

GRAMMAR: FINDING OUR VOICE!

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● WORD CRIMES



ERRORS

Using these criteria, Smith and Wilhelm identify o
taking the time to teach:

- Adjective
- Adverb
- Agreement
- Antecedent
- Compound
- Conjunction
- Interjection
- Noun
- Participle
- Passive and active
- Phrase, clause, and sentence
- Preposition
- Pronoun
- Singular and plural
- Subject and predicate
- Verb (15)

To this reasonable list we must, of course, add
in the Common Core Standards.

Figure 7.5, a two-page reference, provide
about the finer points of the sentence an over
she had little or no

students to focus on the function and

The Top 20 Most Common Writing Errors

This list shows the most common errors in college fresh-
man writing according to Lunsford and Lunsford (2008).
It has evolved since first appearing in 1986, the most
recent version reflecting the effects (both good and bad)
technology has had on writing. Conducted by Lunsford and
Lunsford through the 2008 Stanford Study of Writing, they
found these to be the most common errors:

1. Wrong word
2. Missing comma after an introductory element
3. Incomplete or missing documentation
4. Vague pronoun reference
5. Spelling (including homonyms)
6. Mechanical error with a quotation
7. Unnecessary comma
8. Unnecessary and missing capitalization
9. Missing word
10. Faulty sentence structure
11. Missing comma with a nonrestrictive element
12. Unnecessary shift in verb tense
13. Missing comma in a compound sentence
14. Unnecessary or missing apostrophe (including its/it's)
15. Fused (run-on) sentence
16. Comma splice
17. Lack of pronoun-antecedent agreement
18. Poorly integrated quotation
19. Unnecessary or missing hyphen
20. Sentence fragment (795)

WHAT DOES THE RESEARCH SAY?



- **TEACHERS ARE INSECURE IN THEIR GRAMMAR KNOWLEDGE**
- **FORMAL GRAMMAR TEACHING HAS NOT IMPROVED OVERALL READING AND WRITING QUALITY**
- **[HTTP://WWW.EDWEEK.ORG/EW/ARTICLES/2016/02/24/WILL-THE-COMMON-CORE-STEP-UP-SCHOOLS.HTML](http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2016/02/24/will-the-common-core-step-up-schools.html)**

INEXTRICABLY CONNECTED



- **LACKING LANGUAGE STRUCTURES TO
SUFFICIENTLY EXPRESS COMPLEX IDEAS**
- **SPEAK TO OUR OWN SENSE OF COMPETENCY &
OUR GENERAL IDENTITY**

SENTENCE COMBINING

- **BARACK OBAMA LIVED IN SPRINGFIELD ILLINOIS.**
 - **HE IS THE 44TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.**
 - **SPRINGFIELD IS THE HOMETOWN OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.**
- **BARACK OBAMA, THE 44TH PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. PREVIOUSLY LIVED IN SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS, THE HOMETOWN OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.**

SENTENCE COMPOSING

- SENTENCE UNSCRAMBLING

- SENTENCE IMITATING

- SENTENCE COMBINING

- SENTENCE EXPANDING

- UNSCRAMBLING:

- 1A STRUGGLED AS USUAL

- SHE

- TO MAINTAIN HER CALM, FRIENDLY BEARING

- A SORT OF MASK SHE WORE ALL OVER HER BODY

APPOSITIVES (OF AN ADJECTIVE OR ADJECTIVAL PHRASE) DIRECTLY FOLLOWING THE NOUN IT MODIFIES)

- **SHE STRUGGLES AS USUAL TO MAINTAIN HER CALM, COMPOSED, FRIENDLY BEARING, A SORT OF MASK
SHE WORE ALL OVER HER BODY**

MODELS

WITHOUT APPOSITIVES

- IT WENT AWAY SLOWLY.
- THAT NIGHT IN THE SOUTH UPSTAIRS CHAMBER EMMETT LAY IN A KIND OF TRANCE.

WITH APPOSITIVES

- IT WENT AWAY SLOWLY, THAT FEELING OF DISAPPOINTMENT THAT CAME SHARPLY AFTER THE THRILL THAT MADE HIS SHOULDERS ACHE.
 - ERNEST HEMINGWAY, "BIG TWO-HEARTED RIVER, PART I"
- THAT NIGHT IN THE SOUTH UPSTAIRS CHAMBER, A HOT LITTLE ROOM WHERE A FULL-LEAFED CHINABERRY TREE SHUT ALL THE AIR FROM THE SINGLE WINDOW, EMMETT LAY IN A KIND OF TRANCE.
 - JESSAMYN WEST, "A TIME OF LEARNING"

KNOWING THE GRAMMATICAL STRUCTURES

- **RESEARCH IS SHOWING THE PARTICULAR TYPES OF GRAMMAR ARE CLUSTERED IN PARTICULAR TYPES OF COMMUNICATION:**
 - **NARRATIVES:**
 - **PAST TENSE VERBS (MOSTLY SIMPLE PAST BUT PAST PERFECT, PAST PROGRESSIVE, AND SOMETIMES WOULD/COULD FOR PAST TIME MEANINGS)**
 - **ADVERBS WITH PAST TIME REFERENCE**
 - **CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER (SIGNALLED BY THOSE ADVERBIALS)**
 - **PROPER NOUNS (FOR THE NAMES OF PEOPLE AND PLACES)**
 - **PERSONAL PRONOUNS (TO REFER TO THOSE PEOPLE AND PLACES)**

- **NARRATIVE GRAMMAR IN A HISTORY BOOK FOR YOUNG READERS
FROM "COTTON-PICKING DAYS"
MARTHA MCLEOD BETHUNE**

MARY IANE, THE FIFTEENTH CHILD OF SEVENTEEN, WAS BORN ON JULY 10, 1875, IN MAYESVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA. LOOKING INTO HER NEW DAUGHTER'S OPEN EYES, PATSY MCLEON, AN EX-SLAVE, THOUGHT, "SHE WILL SHOW US THE WAY OUT."

NEITHER PATSY NOR MARY'S FATHER, SAMUEL, HAD A SURNAME UNTIL SAMUEL CHOSE MCLEOD, HIS EX-MASTER'S FAMILY NAME.

TALL AND MUSCULAR, SAMUEL WAS A KIND, SKILLFUL CARPENTER AND FARMER, WHO ALSO WORKED WELL WITH LEATHER AND TIN. PATSY COOKED NEARBY IN THE BIG MCINTOSH HOUSE. SMALL AND LITHE, SHE WALKED WITH THE QUEENLY GRACE OF HER ROYAL AFRICAN ANCESTORS. HER SMILE LIT SAMUEL'S HEART.

WHEN SAMUEL ASKED MCLEOD FOR PERMISSION TO MARRY PATSY, HIS MASTER AGREED. BUT FIRST SAMUEL HAD TO EARN THE MONEY TO BUY HER. SO AFTER DOING A NORMAL DAY'S WORK, HE LABORED FOR OTHER FARMERS, AND, IN TWO YEARS, THE LOVING COUPLE CELEBRATED THEIR WEDDING.

SOME RESOURCES

- **TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD IN THE CLASSROOM** [HTTPS://SECURE.NCTE.ORG/LIBRARY/NCTEFILES/RESOURCES/BOOKS/SAMPLE/25519CHAP04_X.PDF](https://secure.ncte.org/library/NCTEfiles/Resources/Books/sample/25519chap04_X.pdf)
- [HTTP://WWW2.GSU.EDU/~ESLHPB/GRAMMAR/LECTURE_7/NARRATIVE.HTML](http://www2.gsu.edu/~eslhpB/GRAMMAR/LECTURE_7/NARRATIVE.HTML)
- [HTTP://FORUMS.THETEACHERSCORNER.NET/SHOWTHREAD.PHP?10162-HOW-DO-YOU-TEACH-GRAMMAR-IN-CONTEXT](http://forums.theteacherscorner.net/showthread.php?10162-how-do-you-teach-grammar-in-context)