

# Student Writing

### 1. Missing comma after introductory element



# 3. Missing comma in a compound sentence

When two or more sentence parts are joined by and, but, so, yet, nor, or for, insert a comma to indicate a pause between the two thoughts.



# Wrong word

Avoid mixing up words that sound somewhat alike, using a word with

Pronouns should refer

clearly to a specific word

sentence, so that readers can

or words elsewhere in the

be sure whom or what

the pronoun refers to.

sentence or in a previous



he it

they she that who

which

the wrong shade of meaning, or using a word with a completely wrong meaning.

Vague pronoun reference

#### Missing comma with a nonrestrictive element

Start and end a non-restrictive clause with a comma



## 6. Wrong or missing verb ending

It's easy to forget the verb endings -s (or -es) and -ed (or -d) because they are not always pronounced clearly when spoken.

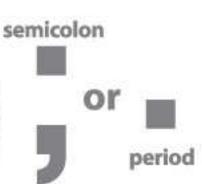


# 7. Wrong or missing preposition

Check your draft by circling all the prepositions and making certain they are the ones you meant to use, because specific prepositions express specific relationships.

#### 8. Comma splice

To correct a comma splice, you can insert a semicolon or period, add a word like and or although after the comma, or restructure the sentence.



# prepositions)

# Missing or misplaced possessive apostrophe

To make a noun possessive, noun you must add either an apostrophe and an -s (Ed's book) or an apostrophe alone (the boys' gym). NOTE: "it" is not a noun so the rule does not apply

#### 10. Unnecessary shift in tense

All the verb tenses in each of your sentences should work together appropriately



#### 11. Unnecessary shift in pronoun

This occurs when a writer who has been using one kind of pronoun to refer to someone or something shifts to another pronoun for no apparent reason.



# 12. Sentence fragment

Check your draft for sentence fragments by reading it out loud, backwards, sentence by sentence.



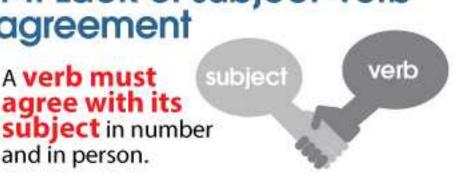
## 13. Wrong tense or verb form

Errors of wrong tense or wrong verb form include using a verb that does not indicate clearly when an



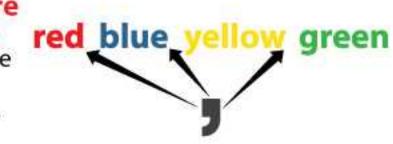
### 14. Lack of subject-verb agreement

A verb must agree with its subject in number



## 15. Missing commas in a series

When three or more items appear in a series, they should be separated from one another with commas.



# **How to Reduce Errors in Writing**

action or condition is,





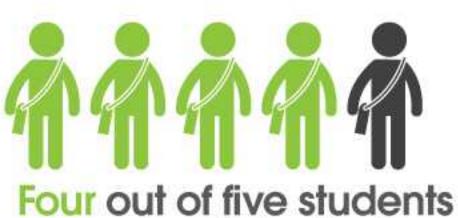








# Trends and Statistics on Student Writing



are not proficient writers







or more of the companies in the service, finance, insurance, and real estate sectors assess writing during hiring



RESOURCES: http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/everyday\_writer/20errors/

http://www.teachthought.com/industry/12-data-points-detailing-the-crisis-of-poor-writing-in-america/