

COMMON WRITING ERRORS MRS. HOLLIS 1/21/12

<u>ERROR</u>	<u>CORRECTION</u>	<u>EXPLANATION</u>
Jane went along to the movies to have some peace and quiet.	alone	Jane went to the movie <i>alone</i> to have some peace and quiet. Charlie went <i>along</i> with Mary to the store.
alot	a lot	two words, not one
bad advise	bad advice	spelling error; <i>advise</i> is the verb form, <i>advice</i> is the noun form
apart	a part	<i>Apart</i> means separated, isolated; <i>a part</i> means a piece of a group or set
ashame	a shame	It is <i>ashame</i> that so many restaurants are still closed. two words, not one = a shame
I will be there in awhile .	I will be there in a while.	two words, not one = a while
back ground	background	compound word
back up	backed up	incorrect verb tense
real bad	very badly	Correct use of adverbs and adjectives
b/c , cuz or cause	because	shorthand; incorrect usage
I am board by this silly movie.	I am bored by this silly movie.	Misspelling or homonym; “ <i>board</i> ” means a piece of wood, while “ <i>bored</i> ” means that you are not interested in something.
I breaked to avoid the pothole. The glass braked when I dropped it.	I braked to avoid the pothole. The glass broke when I dropped it.	You <i>brake</i> when you stop your car; you <i>break</i> a glass when it hits the floor.
brought me a nice bracelet	Bought me a nice bracelet	Incorrect word usage; <i>brought</i> means to deliver something; <i>bought</i> means to purchase something
By me a soft drink.	Buy me a soft drink.	Incorrect word usage; <i>by</i> is a preposition meaning near or showing who wrote something; <i>buy</i> means to purchase something.
went by her house	went to her house	incorrect use of the preposition “ <i>by</i> ”
By me being able to work hard	Because I am a hard worker OR Because I work hard	Incorrect word usage
can not	cannot	compound word
child hood	childhood	compound word

ERROR

I **choose** the wrong dish last night.
I always **chose** the shrimp whenever
I eat out.

The campus is **convient** to home.

I will **defiantly** go to the party.

It was so humid last night there
was do all over the picnic table.
forms

Do to the power outage, class
was cancelled.

Doing the storm, our tree was
struck by lightning.

Due to the fact that it was raining,
we cancelled our picnic.

I was **during** my homework
when the power went out.

She was **effected** by her parents'
divorce.

Last **even** we had leftovers.

They **excepted** the award for
best team.

CORRECTION

I chose the wrong dish last night.
I always choose the shrimp
whenever I eat out.

The campus is convenient to home.

I will definitely go to the party.

It was so humid last night there
was dew all over the picnic table.

Due to the power outage,
class was cancelled.

During the storm
struck by lightning.

Because it was raining,
we cancelled our picnic.

I was doing my homework
when the power went out.

She was affected by her parents'
divorce.

Last evening we had leftovers.

They accepted the award for
best team.

EXPLANATION

Incorrect verb tense; *choose* is present tense while *chose* is past.

Misspelling – should be “*convenient*”

Word choice/misspelling – confusing the word “*defiantly*” which means to be contrary, disobedient or rebellious, with “*definitely*,” which means to do in a certain or sure manner

Homonym – confusing “*do*” which means to take action or perform something, with “*dew*” which means the condensation or moisture which overnight in humid or muggy weather.

Homonym – confusing “*do*” which means to take action or perform something, with “*due*” which means to cause something or to have a deadline.

Misspelling – confusing the word “*during*” (such as “during the night”) with the verb “*doing*.”

Word choice/wordy – be concise and just write “*because*” instead of “*due to the fact that*.”

Misspelling – confusing the word “*during*” (such as “during the night”) with the verb “*doing*.”

Incorrect usage – we are “*affected*” by a problem, whereas the noun “*effect*” means a result or conclusion

“*Evening*” is the end of the day, near night time. “*Even*” is when things are equal

Homonym – confusing the word “*accept*” (to agree to or receive) with the word “*except*” (to leave out or exclude).

ERROR

CORRECTION

EXPLANATION

I **feel to believe** that he's right.

I believe that he's right.

Awkward construction; also used as "I *fill to believe*," which is also incorrect.

I was **given** cookies to each kid.

I was giving cookies to each kid.

"*Given*" is a past participle of "to give," while "*giving*" is the present tense form of "to give"

gonna

going to

slang

I always do **good** in school.

I always do well in school.

Adjective vs. Adverb: adverbs, not adjectives, modify verbs

We should **install** pride in our children.

We should instill pride in our children.

Incorrect word usage; *install* means to connect or begin using something, such as installing a dishwasher; *instill* means to implant or encourage something, such as good manners or pride in one's work.

In the world today
understood

Today

Word choice/wordy – don't need to write "in the world today" as it is

Its not my fault that it rained.

It's not my fault that it rained.

Homonym/misspelling – confusing the contraction "*it's*" (which is short for "*it is*" with the possessive pronoun "*its*"

Jobs are not hiring people without college degrees.

Employers are not hiring people without college degrees.

Word choice – *jobs* do not hire people; employers or companies hire people.

Love ones are special to us.

Loved ones are special to us.

Spelling – adjective form of "*love*" should be spelled "loved"

It's cloudy, **meaning** it's going to rain.

It's cloudy so it's probably going to rain.

Word choice – don't begin a clause or phrase with "meaning"

I **no** everyone in my class.

I know everyone in my class.

Homonym – confusing the verb "*know*" with the adverb "*no*."

I **now** everyone in my class.

I know everyone in my class.

Homonym – confusing the verb "*know*" with the adverb "*now*."

The **loss** necklace was found.

The lost necklace was found.

Incorrect form of word; *loss* is the noun form; *lost* can be a verb or adjective, such as "I lost my book" or "the lost pencil"

Majority of time we eat at 6:00.

The majority of time we eat at 6:00.

Need an article (the) before a common noun (majority).

Many of people like parades.

Many people like parades.

Word choice – no need to use "*of*" between "*many*" and "*people*"

It **maybe** raining tomorrow.

It may be raining tomorrow.

Two words; *may be* is used as a verb form here.

May be we'll eat out today.

Maybe we'll eat out today.

One word; *maybe* is used as an adverb here.

We don't have **much of** rice.

We don't have much rice.

Word choice – don't need to use "*of*"

ERROR

Now **a days** we go to the park.

Numerous of books

It's **on the students** to prepare for exams.

Opposed to Mary, who does all her homework.

They **or** coming to the party.

Henry **past** the test.

I would **rather** have iced tea.

Reason being she was sick.

receive a G.E.D.

receive a goal

receive a dream

She's a **register** nurse.

relize

I will **respone** to your question next.

Her **roll** in the play was very funny.
role is

I want to **sale** my old textbooks.

CORRECTION

Nowadays we go to the park.

Numerous books

It's up to the students to prepare for exams.

As opposed to Mary, who does all does all her homework.

They are coming to the party.

Henry passed the test.

I would prefer to have e iced tea.

She was sick, so she missed class.

earn a G.E.D.

achieve a goal

realize a dream

She's a registered nurse.

realize

I will respond to your question next.

Her role in the play was very funny.

I want to sell my old textbooks.

EXPLANATION

Spelling/word choice – “*nowadays*” is one word, not three

Word choice – don't need to use “*of*”

Word choice – don't use “*on*” in this situation

Word choice – should include “*as*” before “*opposed*” + fragment; not a complete sentence.

Homonym – confusing the verb “*are*” with the conjunction “*or*.”

Verb error OR misspelling; *past* describes a time that has already happened; *pass* means to be successful on a test or exam or to hand something on to someone else, such as passing papers out or to drive alongside something, such as passing in front of the store.

Rather is not a verb; use *prefer* instead.

Word choice – don't begin a sentence with “reason being.”

word choice; *earn* is more accurate description

word choice

word choice

Word ending – many adjectives end in “*ed*” but are mispronounced/misspelled

spelling error; spelling like it sounds

Misspelling; there is no such word as “*responē*”

Incorrect word usage; *roll* is a piece of bread, such as a sweet roll or pistolette; the part a person portrays in a play or movie.

Incorrect word usage; *sale* is when the price of an item is lowered or discounted; *sell* means to offer something to be sold or purchased.

<u>ERROR</u>	<u>CORRECTION</u>	<u>EXPLANATION</u>
She was scarred to look outside after the storm.	She was scared to look outside after the storm.	Misspelling; should be “ <i>scared</i> ”
She sined that the noise was strange.	She sensed that the noise was strange.	Homonym – confusing the word “ <i>since</i> ” as in “ <i>since they are gone</i> ” with <i>sense</i> , as in “ <i>the five senses</i> .”
His sole is in heaven now.	His soul is in heaven now.	Homonym – confusing the word “ <i>sole</i> ” as in the bottom of a shoe with “ <i>soul</i> ” as in the essence of a person or his/her spirit
We all stood in New Orleans after we graduated.	We all stayed in New Orleans after we graduated.	Word choice – stood is the past tense of “ <i>stand</i> ,” while this sentence means we “remained” or did not leave instead of “ <i>stood</i> .”
We were suppose to go to the gym.	We were supposed to go to the gym.	Verb tense/misspelling – the past tense of “ <i>suppose</i> ” is “supposed.
I was taken the dog to the vet.	I was taking the dog to the vet.	“ <i>Taken</i> ” is a past participle of “to take,” while “ <i>taking</i> ” is the present tense form of “to take”
take and do OR try and do	I will take and do the essay. I will try and do the essay.	Wordy – just write, “I will do the essay.” Word choice – just write, “I will try to do the essay.”
taught/though/thought Henry was thought to read. Thought it was too cold, we played outside anyway. Susie taught it might rain.	Henry was taught to read. Though it was too cold, we played outside anyway. Susie thought it might rain.	Word choice/misspelling – confusing “ <i>taught</i> ,” which is a past tense form of “teach” with “ <i>though</i> ,” which is a conjunction which joins clauses or with “ <i>thought</i> ,” which is a past tense form of “think” or a noun meaning “the process of thinking”
After the test, than we’ll discuss it.	After the test, then we’ll discuss it.	“ <i>Then</i> ” indicates time or chronology, “ <i>than</i> ” indicates a choice between two things or a comparison
She is taller then me.	She is taller than me.	Homonym – “ <i>than</i> ” with an “a” is used when comparing two persons or things, while “ <i>then</i> ” with an “e” is used when describing the time order or sequence of events
They will have to learn it for them selves .	They will have to learn it for themselves.	Incorrect usage – <i>themselves</i> is one word, not two.
They had the pool to theirselves .	They had the pool to themselves.	Incorrect usage – should be “ <i>themselves</i> ,” not “ <i>theirselves</i> .”
there-for	therefore	Misspelling

ERROR

They're car is down the street.

Their is the missing part.

There house is in the country.

I **though** I would like the movie.

thru

She walked **threw** the door.

I read **til** 2 A.M.

It got **to where** she was sad every day.

She gave the gift **too** Jane.

He is **two** tall for those jeans.

John is **to** years older than Joe.

He is a **trouble maker**.

He **use** to live here.

They have a great fair every year.

They gave the gift to **use**.

We as people should be more kind.

CORRECTION

Their car is down the street.

There is the missing part.

Their house is in the country.

I thought I would like the movie.

through

She walked through the door.

I read until 2 A.M.

Eventually she was sad every day.

She gave the gift to Jane.

He is too tall for those jeans.

John is two years older than Joe.

He is a troublemaker.

He used to live here.

The elementary school
down the street has a great
fair every year.

They gave the gift to us.

People should be more kind.

EXPLANATION

Homonym – confusing the possessive pronoun “*their*” with the contraction “*they’re*” for “*they are*”

Homonym – confusing the indefinite pronoun “*there*” with the possessive pronoun “*their*.”

Homonym – confusing the possessive pronoun “*their*” with the indefinite pronoun “*there*.”

Misspelling – confusing “*though*” such as “even though” with “*thought*.”

misspelled

Misspelling/homonym – confusing the preposition “*through*” with the past-tense of the verb to throw or “*threw*”

Misspelling – should be *until*, and not “*til*” or “*till*”

Word choice – don’t use “*to where*” construction

Homonym – confusing the adverb “*too*” (as in “too much”) with the preposition “*to*.”

Homonym – confusing the adverb “*too*” with the number “*two*.”

Homonym – confusing the number “*two*” with the preposition “*to*.”

Compound word, not two separate words.

Verb tense – if you’re writing about the past, use the past tense, *used*
He once lived here.

Must explain who “*they*” is/are before using it.

Misspelling – confusing “*use*” with “*us*”

Awkward construction + repetitious; “*we*” implies “*people*”

ERROR

It was a time **where**
I worked a lot.

Joe **when** to the store.

We **where** going to the park.

Weather it rains or not, we are
going shopping.

Witch dress do you like?

Who's book is on the floor?

Whose taking the test today?

That **women** is our dean.

I **want** go to the store today.

It just made me feel **worst**.

The **worse** part of the story

would of

Your sick again?

You will like this short story.

You're hat is on the table.

CORRECTION

It was a time when I
I worked a lot.

Joe went to the store.

We were going to the park.

Whether it rains or not, we are
going shopping.

Which dress do you like?

Whose book is on the floor?

Who is taking the test today?
OR Who's taking the test today?

That woman is our dean.

I won't go to the store today.

It just made me feel worse.

The worst part of the story

would have

You're sick again?

Students will like this short story.

Your hat is on the table.

EXPLANATION

Word choice: *where* indicates place, *when* indicates time

Misspelling – confusing “*when*” with “*went*”

Misspelling/homonym – “*where*” is a place word, while “*were*” is the past tense of is/are.

Misspelling – confusing “*weather*” with “*whether*”

Misspelling/homonym – “*witch*” is a person who practices witchcraft, while “*which*” specifies something.

Whose is possessive, so no contraction is used.

“*Who*” is a pronoun used as the subject of the sentence, “is” is the verb of the sentence. Can use a contraction of “Who’s” by deleting the “i” and using an apostrophe in its place

Incorrect word usage; *woman* with an “a” is singular, *women* with an “e” is plural

Misspelling/homonym – “*won't*” is a contraction for “will not,” while “*want*” means the desire or intention to do or have something.

Comparative vs. Superlative adjectives; use when comparing two items

Comparative vs. Superlative adjectives; use when comparing three or more items

incorrect verb form

Homonym – confusing the contraction “*You're*” for “You are” with the possessive pronoun “*your*.”

Don't use “you” language; use “*students*,” or “*persons*” or “*one*” or “*he/she*”

Homonym – confusing the possessive pronoun “*your*” with the contraction “*you're*” for “you are.”

ERROR**CORRECTION****EXPLANATION**

He **eat** supper at 6:00 each day.

He **eats** supper at 6:00 each day.

Subject-verb agreement problem

She walked around the block and then she **goes** into the store.

She walked around the block and then she **went** into the store.

Verb tense problems – shifting tense back and forth in the same paragraph

The breakfast cereals in the cupboard **is** made mostly of sugar.

The breakfast cereals in the cupboard **are** made mostly of sugar.

Subject-verb agreement

When we reach the coast.

When we reach the coast, we will go straight to the beach.

Sentence fragment

The first test was **easy we** had already practiced.

The first test was easy; we had already practiced.

Run-on sentence – corrected with semi-colon to divide two independent clauses.

The first test was **easy, we** had already practiced.

The first test was easy. We had already practiced.

Comma splice – corrected by splitting into two separate sentences.

The first test was easy we had already practiced.

The first test was easy because we had already practiced.

Run-on sentence – corrected by adding a conjunction between two clauses

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE:

A Writer's Resource, 2nd edition, Tab 9, "Editing for Clarity," p. 403 – 458.

A Writer's Reference, 6th edition, Tab W, "Word Choice," p. 123 – 160.

A Writer's Reference, 7th edition, Tab W, "Word Choice," p. 139 – 172.

Simon & Schuster Writer's Handbook, 7th edition, chapter 20, p. 343 – 362.

Writing Intensive, part 6, section 36, p. 257- 270.

Sentence Skills with Readings, chapter 31, p. 365 - 383.