

Tips for Proper English

(In case you miss the point, each one of these tips breaks the very rule that it sets forth.)

The top ten offenders:

1. Proofread carefully to see if you words out or used the wrong word instead of the rite one.
2. The passive voice is to be avoided by all writers.
3. Don't write a run-together sentence, you've got to punctuate it with something more than just a comma.
4. When a person writes, they should always use a singular pronoun to refer to a singular noun.
5. When dangling, don't use modifiers.
6. About sentence fragments.
7. Don't use commas, that aren't necessary.
8. I think it's a bad idea to write in the first person; in my opinion it weakens the whole paper.
9. Contractions aren't acceptable.
10. Its important to use apostrophe's right.

Other important rules:

11. Remember to never split an infinitive.
12. Never use a long word when a diminutive one will do.
13. Employ the vernacular.
14. Eschew ampersands & abbreviations, etc.
15. Only Proper Nouns should be capitalized when writing papers at a good school such as mercer university.
16. Every pronoun has to have a clear reference so he can understand the sentence when he reads it.
17. Do not put statements in the negative form.
18. Limit use of quotations. As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "I hate quotations. Tell me what *you* know."
19. Don't be redundant; don't use more words than necessary; it's highly superfluous.
20. Be more or less specific.
21. Analogies in writing are like feathers on a snake.
22. Even if a mixed metaphor sings, it should be derailed.
23. Who needs rhetorical questions?
24. Don't never use a double negative.
25. capitalize every sentence and remember always end it with a period
26. One should never generalize.
27. If you reread your work, you can find on rereading a great deal of repetition can be avoided by rereading and editing.
28. Don't overuse exclamation marks!
29. Place pronouns as close as possible, especially in long sentences, as of 10 or more words, to their antecedents.
30. A writer must not shift your point of view.
31. Avoid trendy locutions that sound flaky.
32. Don't verb nouns. It impacts your writing style badly.
33. If I've told you once, I've told you a thousand times: resist exaggeration.
34. Verbs has to agree with their subjects.
35. Profanity sucks.
36. In letters essays reports and things like that we use commas in a string of items after every one but the last.
37. It behooves us to avoid archaisms.
38. A preposition isn't a good thing to end a sentence with.
39. A sentence, in formal writing, such as in a book report or term paper, which are the sorts of assignments that students often have to complete in college courses, should usually (one is tempted to say not "usually" but "almost always") be short and simple, rather than overly complex, since long and convoluted sentences are often hard for a variety of reasons for readers of writing of this sort to understand (quickly, fully, or both) without a lot of effort, effort that the writer of sentences of this kind could have spared them if he had written simpler sentences instead of more complex ones.
40. Last but not least, avoid clichés like the plague.