



Editing and Proofreading Practice

Exercises from *More Anguished English*

The following badly written sentences were all found in published sources. Clearly, people all over the U.S. could use practice in proofreading and editing! To improve your skills, choose a sentence below and, working as quickly as possible and **writing by hand**:

1. circle the problem(s)
 2. rewrite the sentence in the space below
 3. Using Turabian, pages 109-119, identify the errors (comma splice, misspelled words, syntactical errors, mixed metaphors, run-on sentence, etc.) so that you can avoid them next time.
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1. Elias and other researchers say they believe that aspartame can do more damage over a long period of time than federal health officials. Therefor, its to much of a risk for people to take.
 2. The 37-year-old daughter of Queen Elizabeth II and her horse finished forth in the national Hunt Race at Hereford.
 3. Not only Jones, but Perski to, explained too the two reporters the reason the police blotter is no longer easily accessible to the public is because to many private security agencies, insurance people, lawyers, and other criminals were looking at it for their own personal benefit.
 4. The macadamia was named for Dr. John MacAdam, an enthusiastic scientist who promoted the nut in its native Australia, and was dubbed "the perfect nut" by Luther Burbank.



5. Thanks to two special people who picked my wife up after a fall from her bike and broke her pelvis and severely damaged her back and many other parts of her body. To Jim and Barbara Jones there are not enough words to express my gratefulness for what you did for my wife.
6. The Puritans thought they were unique because they received a message from God.
7. We have turned cans into cash to use towards programs for our children, rather than burying them in a landfill. Aluminum cans have earned \$65,359.00 since the spring, of 2004, for our school.
8. Doctors attended Schaumburgs' Laurie Barnstead, after breaking her arm in yesterdays judo meat.
9. Flames destroyed a small barn used as a garage, a vehicle and sports equipment off Goodrich rode at the Robert Black Residence.
10. The church tries to assist in serving a luncheon for the families of church members who have died immediately following the funeral.
11. During our entire marriage of 44 years, plus, a few proceeding years, of courtship, I could count the number of times Henry was stopped by a policemen for driving on just three fingers of my left hand.
12. A purple lady's bicycle was missing from Serendipity Lane recently.
13. On behalf of Barbara Rutledge and her family, our sincere thanks go out to those sending flowers, cards and contributing to the death of her husband.



14. The candidate looked younger than his 39 years, full of energy, and his sandy hair, stylishly cut and blow-dried, danced as he moved his 6 feet around the stage.
15. Ms. Pinkus graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic institute in NY with a degree in bachelor's architecture, a field far to little studied these days.
16. State police charged Judson with firing several gunshots into a Montgomery Township mobile home occupied by four persons and a pickup truck last november.
17. The Macon County Humane Society offers a free spay/neutering to senior citizens if they adopt an animal out of the animal shelter. Be sure the gift of pets are a welcome gift.
18. Remember, you get what you pay for. And at Hub furniture Store, you pay less.
19. Prevent damage to garden & lawns from borrowing rodents with the electronic stake that emits vibration and sound thats intensely annoying too underground rodents up to 100 feet in diameter.
20. Governor Corrigan says he doesn't want to "cry wolf in a crowded theater."
21. If we don't watch out, they'll pull the rug out from under us in midstream.
22. They were raking him over the ropes.
23. People are dying like hotcakes.
24. David Bowie is one of a dying breed who will live on forever.



25. We all have ancestors, and in this series I will encourage you to dig up yours.
26. On National Public Radio, former attorney general Edwin Meese: "One of the purposes of the primaries is for members of political parties to sort out their differences in areas in which they agree."
27. We will be playing some pieces composed by Miles Davis prior to his death.
28. The Harvard doctors were not sure why saccharin make rats sick but not humans, but they speculated the reason may simply be that rats were different from people.
29. The policy at our doctors office is that we will do our utmost to see patience in discomfort as soon as possible.
30. "The only way well ever get a volunteer army is too draft 'em." House Committee on Armed Services chair, F. Edward Hebert.