



10 DEADLY SINS OF WRITING

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SIN #1: THE SENTENCE FRAGMENT

- ♣ A sentence fragment is a partial or incomplete thought that is used as a complete sentence.
 - Ex: When I tripped on the curb.
 - Re: When I tripped on the curb, I split my pants right down the middle.

SIN #2: THE RUN-ON

- ♣ The run-on is where two (or more) complete thoughts or phrases are written as a single sentence without separation.
 - Ex: Dave went to the store to buy some beer he forgot his wallet.
 - Re: Dave went to the store to buy some beer. However, he forgot his wallet.

SIN #3: THE COMMA SPLICE & FUSED SENTENCES

- ♣ This is a type of run-on sentence where two (or more) complete sentences are connected with only a comma.
 - Ex: Collin works out, he is the strongest guy in the class.
 - Re: Because Collin works out, he is the strongest guy in the class.

Sin #4: Lack of Agreement

- ♣ A lack of agreement occurs when the subject does not agree with the verb (both not singular or both not plural).
 - Ex: The coach as well as the team are actively trying to recruit new players.
 - Re: The coach, as well as, the team is actively trying to recruit new players.

SIN #5: INCONSISTENT TENSE

- ♣ You can have inconsistent tense when the tense of two (or more) verbs in a sentence do not agree.
 - Ex: She forgot that she needs to do some homework for her math class.
 - Re: She forgot that she needed to do some homework for her math class.

SIN #6: POOR PARALLELISM

- ♣ Poor parallelism is a grammatical mistake whereby there is an awkward lack of balance in the creation of lists and series.
 - Ex: I glanced out the window and saw an elm tree, a tree with bright red fruit, and a large bush.
 - Re: I glanced out the window and saw an elm tree, an apple tree, and large bush.

SIN #7: DANGLING MODIFIERS

- ♣ Simply put, dangling modifiers describe or reference words that never actually appear in a sentence.
 - Ex: Driving down the street, the weather seemed to be changing rather quickly.
 - Re: Driving down the street, I noticed the weather seemed to be changing rather quickly.



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SIN #8: PASSIVE VOICE

- ♠ With a passive voice, the subject of a sentence becomes the receiver of the action. Basically, nothing or no one is performing the action (usually a form of “to be”).
 - Ex: The haunted house at the top of the hill was greatly feared by us.
 - Re: We feared the haunted house at the top of the hill.

SIN #9: REDUNDANCY

- ♠ As the term implies, redundancy is the overuse or needless use of words.
 - Ex: She was totally the tallest girl in the classroom.
 - Re: She was the tallest girl in the classroom.
 - Ex: To fix the car, you will need both a wrench and a screwdriver.
 - Re: To fix the car, you will need a wrench and a screwdriver.

SIN #10: INEXACTNESS/IMPRECISION

- ♠ Say what you mean! When writing, make sure you use words and phrases which correctly convey your meaning.
 - Ex: In an attempt to levitate the situation, the police officer backed off a few steps.
 - Re: In an attempt to alleviate the situation, the police office backed off a few steps.