

Included in this note:

1. Ambiguity (AMB)
2. Vagueness (VAG)
3. Email (start in DGD and follow-up in next lecture)
4. Wordiness postponed to next week's lecture (CP 33-39, 284-288)

From the latin word meaning Undecided

An Ambiguous word has different (usually two) possible meanings

Each pronoun must be clearly identified with a noun. The pronoun should not point to more than one referent in the sentence.

Examples of an AMB sentence:

"The microprocessor interfaced directly with the 7055 RAM chip. It runs at 5MHz"

Should read

"The microprocessor interfaced directly with the 7055 RAM chip. The 7055 runs at 5MHz"

OR

"The microprocessor interfaced directly with the 7055 RAM chip, which runs at 5MHz"

Example of an AMB sentence:

"Our records now include all developments reports for B-44 engines received from JPL."

Should read

"Our records now include all B-44 engine development reports received from JPL"

(C.P. 32)

Example of an AMB sentence:

"Victoria's mother did not tell Victoria that she was next in line to the throne after William IV"

Should read

"Victoria's mother did not tell Victoria that she,Victoria, was next in line to the throne after William IV"

Example of an AMB sentence:

"Rosepen, out editorial software, will transform the grading of university reports; however it will take time."

TO

"Rosepen, out editorial software, will transform the grading of university reports; however it will likely be adopted only in 1-2 years."

Dangling Modifier:

When the modifier does not directly affect the pronoun or noun that follows it.

Example of a Dangling Modifier:

“After testing at the high temperature, the company accepted the new chip”

TO

“The company accepted the new chip after it tested out at high temperature”

Example of a Dangling Modifier:

“Being so well known in the computer industry, I would like your advice”

TO

“Since you are so well known in the computer industry, I would appreciate your advice”

Confusing

“For anyone who had children and does not know it, there is a daycare on the first floor”

TO

“There is a first floor for anyone who has children”

DEAR - Acronym stands for: Drop everything and read

QUANT - You should add a quantitative information if possible

Beware of false/unnecessary precision:

For example: What format exactly should i follow for my report?