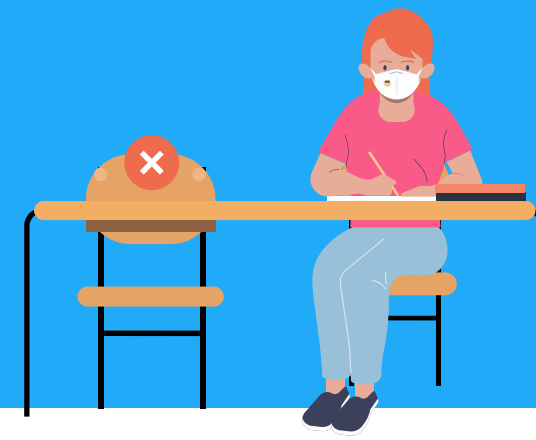# COPYLEAKS

# COVID-19 STATE OF PLAGIARISM REPORT

As one of the world's leading plagiarism detection platforms, used by thousands of educational institutions and millions of students globally, we wanted to answer the following question:

With educational institutions adapting to full or hybrid online learning models due to COVID in 2020, did plagiarism increase or decrease amongst students globally?

We compiled our study using anonymized data from 51,000 students worldwide from college and school levels, and compared the percentage of plagiarism occurring in the students' papers before and after the pandemic. Our analysis displayed a significant increase in overall plagiarism within student papers after COVID forced most educational institutions to turn online in March 2020, which included copy-pasting from online sources, replacing words with synonyms, switching around sentence structures, and paraphrasing entire sentences with the intent to plagiarize. This bi-annual Copyleaks Media Report highlights the results of our findings.
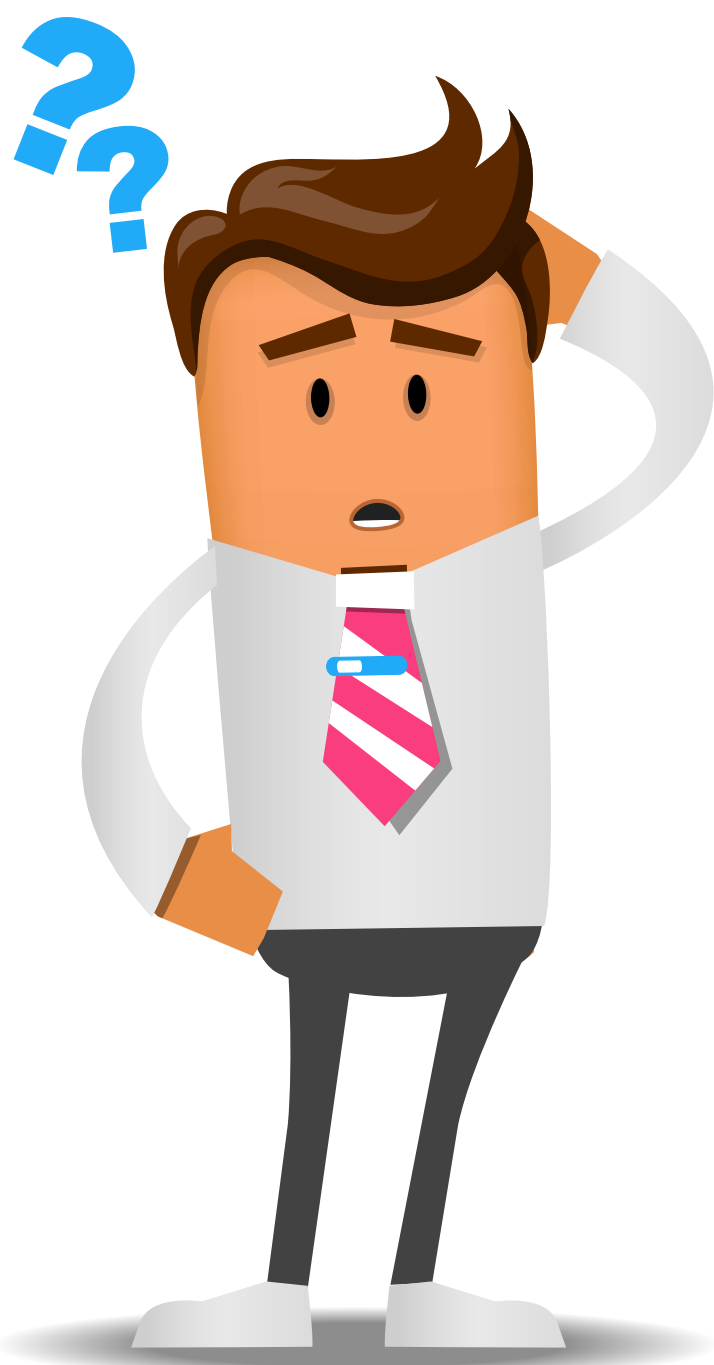
# Summary Finding

On an average—across the student population a **10% jump** in plagiarism was observed during COVID times in comparison to pre-COVID period.
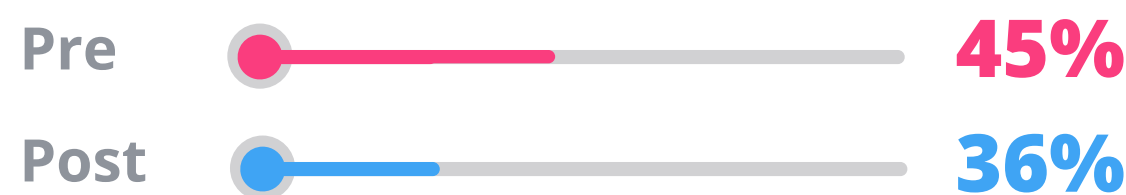
## Average rate of plagiarism in student work

Pre    **35%**

Post    **45%**
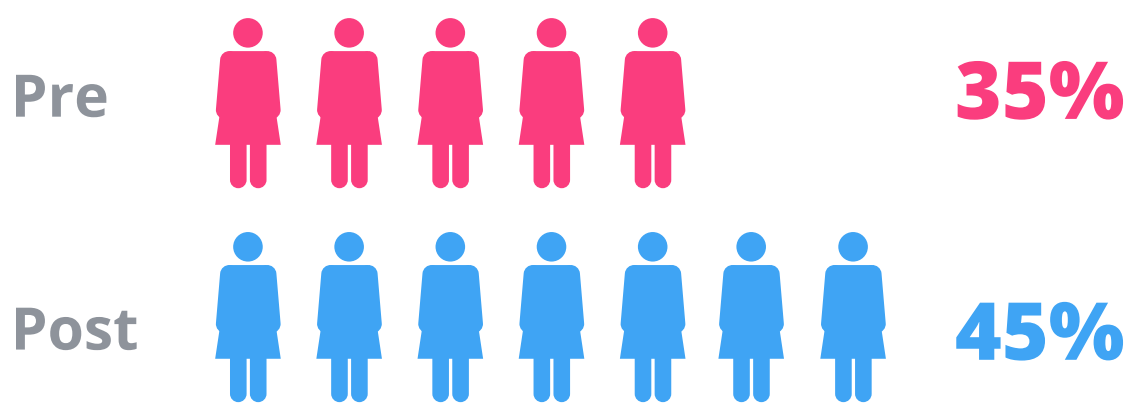
**Pre = Jan-Feb, 2020**
**Post = April-May, 2020**

## Average rate of plagiarism in student work

In documents less than 1000 words:

Pre    **45%**
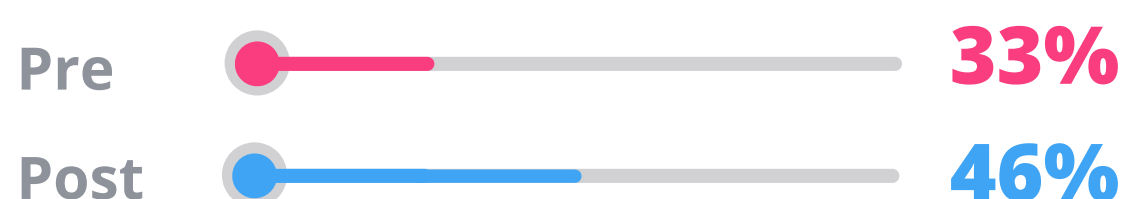Post    **36%**

In documents more than 1000 words:

Pre    **30%**
Post    **35%**
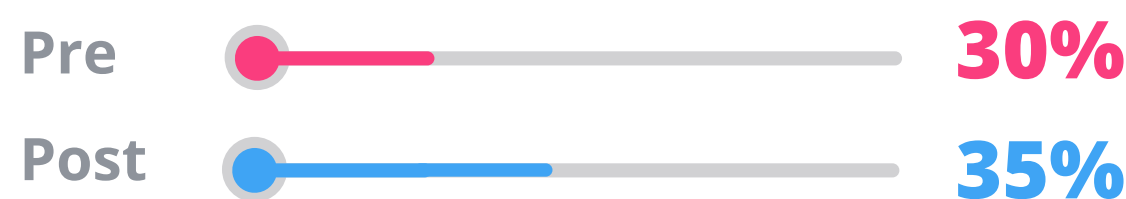
## Average rate of plagiarism in student work

In High school papers:

Pre    **33%**
Post    **46%**

In College papers:
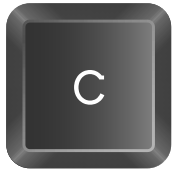
Pre    **45%**
Post    **38%**
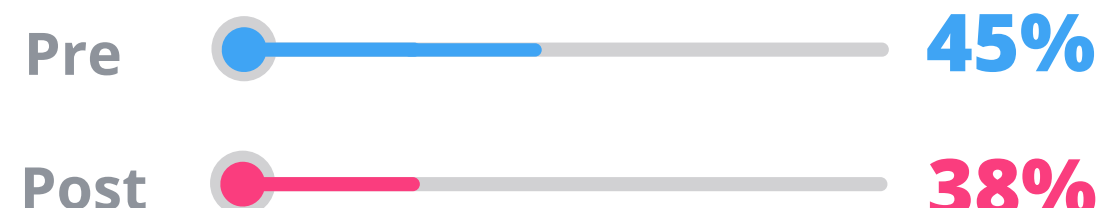
## What are the most common ways students are plagiarizing?



*Copy-pasting techniques are on a steady rise...*

**+**

*Compared to pre-COVID period, Identical & Exact match forms of plagiarism have seen a fast rise during the COVID times!*

**Pre**

**Paraphrasing & Related meaning**

**Post**

**Identical & Exact matches**

# Fun Fact

Many "Creative" 3rd party tools & platforms, ranging from white ink to character replacement to many more techniques, have been devised to deceive plagiarism detection tools!
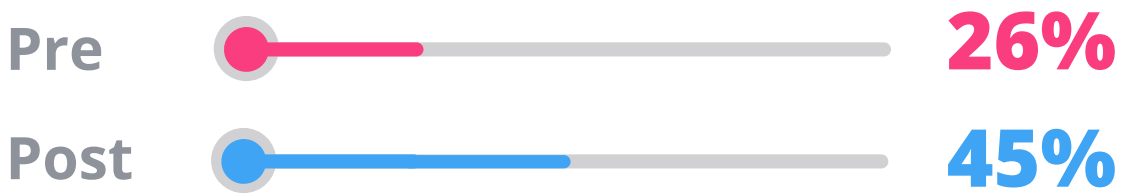


...So Copyleaks launched a **CHEATING DETECTOR**—built into the plagiarism checking platform—to stay ahead of the curve and alert administrators of such instances!
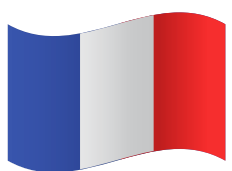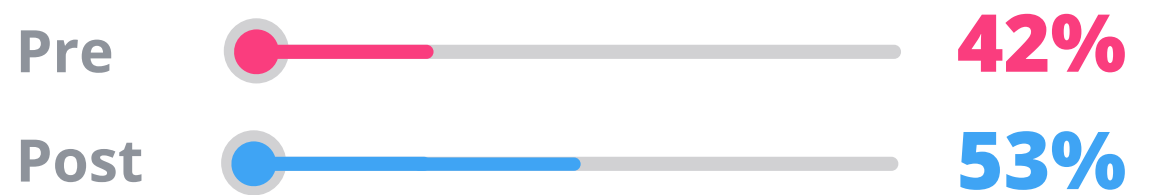
## Plagiarism Around The Globe
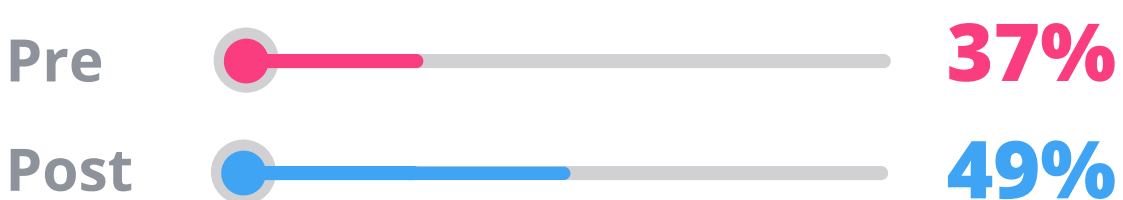
### Netherlands
Average percentage of plagiarism

| | |
|---|---|
| Pre | **26%** |
| Post | **45%** |

### India
Average percentage of plagiarism

| | |
|---|---|
| Pre | **42%** |
| Post | **53%** |

### France
Average percentage of plagiarism

| | |
|---|---|
| Pre | **37%** |
| Post | **49%** |

### Canada
Average percentage of plagiarism

| | |
|---|---|
| Pre | **38%** |
| Post | **42%** |
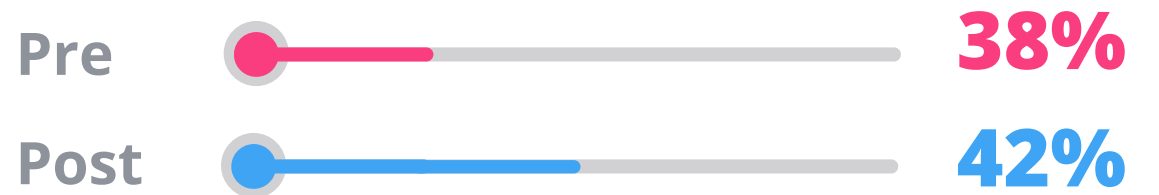
### United Kingdom
Average percentage of plagiarism

| | |
|---|---|
| Pre | **38%** |
| Post | **42%** |
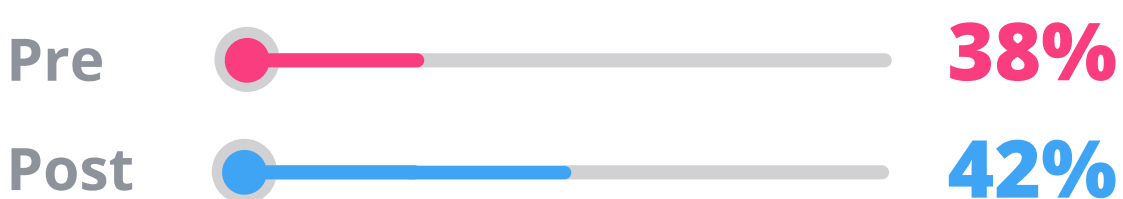
### Germany
Average percentage of plagiarism

| | |
|---|---|
| Pre | **38%** |
| Post | **42%** |
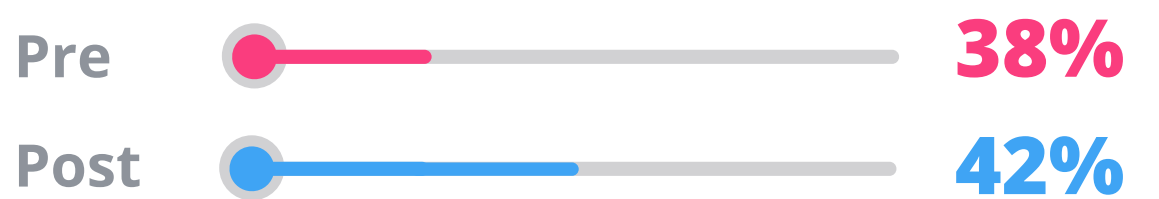
The data used in this report to draw inferences was before & after March, 2020 (considering the major changes in academia took place around then), where Pre = Jan-Feb, 2020 and Post = April-May, 2020.

The data was collected from Copyleaks' internal databases and the sample size used consisted of 51,000 total number of students; of which, there were 31,000 college students and 20,000 high school students.

All numbers used to compute this report were anonymized to ensure privacy of our users and their data.

**COPYLEAKS BI-ANNUAL MEDIA REPORT - 2020**