

Get2College Stephen's English Grammar Tips

1. Comma splices-
 - a. A comma by itself is not strong enough to split up 2 independent clauses
 - i. Ex. "I'm going to the store, I'm going to buy some ham." ☹
2. Commas-
 - a. You don't need a comma between what you're doing and where you're doing it
 - i. Ex. "I'm cooking, in the kitchen." ☹
 - ii. Ex. "I'm playing basketball, in the gym." ☹
 - b. You don't need a comma if you're only listing two things
 - i. Ex. "Milk, and cereal..." ☹
 - ii. Ex. "Macaroni, and cheese..." ☹
3. Semicolons- (Your Best Friend)
 - a. You have to have a complete thought on both sides of the semicolon. If an answer choice doesn't have an independent clause on both sides, it's not right.
 - i. Ex. "It's cold outside; colder than it's ever been." ☹
4. Collective nouns-
 - a. They represent something plural but they're treated as if they were singular. (ex. team, class, equipment, everyone, each)
 - i. Ex. "Each one of my family members is/are coming to Thanksgiving."
5. Cut the fat-
 - a. All of the extra information that separates the subject from the verb is called the fat. When you cut the fat and put the subject and verb together, it's easier to see whether or not they agree.
 - i. Ex. "The happy pack of dogs run/runs through the yard."
6. Misplaced modifiers-
 - a. If the modifier is in the wrong place it makes the sentence sound cray cray.
 - i. Ex. "I was walking down the street and I saw a gold man's watch." ☹
7. Parallel structure-
 - a. Your verb tenses, voice, etc. need to be consistent.
 - i. Ex. "Last weekend in New Orleans, I listened to music, danced at a club, and drinking at a bar." ☹
 - ii. Ex. "I went to Barbados last year. I had a lot of fun. I ate a lot of really good food. I went on a jeep tour around the island. I went on a cruise ship and he even went swimming in the ocean." ☹
8. Ambiguity-
 - a. You cannot use a pronoun in the place of a subject if it's not clear what/whom you're referring to.
 - i. Ex. "Susan and LaToya are going to her house after the workshop." ☹
9. Redundancy-
 - a. Redundancy is when you're repeating yourself unnecessarily.

- i. Ex. "My legs are sore because I've been jumping up and down all day." ☹
- ii. Ex. "I was zig-zagging from left to right." ☹
- iii. Ex. "I'm going to kill him to death." ☹

10. Run-on sentences-

a. There should be a pause but there's not one.

- i. Ex. "I can't stand that girl she gets on my nerves." ☹

11. "The shortest answer choice that makes sense will be the correct answer. "