

## Common Errors Sheet

### Homonyms

-Homonyms are words that have the same spelling and pronunciation but have different meanings. Here are some common examples:

#### There, Their, and They're

There: Place--The new coach lives over there.

Their: Possessive--The new coach and his wife bought their house from a family friend.

They're: Contraction (They are)--They're so happy to be living in Mayville!

#### Affect, Effect

Affect: Typically a verb, meaning to influence. --The budget cuts affected the school's ability to buy books.

Effect: Typically a noun, meaning a result. --The stunning light show had the effect of making us feel like we were in the city.

#### Accept, Except

Accept: To acknowledge as true, to receive--I accept your generous gift.

Except: Preposition meaning excluding, or conjunction meaning other than. --I like all of my classes except geometry.

### Using Numbers

Write out numbers one through ten. If you use an Arabic numeral, such as 47 in one part of the sentence, you can use an Arabic numeral to write out 1 and 10, like in this sentence.

### Conjunction Junction, What's Your Function?

Conjunctions link phrases and clauses. It's necessary to use conjunctions to create compound and complex sentences, making your writing sound more scholarly and sophisticated.

#### Coordinating and Subordinating Conjunctions

Coordinating conjunctions combine ideas to make a compound sentence. Examples of coordinating conjunctions are **and**, **but**, and **so**.

-We went to the party, and we saw Dennis there.

Subordinating conjunctions help writers avoid run-ons and comma splices. Examples of subordinating conjunctions are **after**, **because**, **even though**, and **when**.

-Because Dennis was at the party, we were able to plan his wife's birthday.

#### Periods, Semicolons, and Conjunctions

A period is a full stop. It ends the sentence.

A semicolon links two similar independent clauses; a sentence with a semicolon is technically one sentence.

Using a conjunction links two ideas, and the ideas are combined into one sentence.

### Exclamation Marks

Use an exclamation mark when you want to add emphasis and/or emotion to a sentence. For example, it is not appropriate to use an exclamation mark in a typical academic sentence: Literary critics debate whether or not Shakespeare was truly the author of many of the plays attributed to him.

A period will suffice for most sentences, unless you are emphasizing emotion: I am so tired of students using exclamation marks when they aren't necessary!

### In-text Citations

Typical sentence in **MLA**: Despite what the editorial argues, "Most Americans disapprove of legislation that pulls funding from schools" (Smith 172).

Typical sentence in **APA**: He explains, "Most employers expect office communication to be free from grammatical error" (Jones, 2004, p. 76).