

WritePlacer Study Material

Review Writing Basics!

Basic Writing: <http://www.saylor.org/courses/engl000/>

This is a free, 5-unit online workshop on pre-college English and covers the basic content that a student would experience in ENG091. It focuses on sentence structure, word choice, paragraph structure, and idea elaboration. Students can submit their practice writing to <http://www.paperrater.com> to check their progress.

Conquering the Most Common Grammar Issues

While the Write Placer will not ask you to identify grammar issues, it will look for the common errors as it scores their writing. The following free resources can be used to learn about these errors and practice identifying and avoiding them in your writing.

1. Sentence Fragments

- Read about Sentence Fragments: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/620/1/>
- Practice Activities:
 - Repairing Fragments: http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/quizzes/fragment_fixing.htm
 - Identifying Fragments, level 1: http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/cgi-shl/quiz.pl/fragments_add1.htm
 - Identifying Fragments, level 2: http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/cgi-shl/quiz.pl/fragments_add2.htm
 - Identifying Fragments, level 3: http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/cgi-shl/quiz.pl/fragments_add3.htm
 - Understanding Fragments and types of sentences: <http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/quizzes/niu/niu6.htm>

2. Run-Ons and Comma Splices:

- Read about Run-Ons and Comma Splices: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/exercises/5/26/5>
- Practice Activities:
 - Fragments and Run-On Sentences: http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/cgi-shl/quiz.pl/fragments_quiz.htm
 - Repairing Run-On Sentences: http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/quizzes/runons_quiz.htm
 - Identifying Run-On Sentences, level 1: http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/cgi-shl/quiz.pl/run-ons_add1.htm
 - Identifying Run-On Sentences, level 2: http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/cgi-shl/quiz.pl/run-ons_add2.htm
 - Avoiding Comma Splices, level 1: <http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/quizzes/nova/nova4.htm>

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- Avoiding Comma Splices, level 2:
<http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/quizzes/nova/nova3.htm>

3. Dangling/Misplaced Modifiers

- Read about Dangling/Misplaced Modifiers:
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/597/1/>
- Practice Activities:
 - Modifier Placement, level 1: http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/cgi-shl/quiz.pl/modifier_quiz.htm
 - Modifier Placement, level 2: http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/cgi-shl/quiz.pl/modifier_quiz.htm

4. Faulty Parallelism:

- Read about Parallel Structure: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/623/1/>
- Practice Activities:
 - Parallel Structure, level 1: http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/cgi-shl/quiz.pl/parallelism_quiz.htm
 - Parallel Structure, level 2:
http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/quizzes/parallelism2_quiz.htm
 - Parallel Structure, level 3:
http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/quizzes/parallelism2_quiz.htm

5. Comma Use

- Read about comma use: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/607/1/>
- Practice Activities:
 - Fill in the Commas:
http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/quizzes/commas_fillin.htm
 - General Comma Usage:
http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/quizzes/comma_quiz.htm
 - Commas with coordinating conjunctions:
<http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/quizzes/nova/nova1.htm>
 - Commas with Introductory Elements:
<http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/quizzes/nova/nova2.htm>

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6. Commonly Confused Words

- Read about the most commonly confused words:
<http://writing2.richmond.edu/WRITING/wweb/conford.html>
- Practice activities:
 - Commonly Confused Words, level 1:
<http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/cgi-shl/quiz.pl/confusibles.htm>
 - Commonly Confused Words, level 2:
<http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/quizzes/notorious3.htm>
 - Commonly Confused Words, level 3:
http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/quizzes/notorious_pairs.htm
 - Commonly Confused Words, level 4:
<http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/quizzes/notorious5.htm>
 - Commonly Confused Words, level 5:
http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/quizzes/notorious_pairs2.htm
 - Its/It's and There/Their/They're:
http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/cgi-shl/quiz.pl/its_there_quiz.htm
 - Lie/Lay and Sit/Set: http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/cgi-shl/quiz.pl/lie_lay_quiz.htm
 - Except/Accept and Affect/Effect:
http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/quizzes/affect_except_options.htm

7. Sentence Style and Complexity

- Read about improving your sentence style:
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/573/01/>
- Practice Activities:
 - Combining Sentences, level 1:
http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/quizzes/combining_quiz2.htm
 - Combining Sentences, level 2:
http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/quizzes/combining_quiz1.htm
 - Combining Sentences, level 3:
http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/quizzes/primer_quiz.htm
 - Fixing Wordy Sentences:
<http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/quizzes/nova/nova8.htm>
 - Avoiding Sentence Bloat:
<http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/quizzes/nova/nova11.htm>
 - Coherence and Transitions:
<http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/composition/taste/taste2.htm>
 - Avoiding illogical and mixed constructions:
<http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/quizzes/niu/niu11.htm>
 - Diction: <http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/quizzes/niu/niu14.htm>