



## WHAT IS PLAGIARISM AND HOW TO AVOID IT?

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**ABSTRACT:** The article discusses as an extensive guide on plagiarism. Although the concept is straightforward, it's important to delve into what this unethical behavior entails and how to prevent it. Plagiarism is a widespread issue across different fields. Content creators, scriptwriters, SEO writers, and students frequently encounter this problem. Conversely, some individuals intentionally engage in plagiarism to reduce time and effort.

**Keywords:** plagiarism, creators, scriptwriters, time and effort, personal gain, monetary benefits, academic advantages.

**АННОТАЦИЯ:** В статье рассматривается как обширное руководство по борьбе с плагиатом. Хотя концепция проста, важно вникнуть в то, что влечет за собой это неэтичное поведение и как его предотвратить. Плагиат является широко распространенной проблемой в различных областях. Создатели контента, сценаристы, SEO-писатели и студенты часто сталкиваются с этой проблемой. И наоборот, некоторые люди намеренно занимаются плагиатом, чтобы сократить время и усилия.

**Ключевые слова:** плагиат, создатели, сценаристы, время и усилия, личная выгода, денежная выгода, академические преимущества.

### INTRODUCTION

Plagiarism originates from the Latin term “Plagiarius,” which means “kidnapper.” It involves taking someone else's work and presenting it as one's own. The internet offers a wealth of resources for free, allowing us to share, upload, download, view, and search for text, audio, and video content effortlessly. While this easy access has greatly simplified our lives, it also leads to misuse, with individuals passing off others' work as their own to gain fame, academic advantages, monetary benefits, or personal gain.

Plagiarism is particularly prevalent in academic and research settings. The internet provides free access to a vast array of literary articles, educational materials,



and research papers, which aids in knowledge acquisition and literacy. Before the internet, people had to visit libraries or purchase expensive books to learn or research. Nowadays, a simple browser search yields thousands of results. Unfortunately, some individuals misuse these readily available articles, research papers, and educational content for dishonest purposes.[1]

Plagiarism can occur both intentionally and unintentionally. It is crucial to understand what constitutes plagiarized content. Here are the key points to identify plagiarism:

- Using someone else's work and claiming it as your own.
- Copying another person's ideas or words without giving proper credit.
- Downloading copyrighted images or music and presenting them as your own creations.
- Copying and slightly modifying large portions of text to pass it off as original.
- Using someone else's copyrighted music or video for your own cover or project.
- Recreating an image, video, music, article, etc., in a way that closely resembles the original.

### **DISCUSSION AND SOLUTION**

Grasping the concept of plagiarism isn't challenging. If you encounter two pieces of content that are strikingly similar, one is likely plagiarized unless one credits the other. Accidental plagiarism is also a common issue.

People unfamiliar with the term have learned that plagiarism extends beyond copying and pasting; it involves stealing ideas and writing styles as well. Many initially believe plagiarism is solely about word-for-word theft from another text.

However, the University of Oxford defines plagiarism as “presenting someone else’s work or ideas as your own.” This indicates that plagiarism encompasses not just copying and pasting but also the lazy appropriation of someone else’s intellectual effort. [2]

#### **Main Types of Plagiarism**

To effectively avoid plagiarism, it is crucial to understand its various forms. Each type arises from different intentions or circumstances. Here are four major kinds:

#### **Direct/Complete Plagiarism**

Direct or complete plagiarism involves copying content or ideas word-for-word without any changes or attempts to avoid detection. This type is prevalent among



beginners, such as students who believe they can get away with it, but it also occurs among professionals. Some individuals simply copy ideas and present them as their own, making it one of the most unethical forms of plagiarism.

#### Self/Auto Plagiarism

Self or auto-plagiarism occurs when a writer recycles their own previous work. While this can happen accidentally, it is often intentional. The concept behind this type of plagiarism is to reuse and slightly alter older ideas, presenting them as new.

Avoiding plagiarism can be either simple or complex, depending on your approach. The key is how you choose to identify and eliminate plagiarism from your content. Here are some methods:

- Detecting plagiarism
- Rewriting the plagiarized content
- Paraphrasing the plagiarized content
- Using tools to do both rewriting and paraphrasing

While using tools is the most efficient method, the other approaches are also effective. Here are two crucial steps in the process of removing plagiarism:

#### Comprehensive Methods to Avoid Plagiarism

As previously mentioned, one way to eliminate plagiarism is by rewriting the content. But how do you go about this? The first step is to detect the plagiarism. For this, you need a tool that can identify the source of the original content – we will discuss this shortly.[3]

The next step is to rewrite or paraphrase the plagiarized content and credit the original author. This approach is crucial and significantly helps in effectively removing plagiarism. Here are a few methods to avoid plagiarism:

- Quoting the original author
- Citing the source after rewording the content
- Completely removing and rewriting the content
- Transforming it into an opinion piece

The last method is applicable only in certain contexts. For instance, a student can share their opinion on another writer's work and develop extensive text based on that. However, a professional writer dealing with specific topics may not always have the flexibility to express personal opinions.

However, with enough creativity, you can find ways to make it work. It's essential to keep effective rewriting methods in mind to help you eliminate plagiarism. The goal should be to present ideas in your own words while giving credit to the original author.[4]



## CONCLUSION

This article discusses plagiarism, its various forms, how to detect it, and methods to eliminate it. This guide should equip you with the knowledge to identify and avoid plagiarism effectively.

Preventing plagiarism effectively involves using both a plagiarism checker and a good paraphrasing tool. While many plagiarism checkers are available online, finding an effective tool for paraphrasing and rewriting is more challenging.

InstaText stands out as a powerful tool for rewriting and paraphrasing. It enhances the readability of texts while helping to avoid plagiarism. InstaText's advanced technology generates original, highly readable content without replicating word combinations from other sources or articles.

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