

Grammar Rules Snaps..



1. Complete Sentence

- Independent clause = a complete thought with a SUBJECT and verb ☺
(The GIRL went to the store.)
- Dependent clause = an incomplete thought ☹ (Went to the store.)

2. Run-On Sentences

- a. You cannot have 2 independent clauses smooshed together. (She went to the party she had fun. ☹) You must do one of the following to correct it:
- Make the sentences into 2 separate sentences. (She went to the party. She had fun.)
 - Put a semi colon (;) in between them. (She went to the party; she had fun.)
 - Put a comma (,) and conjunction (*and, but, for, so*) in between them. (She went to the party, and she had fun.)
- b. You CANNOT simply put a comma (,) in between them. (She went to the party, she had fun. ☹) This is called a comma splice.

3. Commas

- a. Separate CITY, STATE (Franklin, Virginia) and DATE (June 22, 1982)
- b. Separate 2 adjectives (The tall, thin girl was arrested.)
- c. Items in a series (I have to buy Snickers, Diet Dr. Pepper, and a lot of chocolate from the store.)
- d. Dependent clause that starts a sentence (Although she didn't study, Sarah still made a passing grade on the test.)
- e. Info that does not have to be in the sentence (Bob, the boy with the big pimple, asked me out. / The three items, the book, the pen, and the paper, were on the table.) ** *If you took out what was between the commas, the sentence would still make sense.*
- f. Separate quote from the rest of the sentence (She exclaimed, "This is the best class ever!")

4. Quotations

- a. "I would like to go," the girl said.
- b. The teacher said, "**P**lease stop shooting spit balls at me."
- c. "This is awesome!" she said. / "Would you like to go?" she asked.
- d. "If it were up to me," he said, "I would totally ask her out!"
- e. Indirect quote—*The teacher said **that** we were the best class.* NO quotation marks needed...it's not the exact words of the person.

5. Subject – Verb Agreement

- a. The subject (what/who the sentence is about) and the **verb** (the action) must agree in NUMBER. (The girl **walks** down the hall. = singular)
(The girls **walk** down the hall. = plural)

- b. If two subjects are joined by AND, the verb is plural. (Sam and Jane **walk** together.)
- c. If two subjects are joined by OR/NOR, look at the subject closest to the verb. (The teacher or the girls **walk** down the hall. / Neither the girls nor the teacher **walks** down the hall.)
- d. Special cases:

SINGULAR PRONOUNS			
Someone	somebody	something	another
Another	anybody	anyone	anything
Nobody	no one	nothing	everybody
Everyone	everything	either	neither
Each	much	one	
PLURAL PRONOUNS			
Few	both	several	many other
SINGULAR OR PLURAL			
Some	all	most	none half of

6. Comparative and Superlative Adjectives

ADJECTIVE = describes a person, place, or thing (The boy was ugly and smelly.)

ADVERB = describes an action (The snow fell quietly on the grass.)

- a. To compare 2 things, add –er (if 2 or less syllables) to the end of the word OR add the word MORE in front of it (if 3 or more syllables)
(She was smarter than the boy. / The flower was more beautiful than the plant.)
- b. To compare more than 2 things, add –est (if 2 or less syllables) to the end of the word OR add the word MOST in front of it (if 3 or more syllables)
(She is the smartest in the class. / The rose is the most beautiful flower.)

7. Pronoun – Antecedent

PRONOUN = used in place of a noun

- a. Pronoun and the word it replaces (**antecedent**) must agree in GENDER and NUMBER. (**Lisa** said her book was on the table. / Lisa had many **books**.

They were on her table.)

- 1st Person: I, we,
- 2nd Person: You
- 3rd Person: he, his, she, her, it, they, them

- b. The following indefinite pronouns are always SINGULAR:

Either	anybody	somebody	everybody
nobody	each	neither	anyone
someone	everyone	no one	one
other	anything	something	everything
nothing			

- c. The following indefinite pronouns are always PLURAL:

8. C Both few many several others

COMMON NOUNS = name non-specific people, places, things, or ideas (school)
PROPER NOUNS = name specific people, places, things, or ideas (Southampton Middle School)

In 1880 the Mallory family built one of the first successful playhouses in the area and named it Madison Square Theater.

In this sentence, how is Mallory family built one of the first successful playhouses in the area and named it Madison Square Theater correctly written?

- A Mallory Family built one of the first successful playhouses in the area and named it Madison Square Theater
- B Mallory Family built one of the first successful playhouses in the area and named it Madison Square theater
- C Mallory Family built one of the first successful playhouses in the area and named it Madison Square theater
- D As it is

The answer is **D**. *Mallory* is a proper noun but *family* is NOT so it does not need to be capitalized (You don't go around saying, "Hello, Mrs. Mallory Family.")

Madison Square Theater is the ENTIRE name of the theater so it should be capitalized (just like *School* is part of the name *Southampton Middle School* so it should be capitalized.)

** You have to determine if the word is part of the WHOLE name (like *Madison Square Theater*) or if it is not (like *family* was not).

9. Commonly Misused or Misspelled Words We will add words as needed.

- a. To, Two, Too (also / TOO many of something)
- b. Effect = NOUN; something that happens due to a cause (Her parent's divorce had many negative effects of her.)
Affect = VERB; to influence something (Her parent's divorce affected her greatly.)
- c. There (a place) / Their (shows possession)
- d. Its (show's possession) / It's (it is)
- e. Then (time—I'll do this and then that.) / Than (comparison—She is smarter than him.)
- f. Your (shows possession) / You're (you are)

Additional Examples:

