

SENTENCE EDITS

Use singular and plural consistently.
(including *subject-verb agreement* [HH 575ff]
and *pronoun-antecedent agreement* [HH 594ff])

1

Draft: Reasons for not changing the oil includes the cost to the driver and the inconvenience of the chore. (HH 582)

Corrected:

2

Draft: Each of the car manuals I consulted recommend five-thousand-mile intervals between oil changes.

Corrected:

3

Draft: Every participant should be guaranteed that the information they provide will remain confidential. (HH 597)

Corrected:

4

Draft: A team of researchers should provide its volunteers with consent forms, in which they describe to the volunteers the procedures and risks involved in participation. (HH 597)

Corrected:

Use the right word (look up the definition) and use the right form of it (e.g., noun, adjective, adverb, etc.).

1

Draft: In my conclusion, I will exacerbate on this effect.

Corrected:

2

Draft: Federal spending would expand and, coherently, taxes would increase.

Corrected:

3

Draft: Superheroes have godly powers far exceeding ordinary human abilities.

Corrected:

***Dangling modifiers* (HH 614ff)**

“Look carefully at any sentence that begins with a phrase or elliptical clause. If the phrase or clause suggests an action, be sure that what follows the modifier is the

actor (the subject of the sentence). If there is no actor performing the action indicated in the phrase, the modifier is dangling.” (HH 614)

1

Draft: Taking care to stay roped together, climbing accidents are less likely to occur. (HH 616)

Corrected:

2

Draft: After moving from Ireland, students at her new school in New York teased the Irish girl regularly.

Corrected:

3

Draft: As a woman of both the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the life of Gertrude Bell was unusual. (HH 617)

Corrected:

4

Draft: In order to end child poverty, adult poverty must end.

Corrected:

Relating sentence parts (HH 625ff)

“The joining of a subject and verb must create a meaningful idea. ...

A verb and its complement should fit together meaningfully.” (HH 626-627)

The main verb of the sentence should describe what the subject does; make sure your subject can do what the verb describes.

If one of your verbs is acting on a complement, make sure that verb can be done to that complement.

1

Draft: Global warming was not made aware to the voters as a problem they should solve.

Corrected:

2

Draft: Raising awareness about child abuse is the best way to decrease the issue.

Corrected:

3

Draft: The absence of detail screams out at the reader. (HH 626)

Corrected:

4

Draft: The inspiration that the author created touched young writers. (HH 627)

Corrected:

Sentence fragments (HH 542ff)

“A sentence is considered a fragment when it is incomplete in any of the following ways:

- **It is missing a subject or a verb.**

Derived from a word meaning ‘nervous sleep.’ Hypnotism actually refers to a type of focused attention. [no subject]

Alternative medical treatment may include hypnosis. The placement of a patient into a relaxed state. [no verb]

- **It is missing both a subject and a verb.**

The hypnotic state differs from sleep. Contrary to popular belief.

- **It is a dependent clause.**

Most people can be hypnotized easily. Although the depth of the trance for each person varies.”

(HH 542)

“Revise each fragment by attaching it to a related sentence or by recasting it as a complete sentence.” (HH 546, 548)

1

Draft: A brilliant twenty-three-year-old Englishman. Isaac Newton was the first person to study color. (HH 546)

Correction:

2

Draft: Particles of spray in waterfalls can act as prisms. Producing a variety of colors. (HH 546)

Correction:

3

Draft: The shipbuilders thought the *Titanic* was unsinkable. Because it had sixteen watertight compartments. (HH 548)

Correction:

4

Draft: The extent of the damage to the ship’s hull was unknown. Until researchers started examining the wreckage in the late 1990s.

Correction:

Consistent verb tense (HH 632ff)

Avoid unnecessary shifts in verb tense.

1

Draft:

I *had* already *been walking* for a half hour in the semidarkness of Amsterdam's early-morning streets when I *came* to a red light. I *am* in a hurry to get to the train station and no cars *were* out yet, so I *cross* over the cobblestones, passing a man waiting for the light to change. I never *look* back when he *scolds* me for breaking the law. I *had* a train to catch. I *was* going to Widnau, in Switzerland, to see Aunt Marie. I *have* not *seen* her since I *was* in second grade. (HH 635)

Correction: