

MANUSCRIPT CHECKLIST

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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

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- 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)
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- 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
- Author contribution statement included (a statement of responsibility that specifies the contribution of every author; see http://www.nature.com/authors/editorial_policies/authorship.html)
- Declaration of any competing interests included in manuscript (<http://www.nature.com/nature/authors/policy/competing.html>)
- Database accession numbers included for sequences determined in this paper
- Structure data in *Nature* standard tables

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

Artwork

Contact our subeditors at authors@nature.com for further help and advice on preparing text for publication.

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Electronic figure formats

- Preferred file formats for line (or vector) artwork and graphs are unflattened eps, postscript, pdf and Illustrator (ai) files
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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; ensure you are happy with the conversion from RGB to CMYK before submission
- Suggestions for cover artwork submitted if desired
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- 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 ('SI Guide') provided with a brief description (file format and content) of each item
- We recommend that all Supplementary Information is supplied as a single PDF file, where possible.

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E-mail authors@nature.com if you have additional queries.