



# 9 Quotations and Attribution

## Exercise 1: Improving Quotations and Attribution

### *Section I: Avoiding Double Attribution*

Rewrite the following sentences, attributing them only once. Correct any other errors.

1. A report issued Tuesday by the Criminal Justice Branch of the B.C. Attorney General's Ministry said the number of serious crimes committed in British Columbia increased slightly last year.
2. Speaking to more than 3,000 people in the Municipal Auditorium, she continued by stating that only the New Democratic Party favours universal health care.
3. Statistics Canada issued a report today stating that, according to data it gathered in 2001, one in every 10 Canadian households is facing housing affordability issues.

### *Section II: Correcting Placement Errors*

Correct the placement of the attribution in the following sentences. Correct any other errors.

1. People under 18, she said, should not be allowed to drive.
2. Another important step is to, she said, lower the books prices.
3. "The average shoplifters are teenage girls who steal for the thrill of it, and housewives who steal items they can use. They don't have to steal; most have plenty of money, but they don't think its a crime. They also think they'll get away with it forever," Valderrama said.

### ***Section III: Condensing Wordy Attribution***

The attributions in the following sentences are too wordy. How many of the words can you eliminate? Rewrite the attribution, if necessary. Correct any other errors.

1. She concluded her speech by telling the scouts that the jamboree will be held August 7–13.
2. He was quick to point out the fact that, in his opinion, the finance minister has “failed to act effectively to reduce the federal deficit.”
3. She expressed her feelings by explaining that she believes that all those convicted of drunk driving should lose their licences for life.
4. She also went on to point out the fact that the results of federal studies show that, by recycling 1 ton of paper, you can save 17 trees.
5. In a speech to the students Tuesday, he first began by offering them his opinion that their professors should emphasize teaching, not research.
6. He continued by urging his listeners to remember the critical point that the countrys energy policy has failed: that Canada is not developing alternative fuels, nor conserving existing fuels.

### ***Section IV: Improving Attribution***

Correct all the problems in the following attributions and quotations and any other errors.

1. He said: “after a certain number of years, our faces become our biographies”.
2. Andy Rooney declared “if dogs could talk, it would take a lot of fun out of owning one”.
3. “Because that’s where the money is” Willie Sutton answered when asked why he robbed banks.
4. He continued by claiming that there are “two” types of people who complain about their taxes: “men” and “women.”
5. “Blessed is he” said W.C. Bennett “who expects no gratitude, for he shall not be disappointed.” explained Bennett.
6. Mother Teresa then spoke to the youths, telling them that. “The most terrible poverty is loneliness and the feeling of being unwanted.”
7. “My views on birth control” said Robert F. Kennedy “Are somewhat distorted by the fact that I was the seventh of nine children”.
8. Being a police officer is not always fun and exciting, says Griffith. “Some things you’d just as soon forget.” “Some things you do forget.”

9. “The art of taxation.” claimed a French statesman long ago “Consists in so plucking the goose as to obtain the most feathers with the least hissing”.
10. Dr. Hector Rivera said they test for aids at the clinic “but do not treat the disease.” “People come in to be tested scared to death.” “Some leave the clinic relieved, and some don’t.” he said.

## Exercise 2: Quotations and Attribution

### *Wording, Placement, and Punctuation*

Answer key provided: See Appendix B.

Make any changes necessary to improve the attribution in the following sentences and paragraphs. Also correct style, spelling, and punctuation errors.

1. “Our goal is peace” claimed the prime minister.
2. Benjamin Franklin said: “death takes no bribes”.
3. She said her son refers to her literary endeavours as, “moms writing thing”.
4. He is a scuba diver and pilot. He also enjoys skydiving. “I like challenge, something exciting.”
5. “The dangers promise to be of indefinite duration.” the prime minister said referring to the Mideast crisis.
6. “A free press can of course be good or bad, but, most certainly, without freedom it will never be anything but bad. . . .” “Freedom is nothing else but a chance to be better, whereas enslavement is a certainty of the worse.” said the writer Albert Camus in one of his books.
7. Jesse Owens expressed the opinion that “I think that America has become too athletic.” “From Little League to the pro leagues, sports are no longer recreation.” “They are big business, and they’re drudgery.” he continued.
8. The man smiled, “It’s a great deal for me.” “I expect to double my money,” he explained.
9. When asked what she likes most about her job as a newspaper reporter, the woman responded by saying—”I’m not paid much, but the work is important. And it’s varied and exciting.” She grinned: “Also, I like seeing my byline in the paper.”
10. The librarian announced to reporters that the new building “will cost somewhere in the neighbourhood of about \$4.6 million.”