

MANUSCRIPT CHECKLIST

The following checklist is intended to aid the publication of your manuscript. Please read through the list carefully and amend your manuscript as appropriate. To avoid delays in the production process, please complete and return this sheet with the final version of your manuscript.

Text

Nature will edit text to conform to house style and for clarity and accessibility. Please check the following points when preparing the final version of your manuscript.

Letters to Nature

- Title no longer than 90 characters (including spaces)
- First paragraph referenced and no longer than 300 words
- No subheadings in main text
- Methods for print no longer than 300 words
- Online-only Methods provided as part of the main text file?
- No more than 30 references

Articles

- Title no longer than 75 characters (including spaces)
- First paragraph unreferenced and no longer than 150 words
- No more than 6 main subheadings of up to 40 characters (including spaces)
- Methods for print no longer than 300 words
- Online-only Methods provided as part of the main text file?
- No more than 50 references

All manuscripts

- Abbreviations and symbols defined on first use
- Italic font used for variables, genes and non-English languages; bold font for vectors
- Equations and special characters in Word in 'normal text' or Symbol font (Word Equation Editor avoided where possible)
- Authored in Compatibility Mode if using Word 2007 (i.e., as a Word 97-2003 document; saved as .doc format, NOT .docx)
- Brief title provided for each figure, table and box
- Figure legends no more than 100 words each
- Electronic (disk labelled with filename, format and manuscript reference number) and hard copy of text supplied
- Signed competing interests statement submitted with manuscript (<http://www.nature.com/nature/authors/policy/form.html>)
- Database accession numbers included for sequences determined in this paper
- Structure data in Nature standard tables
- List of key genes/proteins appearing in the manuscript (up to 15)

For TeX users

Word or rtf formats are preferred, unless there is very extensive use of special characters or equations. Such formats enable on-screen subediting and the preparation of a 'pre-proof', when the editing can be checked before formal proofs are prepared. We have found that this minimizes the chance of errors being inadvertently introduced.

- Word conversion not practicable

Manuscript number

Author name

Article type

further help and advice on preparing text for publication.

Artwork

Nature will edit figures to conform to house style and for clear reproduction in print. Standard figure sizes are 89 mm, 120 mm, 136 mm and 183 mm wide. Please check the following points when preparing your figures.

Electronic figure formats

- Preferred file formats for line artwork and graphs are eps, postscript, pdf and Illustrator
- Preferred file formats for photographic images are TIFF and Photoshop
- For a full list of acceptable electronic formats, see <http://www.nature.com/nature/authors/submissions/final>

When preparing and sending figures

- Text in an editable format and in sans serif font (Helvetica, Arial)
- Text and lines clearly visible when figure is sized for page: type size 6–8 point; lines preferably 0.5 point (0.18 mm)
- Colour images in CMYK (not RGB) mode
- All artwork on disk (floppy, CD-ROM, Zip)
- Good-quality hard copies of all figures supplied
- Suggestions for cover artwork submitted on separate disk and provided as hard copy
- Completed colour costs form submitted with manuscript (<http://www.nature.com/nature/authors/submissions/final/colfigs.pdf>)
- For reviews/Insight articles, permission obtained for any republished or redrawn illustrations

See <http://www.nature.com/nature/authors/submissions/final/figures.html> for detailed guidelines. For further help and advice, e-mail our art editors at art@nature.com.

Supplementary Information

Nature does not edit online-only material. Please check the following points when preparing Supplementary Information:

- Supplementary Information referred to in main text (print version) of paper
- Summary diagram/figure included as part of the Supplementary Information (optional)
- Separate text file provided with a brief description (file format and content) of each item
- Hard copies provided for all items
- Disks labelled with file names and formats and manuscript reference number
- We recommend that all Supplementary Information is supplied as a single PDF file, where possible.

See <http://www.nature.com/nature/authors/submissions/>

Contact our subeditors at authors@nature.com for

Please e-mail authors@nature.com if you have any additional queries.