



How do you copy in computer science?

A learning activity to **develop** academic integrity

Audience:	Students, either undergraduate or postgraduate, who have studied overseas or who have come to university from a professional background.
Context:	The content in the activity below, targets students doing computer science. The examples could be made relevant to different contexts and subject areas.
Learning objectives:	Students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explain their previous practices• Compare these with what is expected in this subject• Discuss their understandings with other students• Conclude why differences exist• Make decisions about how to use codes• Make decisions about how to acknowledge
Activity:	Students answer yes or no to a questions asking about their experience of acknowledgement and using other people's work. They compare their answers and discuss the differences.
Results and reflection:	At the end of the activity, students can individually write a list of what they have learnt from the questionnaire and the discussion. As a group they can write an advice sheet or checklist for posting on the LMS.
References:	<p>Adapted from 'Comparing academic conventions', which was adapted from Barks & Watts 2001, p. 255 and published in Bretag, T., Crossman, J. & Bordia, S. (2006) <i>Communication Skills for International Students in Business</i>, Sydney: McGraw-Hill.)</p> <p>Barks, D & Watts, P. (2001). 'Textual Borrowing Strategies for Graduate-Level ESL Writers'. In D. Belcher & A. Hirvela (Eds.), <i>Linking literacies: Perspectives on L2 reading-writing connection</i>. University of Michigan Press, Michigan: Ann Arbor.</p>

Comparing conventions

Answer **yes**, **no**, **not sure**, **it depends** to the following questions.

True or False (T or F)	Your previous experience	Your experience at university
1. Writing involves combining your own ideas with the ideas of others.		
2. When writing assignments, it is acceptable to copy passages (e.g. whole sentences or paragraphs) from the Internet, books or other sources without needing a reference.		
3. When writing assignments, it is acceptable to copy passages (e.g. whole sentences or paragraphs) from the Internet, books or other sources if you put in an in-text reference		
4. Quotations are often used in academic writing in science, technology and engineering subjects.		
5. Written assignments need to have both in-text references and a reference list at the end of the work.		
6. Changing the words of an expert in the field may appear disrespectful to that expert.		
7. Repeating the exact words of your lecturer or tutor is an acceptable way to write an assignment.		
8. When using material from another writer in your own assignment, it is often necessary to summarise or rephrase it so that it is expressed in your own words.		
9. Universities have strict rules about plagiarism and there are severe consequences for students who plagiarise.		
10. If you use someone else's computer code in your assignment, you need to provide a reference to acknowledge the author(s) of the code.		
11. Images from the Internet or published sources that you use in your assignments need to be referenced.		
12. There are strict penalties for plagiarism or collusion (e.g. getting zero for an assignment, failing a subject, or even being expelled from university in severe cases).		

Compare your responses with a person next to you. What similarities or differences do you have? Why might this be?

You can use and adapt this learning activity to suit your students and teaching context by using the citation available on the web page: www.aisp.apfei.edu.au/content/learning-activities

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