
Common Writing Mistakes Worksheet

Exercise 1 – The sentences below are either fragments or run-on sentences. Rewrite the sentences so that they are correct.

- 1) The lab instructor demonstrated new techniques to the class students were still breaking the materials.
- 2) The professor prefers poetry. Because she thinks that it is more interesting to read than fiction.
- 3) The new electric car models are efficient and fast they need to be charged more frequently than the older prototypes.
- 4) The chef enjoys complex and slow-cooking recipes well-stewed food is often the most delicious.

Exercise 2 – Find the comma splices and alter the sentences so that they are correct.

- 1) The study compared green tea with black tea, the results were inconclusive.
- 2) The political science students formed a study group, however, they met only twice.

Exercise 3 – The sentences below are wordy and contain informal language. Correct the sentences so that they contain fewer redundant words or phrases and eliminate the informal language.

- 1) It's very important that all doctors are aware of the fact that people may or may not have different life experiences that cause differences in the wants and needs of different patients and what kind of health care they do and do not need.
- 2) Some students need to take part time course loads so that they can work their part time jobs because otherwise they cannot support their families and keep paying for tuition.
- 3) The super important part of designing city roads for cycling is that the development has to be favored by the general public in order for it to have a successful outcome for everyone within the whole community.

Exercise 4 – Each Sentence below has a shift in verb tense. Correct the sentences so that the verbs are all correct.

- 1) While the article discussed future trends, it disregards past inconsistencies.
- 2) The presenter spoke flawlessly but his photos are not relevant to his speech
- 3) Debate topics are often political in nature but incorporated references to popular culture.

Exercise 5 – Each sentence below has incorrect subject-verb agreement. Correct the sentences so that the verbs associate correctly with the subject.

- 1) Carl and Cassi, both students at UNBC, enjoys science classes.
- 2) Sometimes my laptop shut down without warning, so I frequently save my work.
- 3) The student has many assignments that requires a calculator.

Exercise 6 – The sentences below contain either a vague referent or an ambiguous pronoun. Correct the sentences so that they contain the proper information.

- 1) This is reflective of the trends across Canada.
- 2) The statistics reflect this theory.
- 3) Shirley and her friend edited her paper.

Answers

Exercise 1:

- 1) The lab instructor demonstrated new techniques to the class, but students were still breaking the materials.
- 2) The professor prefers poetry because she thinks that it is more interesting to read than fiction.
- 3) The new electric car models are efficient and fast; however, they need to be charged more frequently than the older prototypes.
- 4) The chef enjoys complex and slow-cooking recipes, as she believes that well-stewed food is often the most delicious.

Exercise 2:

- 1) The study compared green tea with black tea, but the results were inconclusive.
- 2) The political science students formed a study group; however, they met only twice.

Exercise 3:

- 1) It is important that all doctors are aware that people have different life experiences that cause variations in the patients' health care needs.
- 2) Some students must take part time course loads so that they can work part time jobs in order support their families and pay tuition.
- 3) The important part of designing city roads for cycling is to gain the approval of the general public so that development has a successful outcome for the community.

Exercise 4:

- 1) While the article discusses future trends, it disregards past inconsistencies.
- 2) The presenter spoke flawlessly but his photos were not relevant to his speech
- 3) Debate topics are often political in nature but incorporate references to popular culture.

Exercise 5:

- 1) Carl and Cassi, both students at UNBC, enjoy science classes.
- 2) Sometimes my laptop shuts down without warning, so I frequently save my work.
- 3) The student has many assignments that require a calculator.

Exercise 6:

- 1) The increase in smoking cessation is reflective of the trends across Canada.
- 2) The statistics reflect the author's theory of international development.
- 3) Shirley and her friend edited their classmate's paper.