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# Second Title

**Belonging to: The other day in the cafeteria - rumours about plagiarism**

Date: 2018-06-21

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citation:

[author] Project Re*fair*ence

[title] The other day in the cafeteria - rumours about plagiarism

[date] 2018-06-21

[source] <http://www.academicintegrity.eu/wp/all-materials>

[access date]

# The other day in the cafeteria - rumours about plagiarism

In order to inform and educate students (and staff), we have collected these common rumours, myths/questions and drafted possible answers. We react to them in a FAQ-like scheme.

## I’ve heard…

## …that it is possible to engage in plagiarism unintentionally.

Yes, that can happen.

But even accidentally plagiarism will be sanctioned according to the university regulations, regardless of whether the act of plagiarism or the intertextual mistake occurred on purpose, out of negligence, or involuntarily. A useful tip: Make sure you save earlier versions of your assignment so you can document your working process if problems arise.

It is easy to get confused when you are dealing with a large number of sources and a complex topic. As a result, arguments and ideas you have been using often become difficult or impossible to trace back to their original sources. To avoid this kind of confusion, it might be helpful to review your working habits. You could start using reference management software or practice other techniques for storing contents and material in a way that allows you to find them again and reconstruct the sources they came from.

Students often express the concern that as a result of focusing intensely on a topic over a long period of time, certain formulations they have encountered in literature will become so familiar they mistake them for their own. But in this case, too, careful documentation of the sources and good working habits can limit the likelihood of this happening and help avoid involuntary plagiarism.

One little mistake will not be used against you. It would be suspicious, however, if these ‘little’ mistakes occurred again and again, over several pages…