

first steps in academic writing 2 File PDF

First Steps in Academic Writing 2

Embarking on academic writing can seem daunting, especially for students and new researchers venturing into the world of scholarly communication. The second phase of learning about academic writing, often termed as "First Steps in Academic Writing 2," builds upon foundational skills, focusing on refining your technique, understanding the structure, and enhancing clarity and coherence in your work. This article provides a comprehensive guide to help you navigate this crucial stage, ensuring your writing is effective, well-organized, and impactful. Whether you're preparing an essay, research paper, or thesis, mastering these initial steps is vital for academic success.

Understanding the Fundamentals of Academic Writing

Before diving into the specifics, it's essential to grasp the core principles that underpin effective academic writing. These fundamentals serve as the building blocks for all your academic projects.

Clarity and Precision

- Use clear language that directly conveys your ideas.
- Avoid ambiguous terms and vague statements.
- Be specific about your arguments and evidence.

Formal Tone and Style

- Maintain an objective and professional tone.
- Avoid colloquialisms, slang, and overly casual expressions.
- Use third-person perspective unless instructed otherwise.

Logical Structure and Coherence

- Present ideas in a logical sequence.
- Use paragraphs to organize thoughts.
- Employ transition words to connect ideas smoothly.

Evidence-Based Argumentation

- Support claims with credible sources.
- Properly cite references to avoid plagiarism.
- Analyze and interpret evidence critically.

Preparation: The Foundation of Effective Academic Writing

The first step in the writing process involves preparation. This phase ensures you have a clear understanding of your topic, purpose, and audience.

Understanding the Assignment

- Read the prompt carefully.
- Identify the type of writing required (e.g., argumentative, analytical, descriptive).
- Clarify the deadline, formatting requirements, and word count.

Research and Gathering Sources

- Use academic databases like JSTOR, PubMed, Google Scholar.
- Select credible and relevant sources.
- Take detailed notes and organize references.

Defining Your Thesis Statement

- Summarize your main argument in a concise sentence.
- Ensure your thesis is specific and debatable.
- Use it as a guide throughout your writing.

Creating an Outline

- List main points and supporting ideas.
- Arrange ideas logically.
- Identify sections and sub-sections.

Crafting Your First Draft

Once your preparation is complete, the next step is to translate your ideas into a structured draft.

Introduction

- Grab the reader's attention with a hook (e.g., a question, quote, statistic).
- Provide background information to contextualize your topic.
- Present your thesis statement clearly.

Body Paragraphs

- Start with topic sentences that introduce the main idea.
- Support with evidence, examples, and analysis.
- Maintain coherence with transition sentences.
- Each paragraph should focus on a single idea.

Conclusion

- Summarize key points discussed.
- Restate the thesis in light of the arguments.
- Highlight implications or suggest future research.

Refining Your Work: Editing and Revising

Drafting is just the beginning; revising ensures clarity, coherence, and quality.

Self-Editing Strategies

- Check for grammatical and spelling errors.
- Ensure logical flow and paragraph unity.
- Verify adherence to formatting guidelines.

Peer Review and Feedback

- Share drafts with classmates or mentors.
- Incorporate constructive criticism.
- Clarify confusing sections based on feedback.

Finalizing Your Paper

- Conduct a thorough proofread.
- Confirm all citations and references are correct.
- Ensure the document meets all submission requirements.

Essential Tools and Resources for Academic Writing

Leveraging the right tools can significantly enhance your writing process.

Reference and Citation Management

- Use tools like Zotero, EndNote, or Mendeley.
- Keep track of sources for easy citation.
- Generate bibliographies automatically.

Writing and Editing Software

- Word processors like Microsoft Word or Google Docs.
- Grammar checkers like Grammarly or Hemingway Editor.
- Plagiarism detection tools such as Turnitin.

Academic Style Guides

- Familiarize yourself with style manuals like APA, MLA, Chicago.
- Follow specific formatting and citation rules.

Common Challenges and How to Overcome Them

Academic writing can present obstacles; being aware of common issues helps you address them effectively.

Procrastination

- Break tasks into smaller steps.
- Set achievable deadlines.
- Use time management techniques like the Pomodoro Technique.

Writer's Block

- Start with free writing or brainstorming.
- Focus on getting ideas down without editing.
- Take short breaks to refresh your mind.

Maintaining Focus and Motivation

- Set clear goals for each writing session.
- Reward yourself upon completing milestones.
- Remember the importance of your research.

Conclusion: Your Path to Confident Academic Writing

Mastering the first steps in academic writing is crucial for producing high-quality scholarly work. From understanding the fundamental principles to meticulous planning, drafting, and revising, each phase plays a vital role in crafting compelling and credible academic papers. By adopting a systematic approach, utilizing available tools, and embracing continuous improvement, you can develop confidence and competence in your academic writing journey. Remember, effective writing not only communicates your ideas but also demonstrates your critical thinking and scholarly integrity. With practice and persistence, you'll find yourself navigating academic writing challenges with ease and professionalism.

Keywords: academic writing, first steps in academic writing 2, writing process, thesis statement, outlining, editing, academic sources, citation tools, academic style guides, writing tips

First Steps in Academic Writing 2: Navigating the Path to Clear and Effective Communication

Embarking on the journey of academic writing can be both exciting and daunting. Building upon fundamental principles, "First Steps in Academic Writing 2" delves deeper into the essential skills needed to craft well-structured, compelling, and credible scholarly texts. Whether you're a student refining your research paper or a budding researcher aiming to publish, understanding the nuanced steps involved in academic writing is crucial. This article explores the core components, strategies, and best practices to elevate your academic writing from basic to proficient.

Understanding the Foundations of Academic Writing

Before diving into the mechanics of writing, it's vital to grasp what distinguishes academic writing from other forms of communication. Academic writing is characterized by clarity, precision, formality, and evidence-based reasoning. It aims to contribute to scholarly conversations, present arguments logically, and support claims with credible sources.

Key Features of Academic Writing:

- Objectivity: Maintaining neutrality and avoiding personal bias.
- Formal Tone: Using professional language, avoiding colloquialisms.
- Clarity and Precision: Conveying ideas clearly without ambiguity.
- Evidence-Based: Supporting arguments with data, citations, and references.
- Structured Approach: Organizing ideas logically with clear progression.

Building on these features, "First Steps in Academic Writing 2" emphasizes the importance of understanding your purpose, audience, and the conventions of your discipline.

Setting the Stage: Planning and Preparation

Effective academic writing begins long before the first word on the page. Proper planning ensures coherence, relevance, and depth in your work.

- Clarify Your Purpose and Research Question

- Identify your main goal: Are you informing, analyzing, arguing, or evaluating?
- Formulate a clear research question or thesis statement: This guides your entire writing process and keeps your focus sharp.

- Understand Your Audience

- Are you writing for professors, peers, or a broader academic community?
- Tailor your language, depth, and explanations accordingly.

- Conduct Comprehensive Literature Review

- Gather relevant sources to understand existing debates and gaps.
- Annotate key points, methodologies, and findings.
- Keep organized notes to facilitate referencing.

- Develop an Outline

- Create a logical structure that guides your argument.
- Break down your paper into sections: introduction, methodology, results, discussion, conclusion.
- Use bullet points or concept maps to visualize connections.

Crafting a Strong Thesis Statement and Research Question

Your thesis or main argument is the backbone of your paper. It encapsulates your stance and provides a roadmap for your readers.

Tips for Formulating an Effective Thesis:

- Be specific and concise.
- Reflect your position clearly.
- Ensure it is debatable, not merely stating facts.
- Align it with your research findings and evidence.

For example, instead of "This paper discusses climate change," opt for "Implementing renewable energy policies significantly reduces greenhouse gas emissions in urban areas."

Developing Your Content: From Drafts to Cohesion

Once the planning stage is complete, focus shifts to developing content that aligns with your outline and thesis.

- Writing the First Draft

- Prioritize getting ideas down over perfection.
- Avoid over-editing at this stage; focus on flow and completeness.
- Use topic sentences to guide paragraphs.

- Paragraph Structure and Coherence

Each paragraph should contain:

- A clear topic sentence.
- Supporting evidence and analysis.
- Transition sentences linking to the next idea.

Example of a well-structured paragraph:

"The integration of renewable energy sources has been shown to decrease reliance on fossil fuels. Studies indicate that urban areas adopting solar and wind power experienced a 30% reduction in emissions over five years (Smith, 2020). This evidence underscores the potential environmental benefits of renewable policies."

- Incorporate Evidence Effectively
- Use credible sources: peer-reviewed articles, official reports, authoritative books.
- Paraphrase appropriately and cite sources properly.
- Balance your own analysis with supporting evidence.

Mastering Academic Style and Language

Academic writing demands a formal tone and precise language. Transition words, varied vocabulary, and clear sentence structures enhance readability.

- Formal Language and Avoidance of Colloquialisms
- Use technical terminology where appropriate.
- Avoid contractions (e.g., use "do not" instead of "don't").
- Steer clear of slang and overly casual expressions.
- Clarity and Conciseness
- Be direct and specific.
- Eliminate redundant words and phrases.
- Use active voice to enhance engagement.

Example:

Passive: "The data was analyzed by the researchers."

Active: "The researchers analyzed the data."

- Use of Transition Words

Smooth transitions help guide readers through your argument:

- Furthermore, moreover, in addition.
- Conversely, on the other hand.
- Therefore, as a result.

Citations, Referencing, and Academic Integrity

Proper acknowledgment of sources is fundamental to academic honesty and credibility.

- Citation Styles

Familiarize yourself with the required style guide:

- APA
- MLA
- Chicago
- Harvard

Each has specific rules for in-text citations and reference lists.

- Avoiding Plagiarism
- Paraphrase information in your own words.
- Use quotation marks for direct quotes.
- Always cite your sources.
- Creating a Reference List

- List all sources cited in your text.
- Follow the specific formatting rules of your style guide.

Revising and Editing: Polishing Your Work

Drafting is just the first step; revision ensures clarity, coherence, and correctness.

- Structural Review

- Ensure your paper has a logical flow.
- Check if each paragraph supports your thesis.

- Language and Style

- Correct grammatical errors.
- Simplify complex sentences.
- Remove jargon that might confuse readers.

- Feedback and Peer Review

- Seek feedback from colleagues or mentors.
- Be open to constructive criticism.
- Incorporate suggestions thoughtfully.

- Final Proofreading

- Check for typos, formatting inconsistencies, and citation errors.
- Use tools like spell checkers and grammar software.

Practical Tips for Consistent Progress

- Set achievable writing goals daily or weekly.

- Maintain a dedicated writing schedule.
- Keep back-up copies of your work.
- Use reference management tools (e.g., Zotero, EndNote) for citations.

Conclusion: Building Confidence in Academic Writing

Mastering the first steps in academic writing is a gradual process that demands practice, patience, and attention to detail. By understanding your purpose, planning meticulously, developing coherent content, adhering to stylistic conventions, and revising diligently, you lay a solid foundation for scholarly excellence. Remember, effective academic writing is not just about conveying information but about engaging your readers and contributing meaningfully to your discipline. Embrace each stage of the process, and over time, your confidence and competence will grow, transforming your ideas into compelling academic narratives.

QuestionAnswer What are the initial steps to start writing an academic paper effectively? Begin by understanding the assignment, conducting thorough research, creating an outline, and establishing a clear thesis statement to guide your writing process. How important is understanding the target audience in academic writing? Understanding your audience helps tailor your language, tone, and level of detail, making your writing more impactful and accessible to your readers. What strategies can help in developing a strong thesis statement for academic writing? Identify the main argument or purpose of your paper, ensure it is specific and debatable, and revise it for clarity and precision to set a solid foundation for your work. How do I effectively organize my ideas before writing? Use tools like mind maps or outlines to structure your main points logically, ensuring each paragraph supports your thesis and maintains coherence throughout the paper. What are common pitfalls to avoid in the early stages of academic writing? Avoid poor planning, lack of a clear thesis, insufficient research, and neglecting proper citation practices, all of which can undermine your work's credibility. How can I improve my writing clarity in the initial drafts? Focus on concise sentences, clear topic sentences, and logical flow, then revise for clarity, removing unnecessary jargon or complex phrasing that may confuse readers. What role does peer review or feedback play in the first steps of academic writing? Feedback helps identify strengths and weaknesses in your argument, organization, and clarity, allowing you to refine your writing early in the process for stronger final results. How can I stay motivated during the initial stages of academic writing? Set achievable goals, break the task into manageable parts, maintain a consistent writing schedule, and remind yourself of the importance of your research to stay engaged.

Related keywords: academic writing, essay structure, thesis statement, introduction paragraph, body paragraphs, conclusion, referencing, citation styles, writing tips, academic vocabulary

Cambridge Academic English Intermediate is a vital stepping stone for learners aiming to enhance their academic language skills and succeed in higher education or professional environments where English is the primary language of communication. Designed specifically for students who already possess a basic understanding of English but need to develop more advanced academic vocabulary, reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills, this course offers a comprehensive pathway to academic proficiency. Whether preparing for university studies, research projects, or academic presentations, Cambridge Academic English Intermediate provides learners with the tools and confidence needed to excel in academic settings. In this article, we'll explore the structure, key features, benefits, and resources associated with Cambridge Academic English Intermediate, helping you understand why it is a popular choice among English language learners worldwide.

Understanding Cambridge Academic English Intermediate

What is Cambridge Academic English Intermediate?

Cambridge Academic English Intermediate is part of the Cambridge English: Academic Framework, tailored to learners seeking to improve their language skills for academic purposes. It bridges the gap between basic English proficiency and advanced academic communication, focusing on the specific language skills needed in lectures, seminars, research, and academic writing. The course is aligned with international standards, ensuring that learners acquire relevant and practical skills for real-world academic situations.

Who is it suitable for?

This course is ideal for:

- Students preparing for university or higher education courses conducted in English.
- Professionals engaging in research, report writing, or academic presentations.
- Learners aiming to improve their academic vocabulary and writing skills.
- Those who already have an intermediate level of English and want to progress further.

Course Objectives

The primary goals of Cambridge Academic English Intermediate include:

- Developing academic vocabulary and language structures.
- Enhancing reading comprehension of academic texts.
- Improving academic writing, including essays, reports, and summaries.

- Building effective listening skills for lectures and discussions.
- Cultivating confident academic speaking skills for seminars and presentations.

Key Features of Cambridge Academic English Intermediate

Structured Curriculum

The course is structured into modules that cover:

- Academic Reading
- Academic Writing
- Academic Listening
- Academic Speaking

Each module focuses on specific skills, vocabulary, and strategies necessary for academic success.

Interactive Learning Materials

Learners gain access to:

- Authentic academic texts and recordings.
- Practice exercises and quizzes.
- Video lessons featuring academic scenarios.
- Online resources, including glossaries and vocabulary banks.

Focus on Academic Vocabulary

A significant aspect of the course is expanding learners' academic vocabulary, enabling them to:

- Understand complex texts.
- Express ideas precisely and appropriately.
- Write with clarity and coherence.

Skill Development and Practice

The course emphasizes practical application through:

- Writing assignments and feedback.
- Listening exercises with real lecture snippets.
- Speaking practice through discussions and presentations.
- Reading comprehension tasks on academic articles.

Assessment and Progress Tracking

Regular assessments help learners:

- Monitor their progress.
- Identify areas needing improvement.
- Gain confidence through achievable milestones.

Benefits of Choosing Cambridge Academic English Intermediate

Preparation for Academic Success

The course equips learners with essential skills and confidence to excel in academic contexts, including university courses, research, and professional communication.

Enhanced Academic Vocabulary

Expanding vocabulary is crucial for understanding and producing academic texts, and this course provides targeted vocabulary-building exercises.

Improved Reading and Listening Skills

Learners learn to comprehend complex academic materials efficiently, an essential skill for success in higher education.

Effective Academic Writing and Speaking

The course offers practical strategies for structuring essays, reports, and presentations, fostering clear and persuasive communication.

Flexible Learning Options

Many Cambridge courses, including Intermediate, are available both online and in classroom settings, offering flexibility for different learning preferences.

Resources and Materials for Cambridge Academic English Intermediate

Official Cambridge Materials

- Cambridge Academic English Student Book
- Practice tests and online exercises
- Audio and video resources

Additional Resources

- Academic journals and articles for reading practice
- Vocabulary apps and flashcards
- Online forums and study groups

Tips for Success in Cambridge Academic English Intermediate

To maximize your learning experience, consider these tips:

- Consistent Practice: Dedicate regular time to reading, writing, listening, and speaking exercises.
- Engage with Authentic Materials: Read academic articles, watch lectures, and participate in discussions.
- Expand Vocabulary: Use flashcards or apps to memorize new academic words daily.
- Seek Feedback: Regularly review your assignments with teachers or peers for constructive feedback.
- Set Clear Goals: Define specific learning objectives for each module to stay motivated and focused.

How to Enroll in Cambridge Academic English Intermediate

Enrollment options vary depending on your location and preferred learning mode:

- Online Courses: Many platforms offer Cambridge Academic English courses with flexible schedules.
- Language Schools: Authorized Cambridge centers provide classroom-based courses.
- Self-Study: Use official Cambridge materials for independent learning, supplemented with online resources.

Before enrolling, ensure you meet the prerequisites, typically an intermediate level (B1-B2) of English, and clarify your learning objectives.

Conclusion

Cambridge Academic English Intermediate is an excellent choice for learners aiming to strengthen their academic language skills and confidently navigate the demands of higher education or research environments. With its comprehensive curriculum, authentic materials, and practical focus, it prepares students to understand complex texts, produce clear academic writing, deliver effective presentations, and participate actively in academic discussions. Whether you are planning to study abroad, advance your career, or simply improve your English for academic purposes, this course offers a solid foundation to achieve your goals. Investing in Cambridge Academic English Intermediate can open doors to academic success and lifelong learning opportunities.

For best results, combine formal coursework with self-study, engage actively with the materials, and seek opportunities to practice your skills in real academic settings. Embarking on this learning journey will not only improve your English proficiency but also boost your confidence and readiness for academic challenges ahead.

Cambridge Academic English Intermediate: A Comprehensive Guide to Building Academic Language Skills

In today's competitive academic environment, mastering Cambridge Academic English Intermediate is a crucial step for students aiming to excel in university-level studies or advanced English examinations. This course bridges the gap between general English proficiency and the specialized language skills needed for academic success. Whether you're preparing for Cambridge exams like B2 First or aiming to improve your academic comprehension, understanding the structure, content, and benefits of the Intermediate level can significantly enhance your learning journey.

What Is Cambridge Academic English Intermediate?

Cambridge Academic English Intermediate is designed for learners who already possess a good foundation of general English and are ready to develop the specific language skills required for academic contexts. It typically corresponds to the B2 level on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). At this stage, students focus on expanding their academic vocabulary, mastering formal writing styles, improving reading comprehension of complex texts, and enhancing listening and speaking skills relevant to academic settings.

Key Features of the Course

- Focus on Academic Vocabulary: Learning words and phrases frequently used in research, lectures, essays, and presentations.
- Academic Reading and Listening: Developing the ability to understand scholarly articles, lectures, and academic discussions.
- Writing Skills: Enhancing writing proficiency for essays, reports, summaries, and argumentative texts.
- Speaking Skills: Practicing oral presentations, discussions, and debates common in academic environments.
- Study Skills: Strategies for note-taking, summarizing, paraphrasing, and referencing.

Why Choose Cambridge Academic English Intermediate?

Selecting this course offers numerous advantages for learners:

- Preparation for Academic Success: Equips students with the language tools needed for university coursework or international exams.
- Improved Confidence: Builds the confidence to participate in academic discussions and produce well-structured written work.
- Skill Integration: Combines listening, speaking, reading, and writing with practical academic strategies.
- Recognition: As part of the Cambridge framework, the program is widely recognized and valued by educational institutions worldwide.

Structure and Content Breakdown

- Core Modules

Cambridge Academic English Intermediate is divided into modules that target specific language skills:

- Academic Reading and Listening: Focuses on understanding complex texts and lectures, identifying main ideas, details, and implications.
- Academic Writing: Covers paragraph structure, coherence, formal style, referencing, and citation.
- Academic Speaking: Emphasizes presentations, discussions, and expressing opinions clearly and persuasively.
- Vocabulary Development: Uses context-based learning to expand academic lexicon.

- Supplementary Skills

Beyond core modules, the course integrates:

- Study Skills: Note-taking techniques, summarizing, and paraphrasing.
- Critical Thinking: Analyzing arguments and evaluating sources.
- Research Skills: Using academic resources and referencing properly.

Learning Approach and Methodology

Cambridge Academic English Intermediate employs a blend of pedagogical strategies to maximize engagement and retention:

- Interactive Exercises: Quizzes, role plays, and discussion activities.
- Authentic Materials: Real academic texts, lectures, and videos are incorporated to familiarize students with genuine academic language.
- Task-Based Learning: Students complete projects and assignments that simulate real academic tasks.
- Feedback and Assessment: Regular formative assessments help learners identify areas for improvement.

How to Make the Most of the Course

To truly benefit from Cambridge Academic English Intermediate, students should adopt effective strategies:

- Active Participation: Engage fully in all activities, discussions, and assignments.
- Consistent Practice: Dedicate regular time to practicing reading, writing, listening, and speaking.
- Expand Exposure: Supplement coursework with academic podcasts, journals, and online lectures.
- Use Vocabulary Strategically: Create personal glossaries and practice using new words in context.
- Seek Feedback: Take advantage of instructor comments to refine language use.

Practical Tips for Success

- Set Clear Goals: Define what you want to achieve at each stage.

- Develop a Study Routine: Consistency is key; schedule daily or weekly study sessions.
- Practice Academic Writing: Write essays or summaries and seek feedback.
- Engage in Peer Collaboration: Study groups foster motivation and provide diverse perspectives.
- Utilize Resources: Cambridge's online platforms, dictionaries, and academic tools can enhance learning.

Common Challenges and How to Overcome Them

- Understanding Dense Academic Texts

Solution: Break texts into sections, highlight key points, and practice summarizing.

- Improving Formal Writing Style

Solution: Study sample essays, learn formal connectors, and revise drafts carefully.

- Developing Listening Skills for Lectures

Solution: Use transcripts to follow along, and listen multiple times to difficult segments.

- Expanding Academic Vocabulary

Solution: Use flashcards, context-based exercises, and incorporate new words into writing and speaking.

Final Thoughts: The Path Forward

Cambridge Academic English Intermediate serves as a vital stepping stone toward advanced academic language proficiency. By engaging deeply with its content and adopting proactive learning strategies, students can build the confidence and skills necessary to succeed in university settings, standardized tests, and professional environments. Remember, mastering academic English is a journey?consistent effort, resourcefulness, and a curious mindset will lead to lasting success.

Whether you're aiming to excel in exams like the Cambridge B2 First or seeking to improve your academic communication skills, this course offers a comprehensive framework to develop your language abilities systematically. Embrace the challenge, utilize the resources, and watch your academic English skills flourish.

Question What are the main skills developed in Cambridge Academic English Intermediate? At the Intermediate level, students develop skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking with a focus on academic contexts, including understanding academic texts, writing essays, note-taking, and participating in discussions. How does Cambridge Academic English Intermediate prepare students for university studies? It equips students with essential academic language and skills needed for university, such as academic vocabulary, essay writing, summarizing, and critical thinking, making the transition to higher education smoother. What types of activities are included in the Cambridge Academic English Intermediate course? The course includes activities like reading academic articles, writing essays and reports, listening to lectures, participating in discussions, and practicing note-taking and summarizing skills. Is Cambridge Academic English Intermediate suitable for self-study? While it is designed for classroom learning, self-study is possible with supplementary materials, but it is recommended to have guidance or access to a teacher for optimal progress. What vocabulary topics are covered in Cambridge Academic English Intermediate? The course covers academic vocabulary related to various subjects such as science, technology, social sciences, and humanities, helping students expand their academic lexicon. How does Cambridge Academic English Intermediate assess student progress? Assessment includes regular exercises, progress tests, and practice tasks that evaluate reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills aligned with academic contexts. Can Cambridge Academic English Intermediate help improve exam performance? Yes, it prepares students for academic English exams like IELTS or TOEFL by developing relevant skills and familiarity with exam formats. What are the prerequisites for enrolling in Cambridge Academic English Intermediate? Typically, students should have an upper-elementary to pre-intermediate level of English (around B1 level) and basic familiarity with academic topics. Are there online resources available for Cambridge Academic English Intermediate students? Yes, Cambridge offers online practice materials, e-books, and supplementary resources to support learning outside the classroom.

Related keywords: Cambridge Academic English, intermediate level, academic writing, university English, academic vocabulary, study skills, English for academics, exam preparation, academic reading, English for university

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