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Scientific Writing Resources

Words and phrases that can confuse

(a bit of grammatical help)

In case of - In cases of





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In case of - In cases of

In case of indicates something you do before, to prevent a future problem:

Take an umbrella in case (of rain) it rains (take an umbrella because it could rain in the future); Buy some insurance in case of accidents (buy some insurance now against future problems).

In cases of indicates something you do after, to "repair" a problem that has happened:
In cases of headache, take an aspirin (take an aspirin after you have a headache).

(Before)

Evacuation plans have been prepared in case of earthquakes.

(After)

In cases of earthquakes, follow the evacuation plans.