



# University of Catania

## Scientific Writing Resources

### *Words and phrases that can confuse*

(a bit of grammatical help)

## Last Latest





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### Last Latest

**Last** and **Latest** can appear similar but they are different. Sometimes they mean the same thing, sometimes they do not. Let's have a look at what they really mean:

#### **Latest**

- Now it is 6.40pm, the lesson started at 6pm.  
1 came at 6.10pm: he arrived late  
2 came at 6.20pm: he arrived later  
3 came at 6.30pm: he was the **latest** to arrive  
N°3 was the **latest**, but the nearest to now, so the **latest** means the nearest to now, the most recent.
  - It is now December.  
I have 5 issues of the Journal: April, June, August, September and November. So November is the **latest** issue I have (the most recent).
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- This is the latest smartphone, it arrived last week.
  - The latest information, I saw it an hour ago.
  - What is the latest news on the patient?
  - We have the latest technology.
  - The latest news.
  - ... using the latest available version and the best hardware configuration.
  - As for the latest generation of direct electron-detection camera technology.
  - Moreover, the latest studies are placing the appearance of domesticated plants and animals.
  - We're short of corpses, and my labs need bodies to test the latest Antivirals.
  - The latest report comes against a backdrop of criticism directed at ITER's former management.
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#### Last

Of any series, this indicates the end. After this there are no more or the cycle repeats. It also means “previous” as in “last week”.

- This is the last painting by Rembrandt (he painted NO MORE).
- Friday is the last day of the working week.
- This is your last possibility, I will give you no more.
- All gone! That was the last one.
- Last, but not least.
- Last orders, please. We are closing.
- In the race she was the slowest; she came last.
- I last saw him in April (the last time I saw him was in April).
- Last minute holiday (booked just before you go).
- Last year was my last year at university!