

All Megablunders 4

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Each of the following sentences is correct or exemplifies a Mega-blunder. Possible Megablunders include ROS, FRAG, AGREE, PR, CASE, PAR, MM, DM. In the space to the left of the sentence, write either C for correct or the abbreviation for the Megablunder. For sentences containing an error, write a complete corrected version in the space below.

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CORRECTED VERSIONS ARE SUGGESTIONS ONLY; OTHER ANSWERS ARE POSSIBLE.

1.

ORIGINAL SENTENCE: After a mysterious but effective advertising campaign, Krusty loses the ratings war between Gabbo and he.

ERROR: CASE

CORRECTED VERSION: After a mysterious but effective advertising campaign, Krusty loses the ratings war between Gabbo and him.

EXPLANATION: *The pronoun at the end of the sentence is the object of the preposition "between" and must be in the object form.*

2.

ORIGINAL SENTENCE: The Gabbo show doesn't just dominate the market, it actually drives Krusty from the air.

ERROR: ROS

CORRECTED VERSION: The Gabbo show doesn't just dominate the market: it actually drives Krusty from the air.

EXPLANATION: *The original sentence contains two main clauses joined only by a comma. A full stop is necessary. Since the second clause explains the first one by telling what the Gabbo show does in addition to dominating, a colon is the most precise full stop to use here.*

3.

ORIGINAL SENTENCE: The ingenuous phrase that Gabbo uses repeatedly wins laughs from his audience.

ERROR: MM

CORRECTED VERSION: The ingenuous phrase that Gabbo uses wins laughs from his audience repeatedly.

EXPLANATION: *The adverb "repeatedly" in the original sentence is a "two-way" modifier--it could modify either of the two verbs that it comes between. Moving it to the end of the sentence clarifies the modification.*

4.

ORIGINAL SENTENCE: Inspired by their love for Krusty, who has been their favorite entertainer throughout their childhood, Bart and Lisa swing into action with a plan to rehabilitate him.

ERROR: NONE

5.

ORIGINAL SENTENCE: A ventriloquist's dummy should watch its back when it is both up against a determined clown and two wily kids.

ERROR: PAR

CORRECTED VERSION: A ventriloquist's dummy should watch his back when he is up against both a determined clown and two wily kids.

EXPLANATION: *The correlative conjunctions "both ... and" require parallel structure. In the original sentence, "both" is followed by a prepositional phrase ("up against a determined clown"), but "and" is followed by a noun phrase ("two wily kids"). The corrected sentence shifts the position of "both" so that it is also followed by a noun*

phrase.

6.

ORIGINAL SENTENCE: Bart reveals to Gabbo's fans that he has a weakness for indecent language.

ERROR: PR

CORRECTED VERSION: Bart reveals to Gabbo's fans that the puppet has a weakness for indecent language.

EXPLANATION: *In the original sentence, "he" might refer either to Bart or to Gabbo. Repeating Gabbo's name would be one fix, but substituting "the puppet" is as clear and slightly more elegant.*

7.

ORIGINAL SENTENCE: Soliciting the help of a large crew of celebrities, a Krusty comeback special is arranged by Bart and Lisa.

ERROR: DM

CORRECTED VERSION: Soliciting the help of a large crew of celebrities, Bart and Lisa arrange a Krusty comeback special.

EXPLANATION: *After an introductory participial phrase, the subject of the main clause must be the same as the implied subject of the participle. The writer of the original sentence runs astray by putting the main clause into passive voice; reframing it in active voice makes "Bart and Lisa" the subject and "undangles" the participle.*

8.

ORIGINAL SENTENCE: Featuring Bette Midler, who cozies up to Krusty and sings "You Are the Wind Beneath My Wings" in her smoky, sensual voice.

ERROR: FRAG

CORRECTED VERSION: The show features Bette Midler, who cozies up to Krusty and sings "You Are the Wind Beneath My Wings" in her smoky, sensual voice.

EXPLANATION: *The original sentence contains a verbal phrase ("Featuring Bette Middler") and a subordinate clause ("who cozies up..."), but no main clause. The corrected version converts the verbal phrase to a main clause.*

9.

ORIGINAL SENTENCE: With Johnny Carson, Luke Perry, and the Red Hot Chili Peppers all pitching in, the show is a tremendous hit, therefore the network decides to renew Krusty's contract.

ERROR: ROS

CORRECTED VERSION: With Johnny Carson, Luke Perry, and the Red Hot Chili Peppers all pitching in, the show is a tremendous hit; therefore the network decides to renew Krusty's contract.

EXPLANATION: *When a conjunctive adverb ("therefore") appears between two main clauses, it must be preceded by a full stop, not a comma.*

10.

ORIGINAL SENTENCE: Because they stuck by him and to thank them for organizing his comeback, Krusty throws a party for the children at Moe's and agrees to let them keep 50% of the T-shirt sales.

ERROR: PAR

CORRECTED VERSION: To thank them for sticking by him and organizing his comeback, Krusty throws a party for the children at Moe's and agrees to let them keep 50% of the T-shirt sales.

EXPLANATION: *Structures connected by a coordinating conjunction must be parallel. In the original sentence, "and" connects an adverb clause ("Because they stuck by him") to an infinitive phrase ("to thank them for organizing his comeback"). The corrected version combines both ideas into a single infinitive phrase.*