



12 Grammar and Spelling

Exercise 1: Recognizing and Correcting Newswriting Errors

Answer key provided: See Appendix B.

Section I: Agreement

Edit the following sentences, correcting agreement and other errors.

1. The committee submits their data this weekend which they expect will help their church.
2. She said the company failed to earn enough to repay their loans, and she does not expect them to reopen.
3. The jury reached their verdict at 1 a.m., concluding that the media was guilty of libelling the restaurant and their twenty-two employees.
4. The decision allowed the city council to postpone their vote for a week, and they suggested that the sites developer design a plan to save more of it's trees.
5. A representative for the organization said they help anyone that is on welfare obtain some job training and raise their self esteem.

Section II: Plurals and Possessives

Edit the following sentences, correcting for plurals, possessives, and other errors.

1. The womens car was parked nearby, and sheriffs deputies asked to see the owners drivers licence.

2. The juror said she opposes assisted suicide “because a doctors job is to save peoples lives, not end them.”
3. Last years outstanding teacher insisted that peoples complaints about the schools problems are mistaken.
4. Manvel Jones parents said there younger childrens teacher earned her bachelors degree in philosophy and her masters degree in eductaion.
5. Everyones money were stolen, and the neighbourhood associations president warned that the police are no longer able to guarantee peoples safety in the citys poorest neighbourhoods.

Section III: Placement

Rewrite these sentences, keeping related words and ideas together. Correct all errors.

1. The board of trustees voted 8–1 to fire the college president for his sexual misconduct during an emergency meeting Thursday morning.
2. On their arrival, the hotel manager took the guests’ bags to their rooms.
3. The union representative urged Canadians to support better working conditions for the country’s immigrant workers at the Unitarian church Sunday.
4. Jogging around campus, a thorn bush ripped a hole in Zena’s shirt.
5. A suspect in the burglary case was arrested after a high-speed chase involving two lawn mowers stolen from a hardware store.

Section IV: Personification

Rewrite the following sentences, eliminating personification and other errors.

1. Slamming on its brakes, the car turned to the left, narrowly missing the dog.
2. The city said it cannot help the three businesses who asked for better lighting.
3. After detecting the outbreak, the hospital admitted that 7 babies born this month were infected, including one that died.
4. The Fire Department treated the child for smoke inhalation, then transported her to Mercy Hospital, which treated her broken legs.
5. The corporation, which denied any responsibility for the deaths, will appear in court next month.

Section V: Parallel Form

Rewrite these sentences in parallel form, and correct all errors.

1. He was charged with drunken driving and an expired drivers licence.
2. Karen Kim was a full-time student, Air Force reservist, and she worked part-time for a veterinarian.
3. To join the club, one must be a sophomore, junior, or senior; studying journalism; be in good academic standing; and have demonstrated professional journalistic ability.
4. The mayor warned that the neighbourhoods high crime rate causes residents to flee, contributes to more unemployment for workers, and the city loses tax revenue, along with lowering everyones property values.
5. She said the other advantages of owning her own business include being independent, flexible hours, and less stress.

Section VI: Multiple Errors

Rewrite the following sentences, correcting all errors. Most sentences contain more than one kind of error.

1. A sheriffs deputy saw the teenagers Chevrolet pull out of the alley, driving recklessly without its headlines on, and arrested it's driver.
2. The city also said that they cannot silence Sooyoung Li, the woman that fears pollution is likely to effect the neighbourhoods 300 residents.
3. Seeking more money, publicity, and to help the poor, the churchs members said it wants the city to help it by providing food and offer housing for the homeless.
4. The Public Works Department said they could pave the developments road themselves for less than \$1.2 million, the Roess Company submitted a bid of \$2.74 million.
5. A jury awarded almost \$10.5 million to the operators of an abortion clinic that charged that picketers tormented them and there clients. The clinics operators praised the jury's verdict, saying their courage and understanding set a needed precedent.

Exercise 2: Recognizing and Correcting Newswriting Errors

Section I: Agreement

Edit the following sentences, correcting agreement, ambiguity, and other errors.

1. Every one of the news stories were accurate in their description of the accused.

2. Are seven dollars enough to buy the book?
3. Spagetti and meatballs are my favourite dish.
4. The board voted to raise they're salaries 10 per cent.
5. The cat and dog, whom ate off her plate, was punished severely.

Section II: Plurals and Possessives

Edit the following sentences, correcting errors in plurals and possessives as well as any other errors.

1. The women's liberation movement continue to help champion their cause for equality.
2. Experts fear the grey wolfs are a endangered species.
3. The fishes scales glowed in the dark from being exposed to pollution.
4. She acknowledged that the mistake was her's.
5. Their going to take they're trip to Jamaica this year.

Section III: Placement

Rewrite these sentences, keeping related words and ideas together. Correct all errors.

1. While baring it's teeth, the dogcatcher caught the racoon.
2. The teacher said that grading was tiring and exhausting for her students papers.
3. Too cold to move, her coat was inadequate for her outing.
4. The mother knew that going to war would be hard for her baby, who was a sergeant in the military.
5. The firefighter saved the child as she ran into the burning house.

Section IV: Personification

Rewrite the following sentences, eliminating personification and other errors.

1. The jets unloaded their bombs in the no-fly zone.
2. The funeral home said the former mayors burial was at 4 p.m.
3. What the newspaper says is all ways right.
4. The governors meeting voted to raise taxes.
5. Her watch said it was noon time.

Section V: Parallel Form

Rewrite these sentences in parallel form, and correct all errors.

1. She goes to university majoring in journalism to write news.
2. The mayor promised improvements in employment, education and to fix up roads in the city.
3. Tracy went to the store for eggs and butter and also to buy milk.
4. Sept. 11, 2001, was sad, had offensiveness and many students believe it is upsetting to their classmates.
5. She asked the victim to describe the muggers's height, weight and if he knew what she wore.

Section VI: Multiple Errors

Rewrite the following sentences, correcting all errors. Most sentences contain more than one error.

1. As it rolled along the floor, her foot was run over by the chair.
2. The electricians's union told their members to go on strike and to also demonstrate their disagreement.
3. Detailed and tricky, the class finished their exams.
4. The hockey team was given their five goals by their principal player, Annie Bearclaw.
5. None of the witnesses were available to the reporter that had a deadline.
6. The beautiful flower, black and blue, was stepped on by the gardeners dog.
7. The teacher that was interviewed by the reporter asked for her email.
8. All the people in the neighbourhood was given a good citizenship award by the mayor.
9. The woman could not be a juror due to she said the judge was an hypocrite with her rulings.
10. He likes to watch movies which make him cry and also gets him to feeling sentimental.

Exercise 3: Recognizing and Correcting Newswriting Errors

Section I: Modifiers

Edit the following sentences, correcting for misplaced or dangling modifiers.

1. Riddled with errors, the teacher graded the assignment.

2. The president met with the committee wearing a blue suit today.
3. Although it had a slightly green peel, the monkey at the zoo ate the banana.
4. The rancher wore a leather belt into the church with a bronze bull-riding buckle.
5. The mayor gave an emotional speech to the spectators outside the new library that had stood there for hours.

Section II: Who and Whom

Choose the correct relative pronoun in the following sentences.

1. To (who/whom) did you hand your article?
2. You chose (who/whom) to write a series of stories on Hurricane Katrina?
3. (Who/Whom) is going to receive the award this year?
4. On (who/whom) did she blame the robbery?
5. (Who/Whom) asked for the story on the fighting in Afghanistan?

Section III: Plurals and Possessives

Edit the following sentences, correcting errors in plurals and possessives as well as any other errors.

1. The hostess's stool was misplaced during the rearrangement of the restraint.
2. The poker player's finally agreed to end thier game at 3 a.m.
3. "Its Kris' turn to drive the race car," said the manager of the team.
4. The monkeys's cages was cleaned out Saturday by the small team of zookeepers.
5. Looking really nice in her new dress, the gloves were new ones for Loreli.

Section IV: Active and Passive Voice

Edit the following sentences, changing passive to active voice.

1. The pitchfork was thrown into the corner by the farmer.
2. An antique train engine will be sold by the Smith Auctioneers next month.
3. The child was handed a football by his uncle on Thanksgiving.
4. A new movie was watched by several students during the festival.
5. The stolen car was given a new paint job.

Section V: Agreement

Read the following sentences, correcting for subject-verb agreement and subject-pronoun agreement.

1. The congregation of the church were playing bingo on Wednesday evenings.
2. The family walking into the store are going to buy their groceries for the week.
3. The bar association says they will enforce stricter rules in the conducting of their examinations.
4. The emails from the office of the dean deals with the new policy on student loans.
5. The group of journalism designers want training in Flash.

Exercise 4: Spelling

Cross out the word that is misspelled in each of the following pairs. Always use the spelling recommended by the Canadian Press.

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|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. a lot/alot | 21. critized/criticized | 41. fourty/forty |
| 2. acceptable/acceptible | 22. cryed/cried | 42. fulfil/fulfill |
| 3. accidently/accidentally | 23. defendant/defendent | 43. glamour/glamor |
| 4. accommodate/accomodate | 24. desert/dessert (food) | 44. goverment/government |
| 5. advertising/advertizing | 25. despite/dispite | 45. guerrilla/guerilla |
| 6. adviser/advisor | 26. deterrant/deterrent | 46. harassment/harassment |
| 7. afterward/afterwards | 27. dilema/dilemma | 47. humorous/humerous |
| 8. alright/all right | 28. disastrous/disasterous | 48. independant/independent |
| 9. baptize/baptize | 29. dispise/despise | 49. indispensable/indispensible |
| 10. boy friend/boyfriend | 30. elite/elete | 50. infered/inferred |
| 11. broccoli/brocolli | 31. embarass/embarass | 51. innuendo/inuendo |
| 12. canceled/cancelled | 32. emphasize/emphacize | 52. irrate/irate |
| 13. catagorized/categorized | 33. employe/employee | 53. irregardless/regardless |
| 14. cemetery/cemetary | 34. endorsed/indorsed | 54. it's/its (possessive pronoun) |
| 15. comming/coming | 35. exhorbitant/exorbitant | 55. janiter/janitor |
| 16. commited/committed | 36. existance/existence | 56. judgement/judgment |
| 17. congradulations/congratulations | 37. explanation/explanation | 57. kindergarten/kindergarden |
| 18. conscious/concious | 38. fascination/facination | 58. license/licence (noun) |
| 19. contraversial/controversial | 39. favoritism/favouritism | 59. lightning/lightening |
| 20. credability/credibility | 40. Febuary/February | 60. likelyhood/likelihood |