

Signs: A Grammar Handbook

Answers to Exercises

Section II

Chapter 11

EXERCISE 1

Directions: In the following sentences, revise any word choice problems.

EXAMPLE: In my opinion, the signs posted in my city should have reflective letters. →

The traffic signs in Murfreesboro should have reflective letters.

1. There has been an accident at a corner near campus every day beyond a shadow of a doubt.

Various answers possible. One possibility: An accident has occurred near campus every day this week.

2. Fraught with tension, the room where the recent city manager's meeting was held felt like it was swimming with the sweat of all the attendees in the room.

Various answers possible. One possibility: The recent city manager's meeting was tense.

3. I think the facts reveal that better signs are needed.

Various answers possible. One possibility: The city needs better signs.

4. It is quite surprising that in this day and age more people do not protest the number of accidents that have occurred in our city each and every day.

Various answers possible. One possibility: Our citizens should protest the number of accidents that have occurred.

5. We all hope that the city manager will come out of the apparent comatose state he is in and work on changing how the signs are made and posted.

Various answers possible. One possibility: The city manager needs to change how the signs are made and posted.

EXERCISE 2

Directions: The following summary of a news event contains 12 words that are not appropriate for the more standardized language used for summarizing. Change these words to more appropriately reflect the summary writing you might do in a writing course.

Two **teenagers** have been taken into custody by the **authorities** in connection with a recent string of vandalism in the area. The **suspects** are accused of vandalizing stop signs in **celebration** of the latest **installment** of the Harry Potter film franchise, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, by writing the name of evil wizard Voldemort on dozens of stop signs. **Fans** of the series might appreciate the vandals' urging to "STOP Voldemort," but the authorities were less entertained by the **prank**, which will cost the county \$50 per **damaged** sign. The **police department** **issued** a statement warning would-be vandals that **this kind of behavior** will not be tolerated, no matter how harmless or humorous **it** may seem.

<http://www.wisn.com/news/20061083/detail.html>

Chapter 12

EXERCISE 1

Directions: Correct any problems with commonly confused or misspelled words.

Who would **have** thought that a simple hike **through** the woods would result in a classic emblem of Americana? Beginning in the mid 19th century, people from all over started coming **to** Lookout Mountain near Chattanooga, Tennessee **to** see "Rock City" and experience **its** natural rock formations. In the 1920s, a businessman named Garnet Carter began developing Lookout Mountain into a residential neighborhood called Fairyland, but his wife had other plans. Freida Carter began exploring Rock City—now her property—and turning it into an elaborate rock garden. Recognizing the potential profit of his wife's ornate garden, Garnet opened Rock City to the public in 1932. Business was slow, however, so Garnet had to find a way to entice visitors to **their** garden with more advertising **than** they currently had. Garnet hired Clark Byers to paint farmers' barns for free as long as the phrase "See Rock City" was added. Farmers from Michigan to Texas **accepted** the offer, and the iconic black and white signs on red barns became part of **our** American landscape. The advertisements had—and continue to have—a significant **affect** on the Carters' business; every year, over half a million people see the **sights** of Rock City, likely having **passed** many of the famous signs on **their** way to Lookout Mountain.

<http://www.seerockcity.com/pages/Our-Story/>

Chapter 13

EXERCISE 1

Directions: Use your dictionary to correct any misspelled words in this paragraph.

The song "The Sign" by Ace of Base tells the **story** of a woman's realization that she must end an unhealthy, **difficult** relationship with a loser in order to live a better life. Though the **listener** does not know what **specifically** "the sign" is, the singer makes it clear that her new life, **unrecognizable** to her ex ("you would hardly recognize me") is **infinitely** better than it was in that relationship. With her

epiphany, the singer realized that not only was her ex “not the one for [her],” but her ex was **definitely** not going to change for the good. “No one’s going to drag you up to get into the light where you belong,” she says, suggesting that although she sees potential in her ex, no one is willing—or capable—to make him live in “the light.” However, she questions whether or not potential for good even exists: “But where do you belong?” she asks, unsure of this person’s ability to live a **significant** existence. She knows, though, that her ex was unable to “bring [her] joy.” Whatever the sign was that she **received**, she makes it clear that she is “happy now” having “left [her ex] all alone.”

EXERCISE 1

Directions: This student apparently overused the thesaurus as he was writing this letter to his instructor. See if you can help him out by revising inappropriate words with more appropriate ones.

Dear Professor Walker,

I’m very sorry that I was absent for the eighth time this semester. As I was driving back to school yesterday (I’m from out of state), I missed my **exit** off the interstate because a **storm** had blown down several road signs, including the one directing me to **campus**. Since I’m **new** to the area, I didn’t **realize** that I had missed anything until I had driven three hours out of my way. By the time I realized that something was **wrong**, it was late at night and I was too **tired** to continue driving. I called home to ask what I should do, and my **dad** told me to **stop** for the night and find my way back in the morning, causing me to miss your 8:00 a.m. Monday class. I’m sure you’ll **agree** that my safety was much more **important** than your English class, so I’ll assume that you will not **penalize** me for another absence. Also, I was hoping I might have an extension on the essay that was due on Monday; I was planning to write it Sunday night when I got back to my dorm, but obviously I was at the hotel and stressed out. I did, however, **write** a letter to the Tennessee Department of Transportation expressing my frustration over their neglect to replace the missing signs, which I’ll be happy to show you as **proof** of the incident. Thank you for understanding, and I promise I’ll be in class for the **remaining** ten weeks of the semester.

Sincerely,

Dan