

ERRORS AND EXPLANATIONS

Should of, could of	→Should've, could've	Tooken	is not a word
Should've wrote	→should have written	Wroten	is not a word
Firstly, secondly, etc.	are not words	Anyways	is not a word

Sentence Fragments—Sentences must be independent clauses. They must have subjects and verbs.

Beginning a sentence with a relative pronoun will create a fragment because you are writing a subordinating clause.

COMMAS

- ☺ Tigers, lions, and bears make great pets.
- ☹ Tigers, lions and bears will eat you if you don't feed them.
- ☺ I drove my truck to school, and then I lent it to my cousin.
- ☹ I drove my truck to school, and parked it next to a tree.
- ☺ The man elected treasurer, who was in his late thirties, has an accounting degree.
- ☹ The man, who will be running for treasurer, will visit us tomorrow.
- ☺ Once the property deeds had been prepared and brought to the conference room, we could sign them so that we could take ownership of the farm.
- ☹ Once my sister got home with the truck I could finally take it out for the night.

APOSTROPHES

- ☹ Childrens responsibilities
- ☺ Children's responsibilities

SEMI-COLONS

- ☹ The sick child wanted only to do one thing; go to the hospital.
- ☺ The sick child wanted only to do one thing: go to the hospital.

COLONS

- ☹ The President made the following statement "No new taxes."
- ☺ The President made the following statement: "No new taxes."

PRONOUN DISAGREEMENT

- ☹ If a person works hard, they might find success.
- ☺ If a person works hard, he or she might find success.
- ☺ If people work hard, they might find success.
- ☹ A person's growth can change their views.
- ☺ A person's growth can change his or her views.

TITLES

Books, Movies, CDs/whole albums

- Underline titles of the above if writing with pen.
- Italicize when typing.

Poems, Short Stories, Articles, songs.

- Place titles of the above in quotation marks.

COMMON ERRORS

You're	You are
Your	It belongs to you
Their	It belongs to them
They're	They are
There	A place—The books are there
We're	We are
Were	Past tense of are→We were late for school
Where	A place→Where is the grammar handbook?
Then	Shows a sequence of events→If I study for the test, then I will succeed
Than	a comparison→I am shorter than you
To	Indicates motion→I will give the present to you
Two	The number two
Too	Also or excessively—You are too funny. You too are going to the game?
Its	Possessive pronoun—the item belongs to it→The car lost its wheels
It's	It is—contraction→It's on the counter.
Affect	is a verb→Your actions <i>affect</i> me.
Effect	is a noun→The <i>effects</i> of your actions impact everyone.
Amount	An amount is uncountable→an amount of coffee
Number	A number can be counted→a number of cars, a number of friends
Good	is an adjective→You played a good game of billiards.
Well	is an adverb→The game went well, the game did not go good.
Bad	is an adjective→You had a bad day; you feel bad about being hurtful.
Badly	is an adverb→You don't smell badly unless you are congested; you don't feel badly unless you have tactile dysfunction.

COMMON GRAMMAR TERMS

SUBJECT – Subject performs the verb action

- Ex. **My neighbor** drove my truck to school.

VERB –Action/Linking

- Action verb—can be physically or mentally performed
 - Ex. Suzie **smelled** the roses.
 - Ex. Johnny thought of an idea for his essay.
- Linking verb—links subject with a descriptor
 - Ex. The roses **smelled** sweet.

OBJECT— Element being acted upon (MUST be a noun or pronoun; must be a THING)

- Ex. My neighbor drove **my truck** to school.

PARTS OF SPEECH

- **NOUNS**: person, place, thing, or idea
 - Ex. George Washington, Grayling, baseball, freedom
- **ADJECTIVES**: describe a noun or pronoun
 - Ex. old, short, sick, happy, crazy, red
- **ADVERBS**: describe verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs
 - 90% of the time **end in -ly**
 - All **days** of the week; yesterday, tomorrow, today
 - Ex. I completed my homework **yesterday**.
 - Ex. I **quickly** ran to the store.
- **RELATIVE PRONOUNS**
 - Who, whom, which whose, why, what, how, that
- **PERSONAL PRONOUNS**
 - I, me, we, us, you, he, him, she, her, it, they, them
- **SINGULAR POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS**
 - My, mine, your, yours, his, hers, her
- **PLURAL POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS**
 - Their, theirs, our, ours, your, yours
- **PREPOSITIONS**
 - A bird **in** a cloud
 - A mouse **through** a wall
- **SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS**: link clauses
 - Ex. I cannot go to the dance **because** I had to work.

CLAUSE— Clauses **have verbs** in them.

PHRASE— Phrases **do not have verbs** in them.