



MAJOR ERRORS IN WRITING THE FATAL MISTAKES!

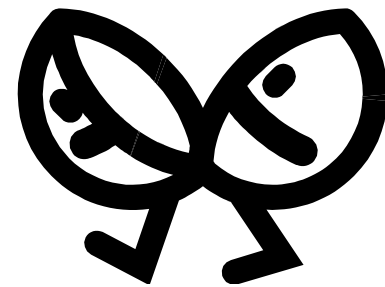
Four will earn your paper a low grade
– be careful and vigilant about these
errors!



In Xanadu did Kubla Khan
A stately Pleasure-Dome decree,
Where Alph, the sacred River, ran
Through caverns measureless to Man
Down to a sunless Sea.
To horse six miles of fertile ground
With walls and towers were emplaced round,
And here were Gardens bright with verdant hills
Where blossom'd many an incense-bearing tree,
And here were forests ancient as the Hills,
Infilling sunny spots of Greenery,
But a third deep romantic Chasm, that slants
Down a green Hill, abundant cedars covers,
A savage Place, as holy and incanted
As ever beneath a morning Morn was haunted
By Harpings waiting for her Steamer-Lovers
From forth this chasm, with hideous Tumult issuing,
As if this vault or fast thick Parts were breaking,
A mighty Tervagitan momentarily was forced,
Down whose swift half-intermitted Bust
Huge fragments vaulted like rebounding hail,
Or chaffy Gull in billows the Kites' Stalks
And mid these dancing Kecks at once given
To flying at momentary the sacred River
Three miles meandering with a mazy Motion
Thro' wood and Dale the sacred River ran,
Then reached the caverns measureless to Man,
And sank in tumult to a lifeless Ocean,
And mid this tumult Culla heard from far
Ancestral Voices prophesying War.
The habitude of the Slave of Pleasure
Flooded meadow on the lower
Where was heard the mangled Music
From the Fountain and the lower
It was a miracle of man's device

1. Sentence Fragment an incomplete sentence

Often sentence fragments are phrases or subordinate clauses – fix them by making them independent clauses or connecting them to adjoining sentence.



Ex.

I like butter pecan icecream. Because the taste is sweet and nutty.

The girl is a liar. For example, the story she told about the cats.

He reached the top. Panting and puffing all the way.

Now complete sentences:

I like butter pecan icecream. The taste is sweet and nutty.

I like butter pecan icecream, since the taste is sweet and nutty.

The girl is a liar; for example, the story she told about the cats is false.

He reached the top, panting and puffing all the way.

2. and 3. Comma Splices/Run-on Sentences

- **Comma Splice:**

Two or more independent clauses joined by a comma.



- **Run-On Sentence (fused sentence): There is no conjunction or punctuation joining two independent clauses.**

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Examples

The party was fun, Steve stayed until three a.m.

The party was fun Steve stayed until three a.m.

C-S: I ran over some broken glass in the parking lot, it did not puncture my tires.

I ran over some broken glass in the parking lot, but it did not puncture my tires.

Although I ran over some broken glass in the parking lot, the glass did not puncture my tires.

R-O: She wrote him a love letter he answered it in person.

She wrote him a love letter. He answered it in person.

She wrote him a love letter; he answered it in person.

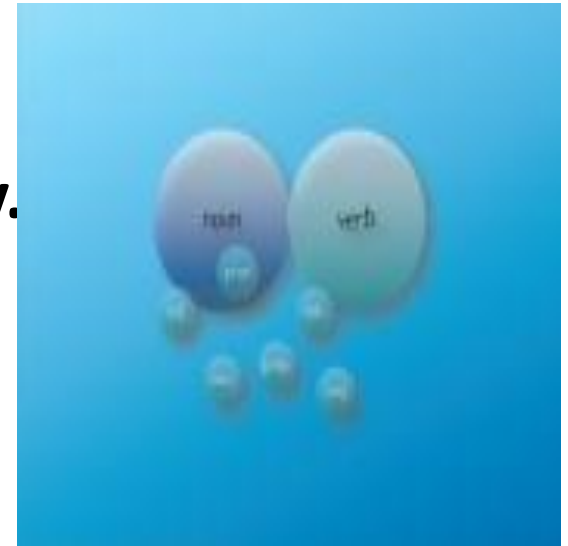
4. Disagreement of Subject and Verb

a singular subject takes a singular verb, and a plural subject takes a plural verb.

Ex:

- **Sing:** The car in the lot looks shabby.
- **Plural:** The cars in the lot look shabby.

- **S:** The rose in the vase is wilted.
- **P:** The roses in the vase are wilted.



If the subject of your sentence is singular but is not I or you, the verb needs the –s ending:

- The student needs attention.
- The zinnia blooms best in the sun.

indefinites



****each, either, one, everybody, and anyone are considered SINGULAR and require SINGULAR verbs**

Each has bought a first-class ticket.

Everybody in our apartment building has a parking space.

****all, any, some, none, half, and most can be either singular or plural.**

****Use a singular verb with singular subjects preceded by EVERY or EACH and joined by AND:**

Every cat and dog in the county has to be vaccinated.

Each fork and spoon has to be dried carefully.

5. Pronoun Error (case, agreement, reference)

Pronouns should agree in number and gender with the noun and phrase (antecedent- the noun that the pronoun refers to) to which they refer.

The cousins gave us their help.

George gave us his help willingly. Lucinda, on the other hand, gave us her help grudgingly.

(remember that the indefinite pronouns each, either, one, everybody, and anyone are considered singular)

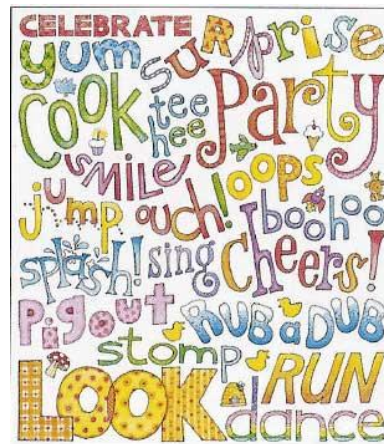
Everyone needs to give his/her time to help with the fundraiser.

Anyone can donate a few of his/her dollars for the cause.

A person must realize that he/she is a member of the community and pitch in with the work.

6. Verb Error (principal part, tense, shift)

You should be proficient with which principal part of the verb to use in a sentence. You must be consistent with tense and not shift tenses in the writing of a paper.



Active and Passive Voices

Active voice emphasizes the DOER of the action by making the doer the subject of the sentence.

Passive voice emphasizes the RECEIVER of the action, minimizes the role of the doer, and results in wordier sentences (usually one can identify passive voice when a form of “to be” verb is added to the action)

A: Sylvia won the race. P: The race was won by Sylvia.

A: All citizens should insist on adequate medical care.

P: Adequate medical care should be insisted on by all citizens.

7. Misspelled Words

- Fortunately, we will have the computers for writing papers – **BRING A THUMB DRIVE** for your papers.
- By writing on computers, you should be able to use spell check which will help!
- **I WANT YOU** to be successful!

