

## All Megablunders 1

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CORRECTED VERSIONS ARE SUGGESTIONS ONLY; OTHER ANSWERS ARE POSSIBLE.

1. ORIGINAL SENTENCE: Although said to be lively, affectionate, and easy to train, I cannot imagine why anyone would want such an ill-looking dog.

ERROR: DM or MM

CORRECTED VERSION: Although the Schnauzer is said to be lively, affectionate, and easy to train, I cannot imagine why anyone would want such an ill-looking dog.

EXPLANATION: *An introductory participle, such as "said," must modify the subject of the sentence. As originally written, the structure suggested that "I" am "lively, affectionate, and easy to train." Changing the participial phrase to a clause with a subject eliminates the problem.*

2. ORIGINAL SENTENCE: This little ball of fur, originating from Germany, only stands at most 12 inches high.

ERROR: MM

CORRECTED VERSION: This little ball of fur, originating from Germany, stands at most only 12 inches high.

EXPLANATION: *"Only" relates to the height of the dog, not to whether it is standing, sitting, or lying down. When "only" and a number appear in the same sentence, "only" almost always modifies the number and should be placed before it.*

3. ORIGINAL SENTENCE: Thoroughbreds are bred to have long legs, big hearts and lungs, wide rib cages, light bones, and able to carry minimum weight at speeds up to 35 mph.

ERROR: PAR

CORRECTED VERSION: Thoroughbreds are bred to have long legs, big hearts and lungs, wide rib cages, and light bones and to carry minimum weight at speeds up to 35 mph.

EXPLANATION: *The list of objects of "to have" ends with "light bones." An adjective phrase, "able to carry," cannot be a parallel part of this list of noun phrases. In the corrected version, the idea of carrying has been expressed as an infinitive parallel to "to have."*

4. ORIGINAL SENTENCE: Everyone eats cereal, some eat it because it has a unique taste and others because they like to read the back of the cereal's box.

ERROR: ROS

CORRECTED VERSION: Everyone eats cereal; some eat it because it has a unique taste and others because they like to read the back of the cereal's box.

EXPLANATION: *"Everyone eats cereal" is a main clause; "some eat it..." is also a main clause. Unless connected by a coordinating conjunction, two main clauses must have a full stop--a period, semi-colon, or colon--between them.*

5. ORIGINAL SENTENCE: The ongoing modifications to the Mini Wheats package provides entertainment for dull mornings.

ERROR: AGREE

CORRECTED VERSION: The ongoing modifications to the Mini-Wheats package provide entertainment for dull mornings.

EXPLANATION: *The subject of the sentence is "modifications"--a plural; it must agree in number with the main verb.*

6. ORIGINAL SENTENCE: Fighting Freaks 7 is a very complicated game and appeals to someone whom has a lot of time on his hands.

ERROR: CASE

CORRECTED VERSION: Fighting Freaks 7 is a very complicated game and appeals to someone who has a lot of time on his hands.

EXPLANATION: *The case of a relative pronoun depends on what it does in its own clause; "who" is the subject of the clause "who has a lot of time on his hands" and must not have the object form "whom."*

7. ORIGINAL SENTENCE: Rated "Teen" by ESRB because of animated violence and very mild language, you can expect Fighting Freaks 7 to appear in the hands of teenagers during the summer.

ERROR: DM or MM

CORRECTED VERSION: Rated "Teen" by ESRB because of animated violence and very mild language, Fighting Freaks 7 will probably appear in the hands of teenagers during the summer.

EXPLANATION: *The original version of the sentence suggested that "you" had been given a rating for unwholesome content. To solve the problem, eliminate "you" and make "Fighting Freaks 7," which "Rated" logically modifies, the subject of the sentence.*

8. ORIGINAL SENTENCE: Bond is always in a helpless and vulnerable position, nevertheless he makes sarcastic remarks about the enemy's plan.

ERROR: ROS

CORRECTED VERSION: Bond is always in a helpless and vulnerable position; nevertheless, he makes sarcastic remarks about the enemy's plan.

EXPLANATION: *"Nevertheless" is a conjunctive adverb.. When a conjunctive adverb appears between two main clauses, a period or semi-colon is required before it. Often, a comma follows the conjunctive adverb.*

9. ORIGINAL SENTENCE: Thoroughbreds are intended primarily for racing, which means that they must be extremely fast.

ERROR: PR

CORRECTED VERSION: Because thoroughbreds are intended primarily for racing, they must be extremely fast.

EXPLANATION: *A pronoun must refer to a specific noun, not to an entire clause or idea. In the original sentence, "which" referred to the entire main clause. Removing the bad pronoun altogether is often the best solution for a PR problem; here the sentence becomes shorter and tighter and the cause-effect relationship becomes clearer.*

10. ORIGINAL SENTENCE: I carefully peel away the rough black paper that's partially stuck to the bottom of the chocolate cup with my right hand.

ERROR: MM

CORRECTED VERSION: With my right hand, I carefully peel away the rough black paper that's partially stuck to the bottom of the chocolate cup.

EXPLANATION: *The prepositional phrase "with my right hand" modifies "peel" and must be placed closer to "peel" than to "stuck." In a complex sentence, phrases and clauses that modify the main verb often work better at the beginning of the sentence than at the end.)*