Understanding Plagiarism ... with some help from Dr. Seuss

A plagiarism prevention presentation
by

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Is this plagiarism?

Our source and format:

- We will be using *Green Eggs and Ham*, written by Dr. Seuss in 1960.
- We will be using APA (American Psychological Association).
- For the following, imagine that your assignment is to write a paper about perception of unfamiliar food. *Green Eggs and Ham* is one of your sources.
Is this plagiarism?

Take a look at each of the following example sentences and decide whether each is plagiarism.
Many people do not like green eggs and ham.

- Is this plagiarism?
- YES!
- The phrase, “do not like green eggs and ham” was taken directly from someone else’s work, word for word, and was neither cited appropriately nor enclosed in quotation marks.
Many people “do not like green eggs and ham.”

Is this plagiarism?

YES!

The phrase “do not like green eggs and ham” is in quotation marks, showing that it is in fact someone else’s phrase, but there is no reference listed as a citation.
Is this plagiarism?

Many people do not like green eggs and ham (Geisel, 1960).

- Is this plagiarism?

- YES!

- While a citation is present, the phrase “do not like green eggs and ham” is still word for word from Geisel’s work. The lack of quotation marks implies that these are your words, but they're not.
Many people “do not like green eggs and ham” (Geisel, 1960, p. 12).

- Is this plagiarism?
  - No! Great!

- The phrase “do not like green eggs and ham” is in quotation marks, showing the phrase is someone else’s verbatim phrase, and an in-text citation is included. Importantly, the in-text parenthetical citation includes a REQUIRED page number to show where the quote occurs in the original work.
Many people dislike green ham and eggs (Geisel, 1960).

- Is this plagiarism?
- **YES!**

- This is *not adequate paraphrasing*. The sentence structure is still too similar to the original quotation, and you can’t put this one in quotation marks because it’s not the exact words of Geisel.
Many people have a strong distaste for forest-colored fowl embryos and cured domesticated pig products (Geisel, 1960).

- Is this plagiarism?
- YES!

This is still not adequate *paraphrasing*. The sentence structure is still too similar, and you still can’t put this one in quotation marks because it’s not the exact words of Geisel.
Is this plagiarism?

- have a strong distaste = do not like
- forest-colored = green
- fowl embryos = eggs
- and = and
- cured domesticated pig products = ham

This is Turnitin’s #3 “Find – Replace”
Lack of familiarity with particular preparation styles of foods is likely to lead to premature rejection based on ignorance rather than an objective appraisal of the inherent taste qualities of that food (Geisel, 1960).

- Is this plagiarism?
  - No! Great!

- Adequate paraphrasing and has a citation. BUT it’s not very readable. In fact, this pretty much represents everything people hate about academic writing.
When something is unfamiliar or foreign to us, we tend not to judge it fairly (Geisel, 1960).

- Is this plagiarism?
  - No! Great!
- Adequate paraphrasing
- Accurately represents Geisel’s message
- Is clear and easily understood
- Has a citation!

