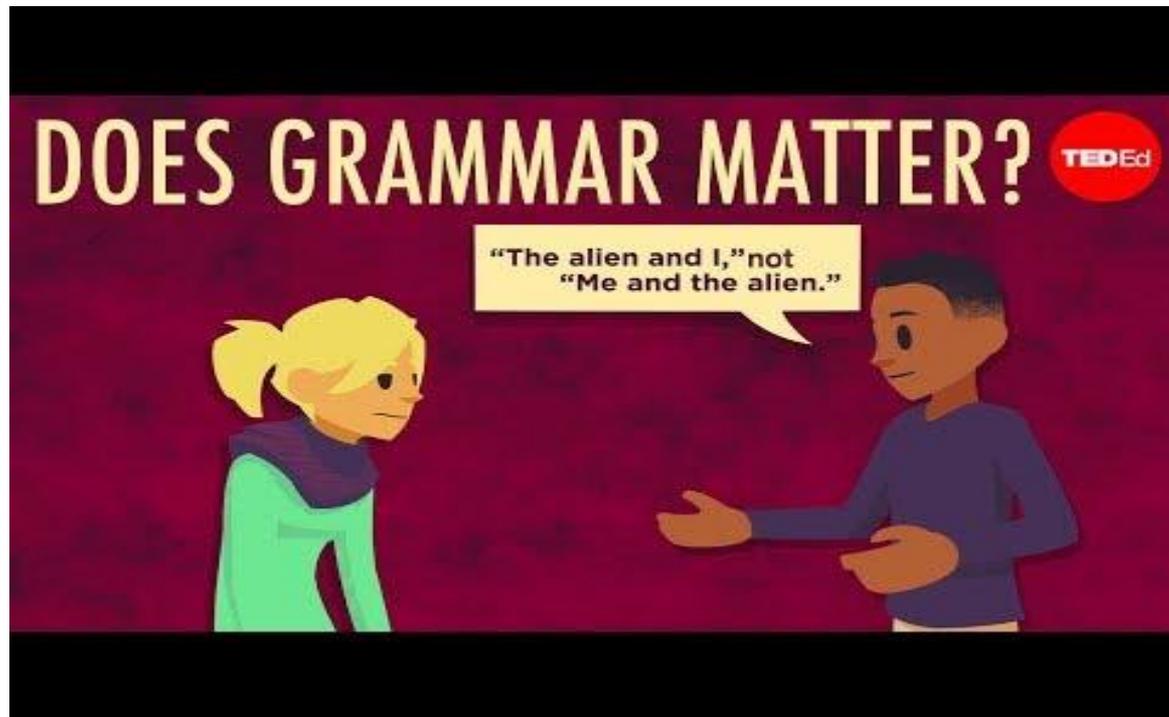


Common Writing Errors

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a red eraser, erasing the word "MISTAKES" written in bold black letters on a piece of lined paper. The eraser is positioned over the right side of the word, and some of the ink is being removed, leaving a smudge. The paper has horizontal blue lines. The word "MISTAKES" is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font.

MISTAKES

Does Grammar Matter?



Common Writing Errors

Guess the common error.



Common Writing Errors

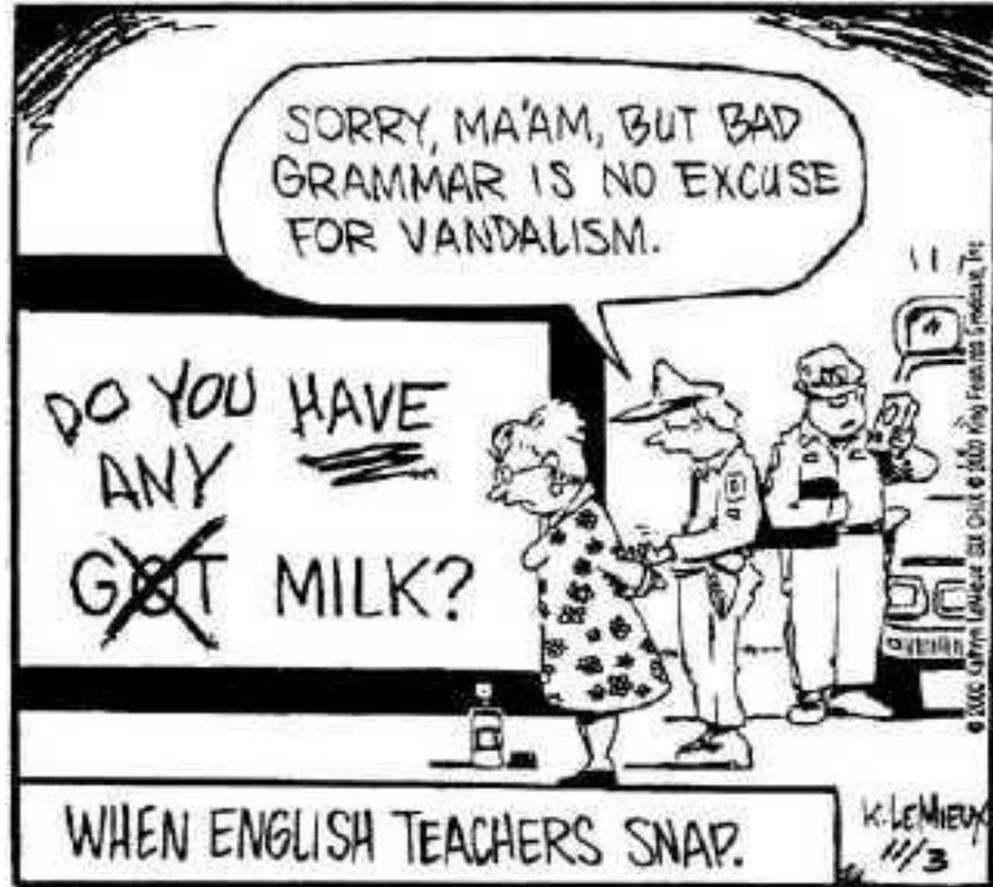
SPELLING



- Do not rely on your computer's spell check
- Examine each word individually by reading carefully
- If necessary, check a dictionary to see that each word is spelled correctly

Common Writing Errors

Guess the common error(s).



Common Writing Errors

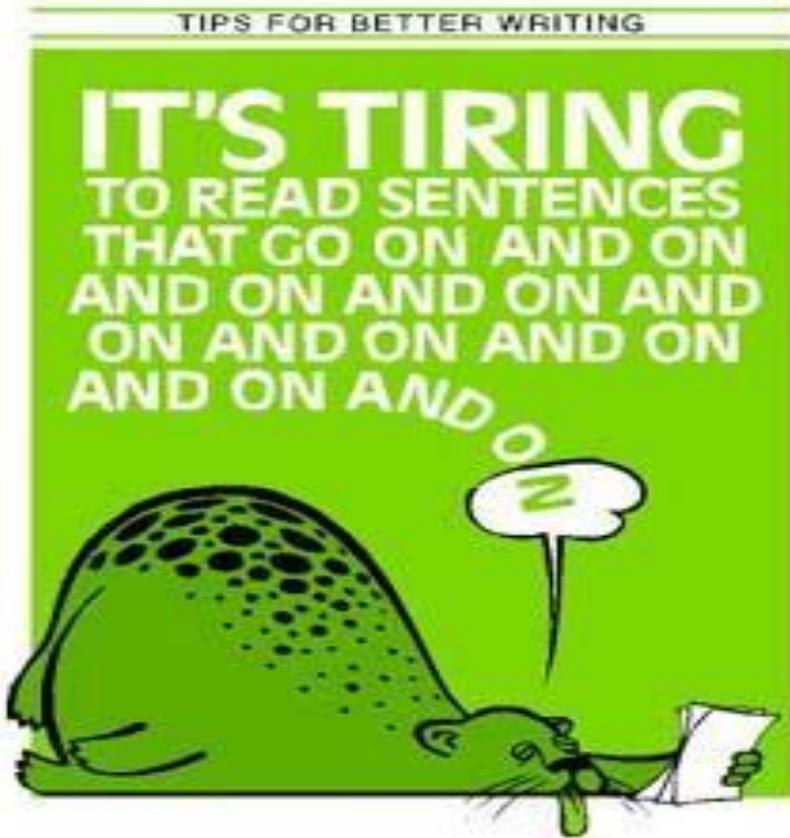
A **sentence fragment** is part of a sentence that is written as if it were a whole sentence, with a capital letter at the beginning and a period, a question mark, or an exclamation point at the end. A fragment may lack a **subject**, a complete **verb**, or both. Other fragments may begin with a **subordinating conjunction**, such as *because*, and so depend for their meaning on another sentence. Reading your draft out loud, backwards, sentence by sentence, will help you spot sentence fragments.

Sentence Fragments

-



Common Writing Errors



Guess the common error.

Common Writing Errors

A **run-on sentence** has more than one independent clause

- **For example:** I have to write a research paper for my class about extreme sports all I know about the subject is that I'm interested in it.
- **Edited version:** I have to write a research paper for my class about extreme sports, and all I know about the subject is that I'm interested in it.
- **Another option:** I have to write a research paper for my class about extreme sports. All I know about the subject is that I'm interested in it.

Common Writing Errors



Guess the common error(s)

Common Writing Errors

- **A comma splice** occurs when only a comma separates **clauses** that could each stand alone as a sentence. To correct a comma splice, you can insert a semicolon or period, connect the clauses clearly with a word such as *and* or *because*, or restructure the sentence.

Grammar Assistance



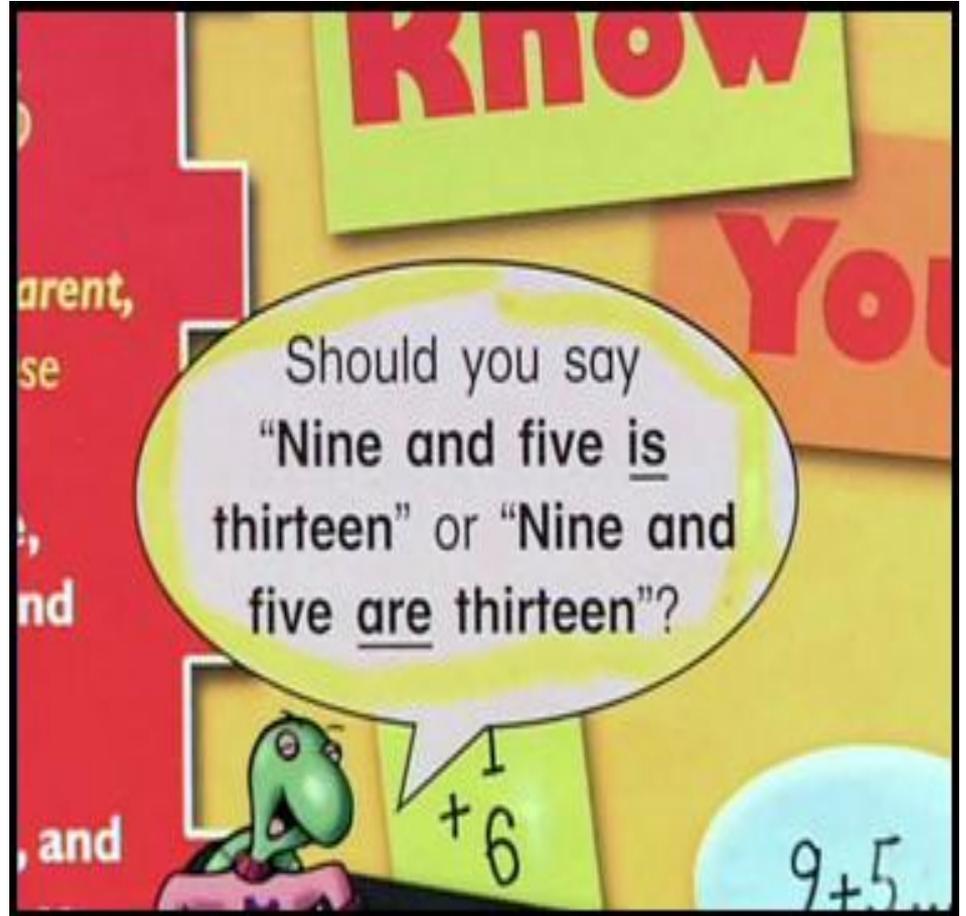
Grammar Assistance

HOW TO USE A COMMA



Common Writing Errors

Guess the common error(s)



Common Writing Errors

Subject – Verb Agreement

- When subjects and verbs agree, they match in number and person.
- In other words, singular subject match singular verbs, and plural subject match plural verbs.

Subject-Verb Agreement

Singular noun

● The school orchestra plays its spring concert tonight.

Knew that popcorn was a bad idea.



shmoop
shmoop.com

The image is a slide from a video lesson. It features a white background with a black border. At the top, the title 'Subject-Verb Agreement' is written in a large, black, serif font. Below the title, the sentence 'The school orchestra plays its spring concert tonight.' is written in a black, sans-serif font. The words 'school orchestra' are circled in green, and the word 'orchestra' is also underlined in green. Above the circle, the text 'Singular noun' is written in green. To the left of the sentence, there is a grey dot. Below the sentence, there is a cartoon illustration of an orchestra. The characters are stylized with large heads and small bodies. They are holding various instruments: a saxophone, a flute, a clarinet, and a trumpet. One character has a speech bubble that says 'Knew that popcorn was a bad idea.' In the bottom right corner, there is a logo for 'shmoop' and the website 'shmoop.com'.

Common Writing Errors

Guess the error(s)



Common Writing Errors

- **"Wrong word"** errors come in many varieties. They can be among the hardest errors to check for, because you may not be able to see what's wrong. They can involve mixing up words that sound somewhat alike, using a word with the wrong shade of meaning, or using a word with a completely wrong meaning. Many "wrong word" errors are due to the improper use of homonyms—words that are pronounced alike but spelled differently, such as *their* or *there*. If wrong words are a problem for you, ask classmates or a teacher to help you scan your draft for them.

Wrong Word Errors



References

- Comparison & Contrast Writing by Steven Federle
 - <http://www.federle.org/ComparisonandContrastWriting.ppt#273,19>, Grammar: parallelism
- Purdue Online Writing Lab

Additional Resources

<https://courses.lumenlearning.com/wm-englishcomposition1/chapter/video-punctuation-concerns/>