

Writing Rules of the Road #8



Watch for dangling modifier conditions ahead.

EXAMPLE

DANGLING MODIFIER:

- Racing down the road, the speedometer registered 70 mph.

MODIFIED:

- The speedometer registered 70 mph as the car raced down the road.

Writing Rules of the Road #1



**Turn that
fragment
into a
sentence.**

EXAMPLE

FRAGMENT:

- Stepping down hard on the pedal.

SENTENCE:

- Stepping down hard on the pedal, John barely beat the red light.



Fix that pronoun problem.

EXAMPLE

BROKEN PRONOUN:

- Everybody takes care of their first car the best way possible.

REPAIRED PRONOUN:

- Everybody takes care of his or her first car the best way possible.

Writing Rules of the Road #6



Don't shift tenses in mid- sentence.

EXAMPLE

TENSE VIOLATION:

- She will fix her Jaguar just as soon as the insurance paid for it.

PROPER TENSE AGREEMENT:

- She will fix her Jaguar just as soon as the insurance will pay for it.

Writing Rules of the Road #2



**Put the
brakes on
that
run-on
sentence.**

EXAMPLE

RUN-ON:

- Paying attention to signs is critical otherwise, you will get lost.

SENTENCE:

- Paying attention to signs is critical; otherwise, you will get lost.



**Remember
where you
parked that
modifier.**

EXAMPLE

ILLEGALLY PARKED MODIFIER:

- I repainted my Honda in my garage, which used to be green.

LEGALLY PARKED MODIFIER:

- I repainted my Honda, which used to be green, in my garage.



Avoid
aggressive
subject/verb
disagreements.

EXAMPLE

VERB DISAGREEMENT:

- The assistance of a mechanic and computer experts are necessary.

VERB AGREEMENT:

- The assistance of a mechanic and computer experts is necessary.

Writing Rules of the Road #7



Repair **comma splices** before proceeding.

EXAMPLE

COMMA SPLICE:

● The winners laughed, the losers cried.

SENTENCE:

● The winners laughed, but the losers cried.