

Avoiding Plagiarism When Using the Internet

by Sophia Tutorial



WHAT'S COVERED

In this lesson, you will learn about the consequences of plagiarism. Specifically, this lesson will cover:

1. In Haste? Don't Copy and Paste
2. Yes, You Will Get Caught

1. In Haste? Don't Copy and Paste

When pressed for time with a looming deadline, you might think a quick copy and paste of a few sentences here or maybe a paragraph there might be an easy solution. While it certainly is easy to Control+C, Control+V your way through a speech, it's certainly not wise.

It might be tempting to fire up your browser and pick a relevant source buried deep within the search results. "Who looks all the way at what's on search page 10?" you may be thinking. Just because it's obscure doesn't mean it's okay to take it and claim it as your own.

If you get caught, you could face serious academic or professional consequences. Plus - on a very plain note - it's just not cool. It's just bad intellectual form. In the age of the Internet, as easy as it can be to just lift something from a relevant but obscure source via Google, it's equally as easy to get caught **plagiarizing** the words of others.



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TERM TO KNOW

Plagiarism

The act of plagiarizing: the copying of another person's ideas, text or other creative work, and presenting it as one's own, especially without permission.

2. Yes, You Will Get Caught

With the advent of complex, proprietary search engine algorithms has come another niche market: plagiarism detection. If you think you can get away with just borrowing a sentence here or there, beware: sites like CopyScape and Plagiarism.org's software can be used by academics and professionals alike, running your work through their programs to see if anything comes up with a red flag.

And if you think you can fool plagiarism detection software, don't count out manual checking, either. You might pull a sentence or idea from an obscure professional or expert in the field, but keep in mind that your professor is an expert in this field; he or she is likely to have read whatever you're copying.

When in doubt, avoid the temptation to plagiarize despite the seemingly endless availability of content online. Your speech is better served when your words are original and genuine.



SUMMARY

In this lesson, you learned that just because you can **copy and paste** a few sentences or paragraphs from an obscure Internet source doesn't mean you should. Many academic institutions and even some professional organizations use online plagiarism detection software, such as CopyScape, Attributor, and PlagiarismDetect. Just because you might thwart an online plagiarism detector doesn't mean you don't run **the risk of being caught** via manual plagiarism detection, either. When in doubt, avoid the temptation to plagiarize despite the seemingly endless availability of content online. Your speech is better served when your words are original and genuine.

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