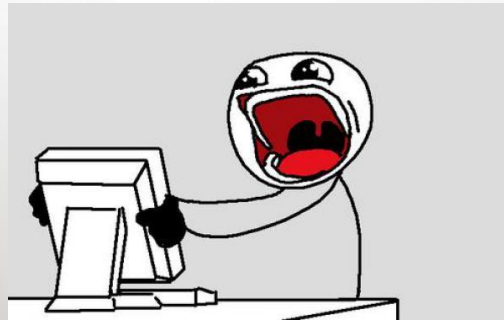


COMMON GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION MISTAKES

Write these notes down!



THEY, THEIR, & THEY'RE

❖ **THEY:** Plural pronoun for he, she, and it.

They have a lot of tacos to give away.

❖ **THEIR:** Possessive plural pronoun for he, she, and it.

*Unicorns have horns on **their** heads.*

❖ **THEY'RE:** Contraction. Counts as two words: “they” and “are.”

They're almost out of tacos in the cafeteria.

HOW THEY'RE CONFUSED

❖ “It’s time to give theyre dogs a bath.”

This is saying, “It’s time to give they are dogs a bath.” The correct word is “their.” It is “their” dogs.

❖ “Their going to the store to buy Choco Tacos for Grandma.”

This is saying that someone “owns” going to the store. This does not make sense. The correct word is “they’re.” “They are” going to the store.



COMMA SPLICE

- ❖ When a comma joins two clauses without a conjunction.
- ❖ A clause is a phrase that contains a subject and a predicate.

EXAMPLES

❖ “Chelsea is very smart, she began reading when she was three years old.”

This is a comma splice. “Chelsea is very smart” and “she began reading when she was three years old” are two independent clauses.

Here are ways to fix it:

- ❖ Chelsea is very smart. She began reading when she was three years old.
- ❖ Chelsea is very smart; she began reading when she was three years old.
- ❖ Chelsea is very smart, and she began reading when she was three years old.
- ❖ Because Chelsea is very smart, she began reading when she was three years old.

INCORRECT APOSTROPHES

- ❖ Apostrophes are used to show possession.
- ❖ However, you do not use an apostrophe after a possessive pronoun such as my, mine, our, ours, his, hers, its, their, or theirs.
- ❖ An apostrophe for “it’s” is a contraction for “it is.”
Apostrophes are needed to make a contraction, or combination of two words.

EXAMPLES

❖ “This is my mothers purple polka-dot scuba gear.”

This says you have more than one mother. The scuba gear belongs to your mother. Adding an apostrophe tells us that.

❖ “This is my mother’s purple polka-dot scuba gear.”

❖ “Its time to go ride our unicorns into the sunset.”

This says that something possesses time to go ride our unicorns. It is trying to say, “it is time to go ride our unicorns into the sunset.”

You need the contraction “it’s” with an apostrophe to say this.

A decorative white floral border with intricate scrollwork and leaf patterns surrounds the central text. The border is symmetrical and frames the entire page.

SUBJECT / VERB AGREEMENT

- ❖ When speaking or writing in the present tense, a sentence must have subjects and verbs that agree in number.
- ❖ If the subject is singular, the verb must be singular.
- ❖ If the subject is plural, the verb must be plural as well.

EXAMPLES

❖ Incorrect: “The recipes is good for beginning chefs.”

“Is” describes a singular subject. There is more than one recipe.

❖ Correct: “The recipes are good for beginning chefs.”

“Are” describes a plural subject.



MORE MISTAKES

❖ Use the internet to research the following mistakes:

1. Misplaced modifiers
2. Incorrect use of semicolons
3. Commonly misspelled words
4. Sentence fragments
5. Incorrect use of quotation marks
6. Incorrect capitalization