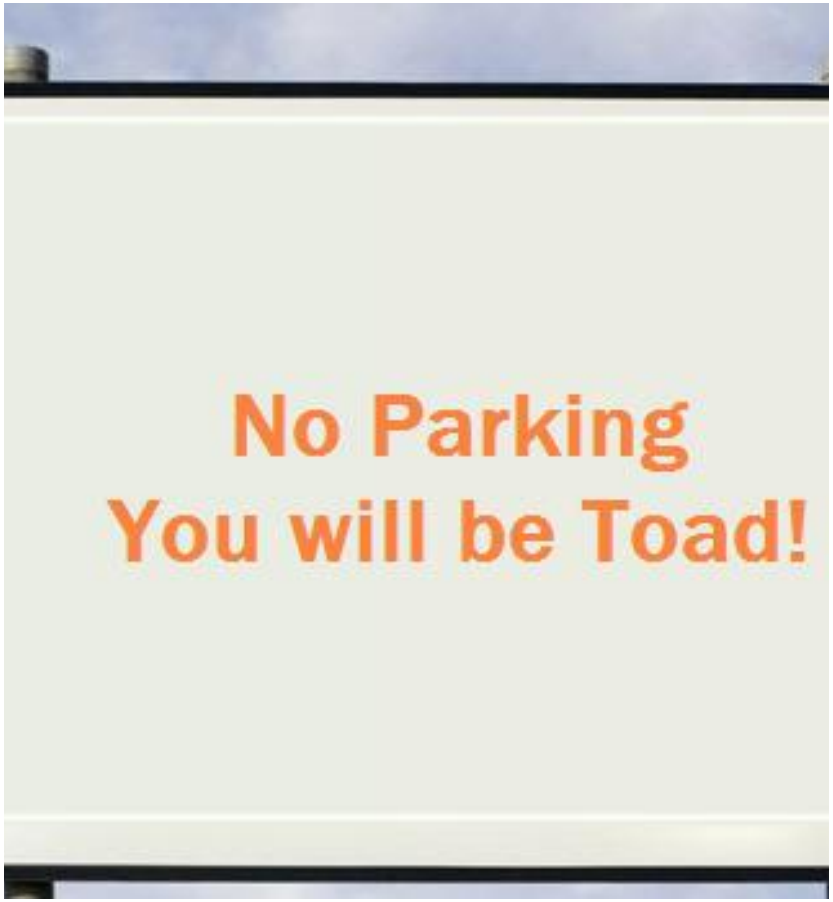
Common Writing Errors

Does Grammar Matter?

Common Writing Errors



Guess the common error.

Common Writing Errors

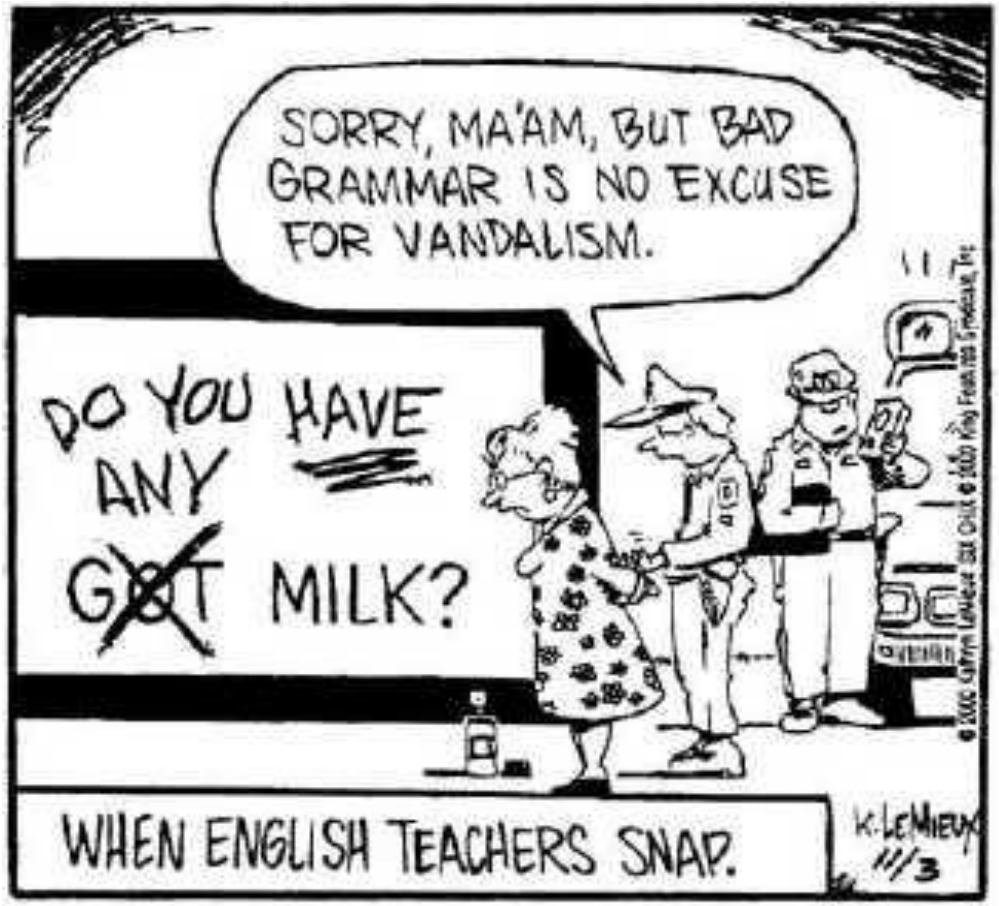
SPELLING

- 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

Information adapted from Purdue OWL
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/561/2/

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.

Information on slide adapted from http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com

Sentence Fragments

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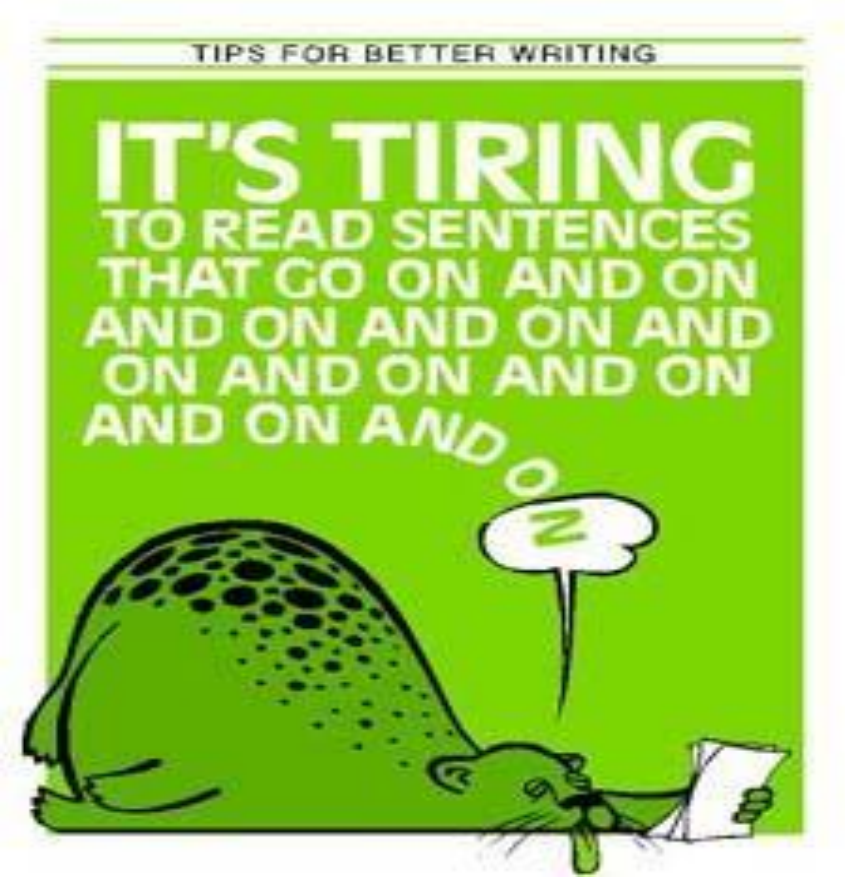
Common Writing Errors



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.

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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.

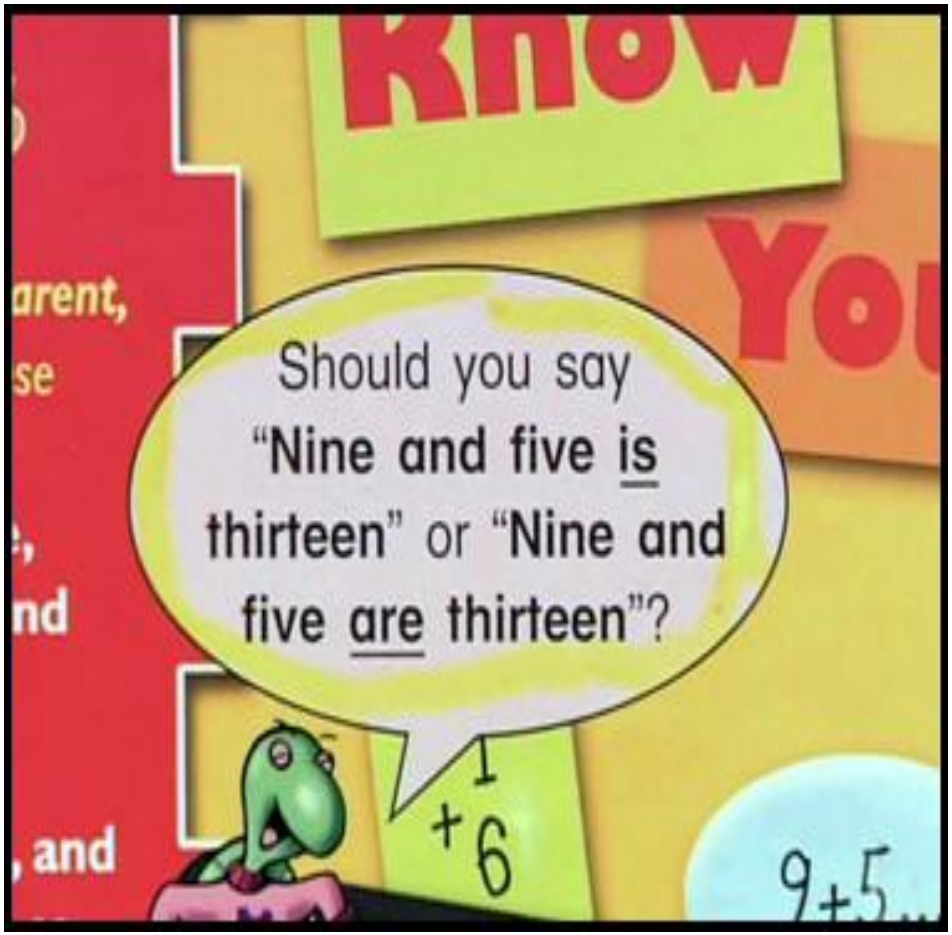
Information on slide adapted from http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com

Grammar Assistance

Grammar Assistance

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

Common Writing Errors

Guess the error(s)

Information on slide adapted from http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com

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.

Information on slide adaptedfromhttp://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com

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/