, mRNA, rRNA, tRNA, RNase; r.p.m.; RT-PCR; SDS, SDS-PAGE; TAPS; TCA; TES; TLC; Tricine, Tris; UV; X-Gal.

Compound units: $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ not $\mu\text{g/ml}$; 10 μg ampicillin ml^{-1} not 10 $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ ampicillin.

Concentration: given in g l^{-1} , etc., or molarity, M, not normality, N. The term '%' must be defined as 'w/v', 'v/v' or 'w/w' if this is necessary to avoid ambiguity.

Figures: refer to in text as Fig. 1(a) not FIG 1A, Figure 1(A), etc.; or as (Fig. 1a) not (Figure 1A). Multipart figures should be labelled (a), (b), etc., not A, (A) or B, (B).

Genes and genotypes: use (for bacteria) *gyrA* not *gyrA*; *arg1* not *arg1* or *arg1*, etc.

Molecular mass in Da, e.g. 31 500 Da or 31.5 kDa; or **relative molecular mass**, M_r , without units, e.g. M_r 31 500, not molecular weight. In Table headings and Figure axes, for values >1000 use kDa or $10^{-3} \times M_r$.

Pressure: Pa preferred; if given in p.s.i., equivalent in Pa must be given (1 p.s.i. = 6.9 kPa).

Radioactivity: Bq preferred; if given in Ci, equivalent in Bq must be given (1 Ci = 3.7×10^{10} Bq); may also be expressed as d.p.s. (1 d.p.s. = 1 Bq) or as c.p.m.

References: In the text: note '&' not 'and', e.g. Pasta & Sicard (1996) not Pasta and Sicard (1996), or (Pasta & Sicard, 1996) not (Pasta and Sicard, 1996); note italic '*et al.*' with three or more authors, e.g. Cerdà-Cuéllar *et al.* (1997) or (Cerdà-Cuéllar *et al.*, 1997).

In the list: note space between authors' initials; abbreviated journal titles in italics without full stops (one-word titles in full); initials after surnames; date in parentheses; use of bold type for authors, date and volume number, and comma not colon after volume number; book publisher's city or town and state, followed by name.

Sample journal references with up to 10 authors (all the authors' names must be included):

Pansegau, W., Lanka, E., Barth, P. T., Figurski, D. H., Guiney, D. G., Haas, D., Helinski, D. R., Schwab, H., Stanisich, V. A. & Thomas, C. M. (1994). Complete nucleotide sequence of Birmingham IncP α plasmids. Compilation and comparative analysis. *J Mol Biol* 239, 623–663.

Sample journal reference for more than 10 authors (list the first 9 names, followed by '& other authors'):

Parkhill, J., Wren, B. W., Thomson, N. R., Tittball, R. W., Holden, M. T., Prentice, M. B., Sebahia, M., James, K. D., Churcher, C. & other authors (2001). Genome sequence of *Yersinia pestis*, the causative agent of plague. *Nature* 413, 523–527.

Sample reference to a whole book:

Sambrook, J., Fritsch, E. F. & Maniatis, T. (1989). *Molecular Cloning: a Laboratory Manual*, 2nd edn. Cold Spring Harbor, NY: Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory.

Sample reference to a book chapter or section:

Romano, A. H. & Saier, M. H., Jr (1992). Evolution of the bacterial phosphoenolpyruvate:sugar phosphotransferase system. I. Physiological and organismic considerations. In *The Evolution of Metabolic Function*, pp. 171–204. Edited by R. P. Mortlock. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press.

Spectrophotometry: Absorbance, *A*, absorption of monochromatic light; for clear solutions or for absorbing molecules in turbid suspensions. Optical density, OD, for non-monochromatic light or for turbid suspensions (attenuance, *D*, may be used). Wavelength and instrument must be stated.

Suppliers: name of company without Ltd, Co., Corp., etc.; no address.

Table footnote symbols: * † ‡ § || ¶ # in that order from left to right and top to bottom.

Units: Note space between number and unit, e.g. 5.4 kb not 5.4kb; 37 °C not 37°C; 10000 g not 10000g.

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