This workbook, designed for workplace literacy courses, contains materials for a business writing course. The course provides strategies for presenting ideas clearly and accurately. Introductory materials include objectives, a topical outline, and information on time for the course and continuing education credits. The 16 sessions of the course cover the following topics: analyzing an author's purpose, the reader, the style, and the tone; prewriting—brainstorming, organizing, and freewriting; writing clearly and correctly; editing; and using writing when solving problems. The lessons include information sheets and exercises, such as sentence completion, fill-in-the-blanks, rewriting, and simulations. (KC)
Making the Point:
Writing in the Workplace

Mercer County Community College
Division of Corporate and Community Programs
1200 Old Trenton Road
Trenton, NJ 08690

Elaine S. Weinberg
Director, Workplace Skills

Prepared under a National Workplace Literacy Grant
funded through the United States Department of Education

1994
ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Mercer County Community College thanks Lorna Burt, Senior Education Specialist/Curriculum Developer for creating this manual. Through her valuable contributions employees in manufacturing and service industries learned concepts relevant to their existing jobs and strategies for learning new tasks if that opportunity should occur.
WRITING 1 MAKING THE POINT

COURSE OUTLINE:

It is essential to communicate our ideas to others with brief, clear and complete messages. This course will provide strategies for presenting ideas clearly and accurately to your reader. During these sessions you will learn tips to apply the principles of good business writing to any writing you may do at work and at home.

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- analyze why complicated memos and letters fail to get their message across
- identify the reason for writing
- analyze the reader and what his response should be
- choose appropriate styles and tones
- organize ideas into the most effective order
- apply the principles of good business writing, including grammar and punctuation
- edit first drafts
- respond to problems at work and take appropriate action in writing
- write clear, precise letters and memos
WRITING 1 MAKING THE POINT

TOPICAL OUTLINE:

- analyzing the author's purpose, the reader, the style and tone
- prewriting - brainstorming, organizing, freewriting
- writing clearly and correctly
- editing
- using writing when solving problems

OTHER:

- Hours: 32
- CEU 3.2
OBJECTIVES:

In order to write a work-related memo or letter, at the end of this session students will be able to:

- understand the purpose of writing a memo
- understand the principles of good writing
- analyze why a complicated memo fails to get its message across
- apply the principles of good memo writing to simplify and reorganize a complicated memo
- identify and use complete sentences

TOPICS:

- what is the purpose of a memo?
- why does a memo fail to get its message across?
- the principles of good writing
- sentence types

METHODS:

- guided discussion of principles
- group work
- practice situations for discussion and writing
WRITING 1  ◆  SESSION 1

EVALUATION:

- pre-class exercise
- correction in class and self evaluation of class exercises

Students will avoid writing complicated sentences and using large words that do not enhance their writing. They will write for a specific purpose and be aware of the importance of their audience in order to make their communications more effective. They will also be able to identify and correct sentence problems.

MATERIALS:

- pre-class exercise
- ice-breaker game for two-way communication
- difficult memo
- Principles of Good Writing
- Tips for Effective Communication
- Sentence Types
- Complete Sentences
- Run-Ons
TEACHER TIPS  ♦  SESSION 1

- Introductions
  Course overview and what we hope to achieve in the next 6 weeks.
  Ice-breaker and pre-class exercise.

- Discussion - what's the purpose of writing a memo/letter?

- Discussion on why complicated memo fails to get its message across.
  Handouts - Difficult Memo
  Principles of Good writing.
  Tips for More Effective Communication

- Groupwork - rewrite memo.

- Each week time will be spent on mechanics, punctuation and grammar.
  Session #1 - sentence structure.
PRE AND POST CLASS EXERCISES

Part 1

Fix any problems in the sentences below (grammar and punctuation.)

1. The line supervisor, as well as other people on the line, have decided to attend the company picnic this year.

2. In order to complete the job what kind of form do you need to send to pete your supervisor

3. the employees lounge is next to the supervisors lounge so its easy to walk into the wrong one

4. During the meeting the speaker was shrewd clever and controlled consequently the boards decision was to accept his proposal

5. I think that I made less mistakes in this report then I did last time.
MEMO TO PROOFREAD

The memo below contains several grammatical mistakes. Read it carefully, find the errors and rewrite it.

TO: All Employees
FROM: Mary Smith, Human Resources
DATE: February 16, 1993
SUBJECT: Vacation Requests

Requests for vacation dates is now being accepted. Each employee must complete the appropriate form and have it approved by their supervisor. These forms must be signed by both the employee and the supervisor, and be sure to submit two copies.

It's important to get these in early, because it will effect whom will be given first priority in their requests.

Thanking you for your cooperation.
TO: All Employees
FROM: Health and Safety Committee
SUBJECT: Important Information regarding Chemical XYZ

The Toxic Substances Control Act imposes certain duties on persons who manufacture, process or distribute chemical substances and mixtures. Sect 8(e) of the Act is as follows:

"Notice to Administrator of Substantial Risk. - Any person who manufactures, processes or distributes in commerce a chemical substance or mixture and who obtains information which reasonably supports the conclusion that such substance or mixture presents a substantial risk of injury to health or the environment shall immediately inform the Administrator of such information unless such person has actual knowledge that the Administrator has been adequately informed of such information."

It has come to our attention that the repackaging materials used with certain genres of petroleum based compounds may cause subsequent volatile reactive processes in molecular structure of same. Affirmative action must be taken to determine the precise composition of the receptacle, so that combustion does not occur. In the interim, please refrain from use.
PRINCIPLES OF GOOD WRITING

1. **Know why you are writing.** What do you hope to accomplish by writing? What do you want the reader to think, feel say or do as a result of reading your communication?

2. **Write the way you speak.** Though written English is usually more formal than spoken, use standard, straightforward language. Don’t make anything more complicated than it needs to be. Fancy vocabulary more often than not creates problems.

3. **Write for your reader, not for yourself.** Involve your reader in your communication.

4. **Be positive** and, wherever possible, look upon situations optimistically.

5. **Be certain your writing is clear, concise, accessible, complete and accurate, correct and organized.**
TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

- Keep your writing clear, concise and simple.

- Choose your words carefully.

- Be natural.

- Avoid fad words, jargon, and clichés.

- Use the active rather than the passive voice.

- Be committed to what you say. Avoid qualifiers.

- Use familiar words.

- Be specific. Avoid vagueness.

- Eliminate redundant expressions.

- Keep your audience in mind.
SENTENCE TYPES

1. Simple Sentence:
   - contains a subject and verb
   - expresses a complete thought
   - considered a single independent clause

   Examples:
   He came to work at 8:00.

   They brought the materials to the tables.

2. Compound Sentence
   - contains two independent clauses joined by a FANBOY (for/and/nor/but/or/yet/so)
   - expresses a complete thought

   Examples:
   He came to work at 8:00, but he didn't start working until 8:30.

   They brought the materials to the table so they could collate the binders.

3. Complex Sentence
   - contains a main clause (independent clause)
   - contains a subordinate clause (identifiable by a word or an expression whose completion relies on the main clause: since, because, although, even though, before, after, while, during)
   - expresses a complete thought

   Examples:
   Even though he had no time, he volunteered to reorganize the shelves.

   Since they took on the account, they have received many inquiries.

   She packed the materials after she picked them from the shelves.
COMPLETE SENTENCES

A complete sentence must have the following:

1. subject
2. verb
3. complete thought

Also, the sentence must start with a capital letter and end with a period.

Look at the sentences below and say whether they are complete sentences. If they are not, make them complete.

1. Because the company is closed for the holiday.

2. Hoping to return.

3. the old machine, a large and noisy printer, not at all like the one we bought last year.

4. In the cafeteria, next to the vending machines there are new tables
5. Have to be cleaned everyday.

6. When I returned to work after my operation, having been in the hospital for nearly a full week.

7. Even though he forgot to keep track of his hours.

8. Before I came to work here, I worked in many different jobs.

9. For example, machine operator, fast-food worker, and checkout clerk.

10. However, like this job best.
RUN-ONS

Three ways to fix a run-on:

1. Make it into two separate sentences by adding a period and a capital letter.

2. Make it into a compound sentence by adding a coordinating conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so).

3. Make it into a complex sentence by adding a subordinating conjunction (because, when, before, while since, etc.)

Find and correct the run-ons in the sentences below, using a combination of the three methods.

1. Employees should notify the human resources department they plan to take vacation time.

2. You must tidy your work station after each job you must also tidy it at the end of the day.

3. Assemblers must wear heavy work shoes these shoes must conform to company safety standards.

4. Some machinery is very noisy some people prefer to wear ear plugs.

5. Most benefit books are very boring to read and difficult to understand people don’t bother to read them.

6. Some people like to listen to music when they work others prefer to work in silence.
OBJECTIVES:

In order to write a work related memo or letter, at the end of this session students will be able to

- know why they are writing a particular message
- analyze their reader and what his response should be
- identify the most important idea that the message must get across
- write a coherent, well constructed paragraph

TOPICS:

- questions to ask before writing
  - purpose
  - audience
  - bottom line
- main ideas and supporting details
- paragraphs

METHODS:

- guided discussion of principles
- group work
- practice situations for discussion and writing
WRITING 1  ●  SESSION 2

EVALUATION:

- pre-class exercise
- correction in class and self evaluation of class exercises

Students will know what the purpose of their writing is and be aware of the importance of their audience. They will be able to write clear paragraphs, identifying, main ideas and supporting details. This will make their writing more effective.

MATERIALS:

- Audience-and-Use Profile Sheet
- Main Idea and Supporting Details
- Worksheets on paragraphs
TEACHER TIPS ◆ SESSION 2

• Discussion - first step to writing -

1. PURPOSE:
   why am I writing this?
   what do I want my reader to do?

2. AUDIENCE:
   who is my reader?
   what is he/she?
   what does he/she know about the subject?
   how will he/she react and use this document?
   is there anyone else who should read this?

3. BOTTOM LINE:
   if the reader were to forget everything else, what is the one idea I want to get across?

• Use Audience-and-Use Profile Sheet in preparation for writing three very different memos. (These will be submitted, with 2 more at end of course.)

1. Customer complaint
2. Letter to co-worker/s
3. Letter to supervisor/union rep. about disciplinary matter

• Give students example of well constructed paragraph. Discuss main ideas/support. Then have students generate their own paragraphs.
AUDIENCE-AND-USE PROFILE SHEET

Audience Identity and Needs

Primary audience: __________
(name, title)

Other potential reader(s): ______________________________________

Relationship: ______________________________________
(e.g. client, employer)

Intended use of document: ______________________________________
(e.g. take action, solve a problem)

Prior knowledge about this topic: ________________________________

Additional information needed: _________________________________

Probable questions: _______________________________________

? ? ?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Audience's Probable Attitude and Personality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attitude toward topic: __________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(skeptical, indifferent)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probable objections: __________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(cost, time, none)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probable attitude toward writer: ________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(intimidated, hostile, receptive)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organizational climate: ________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(receptive, repressive, creative)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons most affected by document: ____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temperament: _________________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(cautious, impatient)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probable reaction to document: ________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(resistance, approval, anger, guilt)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk of alienating anyone: ____________________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

©Mercer County Community College
AUDIENCE-AND-USE PROFILE SHEET

Audience Expectations about the Document

Reason document originated: ____________________________
(audience request, my idea)

Acceptable length: ____________________________

Material important to this audience: ____________________________
(interpretations, costs, conclusions)

Most useful arrangement: ____________________________
(problem-causes-solutions)

Tone: ____________________________
(businesslike, apologetic, enthusiastic)

Intended effect on audience: ____________________________
(win support, change behavior)
Subject

The subject is what you are writing about. You want to make a point about this topic.

Main Idea

The main idea is the main point that you want to make about the subject. It is the one thing you want your audience to remember. You can have more than one main point in your letter or memo.

Supporting Details

The supporting details are the examples and details that you use to prove your main idea. They tell your audience why you make your main idea statement.

Action

This is what you want your audience to do as a result of reading your letter/memo, or what you intend to do.
A **paragraph** has several parts:

**Introduction**

This is the first sentence of the paragraph. It tells you what the paragraph will be about (subject) and the author's point (main idea).

**Body**

This is made up of the middle sentences of the paragraph. It is the support that the author gives for his main idea. The support can take many forms: examples, a process, a story, or a definition.

**Conclusion**

This is the last sentence of the paragraph. It can be a restatement of the introduction, or it can be a comment on the main idea.
In the past there was no guarantee that workers would be told about the chemical hazards they might face on the job. Container labels and warning sheets, even when they were provided, didn't always give enough information on potential hazards, what to do in an emergency, or where to turn for help. That is why the Federal Government decided to set a uniform hazard communication standard. Now everyone knows what information has to be provided to keep you safe.
WRITING 1 ◆ SESSION 3

OBJECTIVES:

In order to write memos and letters on work related subjects, at the end of this session students will be able to:

- choose when to use memos and when to use letters
- set out memos and letters correctly
- use transitions to make their writing read more smoothly
- identify and use irregular verbs

TOPICS:

- when to use memos and when to use letters
- memo and letter format
- transitions
- irregular verbs

METHODS:

- guided discussion of principles
- group work
- practice situations for discussion and writing
WRITING 1  •  SESSION 3

EVALUATION:

- self evaluation based on correct completion of worksheets

Students will know when letters or memos are appropriate. They will use transitions regularly, making their writing flow more smoothly. They will write more correctly, using correct forms of irregular verbs. All this adds to getting their messages across clearly.

MATERIALS:

- Better Memo Writing
- Typical Memorandum Reports
- A Checklist for the Business Letter
- How to Structure a Business Letter
- Transitions
- Worksheets on irregular verbs
TEACHER TIPS ◆ SESSION 3

- Discussion on when to use memos and when to use letters.

- Setting out memos:
  1. To:
  2. From:
  3. Date:
  4. Subject:
  5. no signature - most writers initial beside name

- Setting out letters:
  1. date line (preceded by writer's address if no letterhead used)
  2. address
  3. attention line (optional)
  4. salutation
  5. subject line (optional)
  6. message
  7. positive/complimentary closing
  8. company name (optional)
  9. author's name and title
  10. reference initials
  11. enclosure or attachment notation (when appropriate)
  12. copy notation (when appropriate)

- Handouts on how to set out letters/memos are for student information and to generate class discussion. Find examples of company letters and memos to use in class.

- Transitions - worksheet to be completed by students

- irregular verbs - worksheets to be completed by students
1. Get to the point quickly - the reader already knows the purpose of the memo because of the subject line.

2. Be interesting, conversational, natural.

3. Highlight key ideas, using bullets, underlining or bold.


5. Write in the order events happen.

6. Be specific, clear, concise and economical.


8. Keep it simple.
STANDARD MEMO FORMAT

NAME OF ORGANIZATION

TO: Name, Title
FROM: Name, Title, Initials
DATE:
SUBJECT: CLEARLY TITLED IN FULL CAPS

Introductory paragraph

Body paragraph

Concluding paragraph
CHECKLIST FOR THE BUSINESS LETTER

- Tell what your letter is about in the first paragraph
- If you are replying to a letter, refer to the date it was written
- Write the way you speak; be natural
- Be specific
- Use the active voice rather than the passive
- Don't ramble on; keep the letter short
- Underline, bold or italicize key words for emphasis
- Don't pass off opinions as facts
- In your final paragraph, tell your reader exactly what you want him/her to do, or what you are going to do.
- Edit your first draft ruthlessly
- Proofread thoroughly
HOW TO STRUCTURE A BUSINESS LETTER

INTRODUCTION

Opening statements
Sentence 1 - states reason for writing
Sentence 2 - states 1st. major idea
Sentence 3 - states next major idea
Sentence 4 - states next major idea

Transition statement to get from introduction to body

BODY

Take 1st. major idea - explain, support, conclude
Transition
Take next major idea - explain, support, conclude
Transition
Take next major idea - explain, support, conclude

Transition statement to get from body to conclusion

CONCLUSION

Summary
Closing statement
TRANSITIONS are words or phrases that show the relationship between one statement and another or one paragraph and another. They make your writing read more smoothly.

TO EXPLAIN - for instance, for example, to illustrate, also, that is, too, namely

TO CONTRAST - however, nevertheless, yet, but, on the other hand, on the contrary, otherwise, in contrast, in spite of, instead

TO ADD - in addition, furthermore, similarly, besides, moreover, a second another……, again

TO SHOW REPETITION - in other words, as I have said, that is, as has been stated

TO SHOW ORDER - first, second, third, finally, in conclusion

TO SHOW RESULT - therefore, as a result, consequently, for this reason, accordingly, in conclusion

TO EMPHASIZE - in fact, indeed, in any event, naturally

TO CONCEDE A POINT - fortunately, of course, in fact, naturally
TRANSITIONS

Connect the following sentences using transitions, so that they read more smoothly.

1. Maria works in the cafeteria. She never eats her meals there.

2. There was a very heavy snow storm. Many people were late for work.

3. The company manufactures heating and air-conditioning units. Its sales are directly related to the weather.

4. We need to update our computer system. We need to train our data processing department in the latest equipment.

5. Mike is very good with people. He has been elected to represent his co-workers at the interdepartmental meeting.
**IRREGULAR VERBS**

**Principle Parts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present tense</th>
<th>e.g.</th>
<th>I go, I see, I eat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Past tense</td>
<td>e.g.</td>
<td>I went, I saw, I ate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past participle</td>
<td>(always preceded by the helping verb have, has or had)</td>
<td>e.g.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**VERB QUIZ**

Fill in the chart below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRESENT</th>
<th>PAST</th>
<th>PAST PARTICIPLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. eat</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>knew</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td></td>
<td>spoken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. go</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>swore</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td></td>
<td>hidden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. become</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>gave</td>
<td>stolen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. fly</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRESENT</td>
<td>PAST</td>
<td>PAST PARTICIPLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>saw</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td></td>
<td>frozen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. run</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>sang</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td></td>
<td>gotten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. draw</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>was/were</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td></td>
<td>fallen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. bear</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>took</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.</td>
<td></td>
<td>broken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. choose</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.</td>
<td>swam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.</td>
<td></td>
<td>blown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. ride</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.</td>
<td>told</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.</td>
<td></td>
<td>brought</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28. feel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.</td>
<td>lay</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRESENT</td>
<td>PAST</td>
<td>PAST PARTICIPLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.</td>
<td></td>
<td>shaken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31. write</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32.</td>
<td>grew</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33.</td>
<td></td>
<td>begun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34. cut</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35.</td>
<td>did</td>
<td>driven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37. light</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38.</td>
<td>paid</td>
<td>sunk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40. stand</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## IRREGULAR VERBS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRESENT</th>
<th>PAST</th>
<th>PAST PARTICIPLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>am, be</td>
<td>was</td>
<td>been</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bear</td>
<td>bore</td>
<td>born, borne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>beat</td>
<td>beat</td>
<td>beat, beaten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>become</td>
<td>became</td>
<td>become</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>begin</td>
<td>began</td>
<td>begun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bite</td>
<td>bit</td>
<td>bitten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bleed</td>
<td>bled</td>
<td>bled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>blow</td>
<td>blew</td>
<td>blown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>break</td>
<td>broke</td>
<td>broken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bring</td>
<td>brought</td>
<td>brought</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>build</td>
<td>built</td>
<td>built</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>burst</td>
<td>burst</td>
<td>burst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>buy</td>
<td>bought</td>
<td>bought</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>catch</td>
<td>caught</td>
<td>caught</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>choose</td>
<td>chose</td>
<td>chosen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>come</td>
<td>came</td>
<td>come</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>creep</td>
<td>crept</td>
<td>crept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cry</td>
<td>cried</td>
<td>cried</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cut</td>
<td>cut</td>
<td>cut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>deal</td>
<td>dealt</td>
<td>dealt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dig</td>
<td>dug</td>
<td>dug</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dive</td>
<td>dived, dove</td>
<td>dived, dove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do</td>
<td>did</td>
<td>done</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>draw</td>
<td>drew</td>
<td>drawn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drink</td>
<td>drank</td>
<td>drunk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drive</td>
<td>drove</td>
<td>driven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dry</td>
<td>dried</td>
<td>dried</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eat</td>
<td>ate</td>
<td>eaten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fall</td>
<td>fell</td>
<td>fallen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>feed</td>
<td>fed</td>
<td>fed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>feel</td>
<td>felt</td>
<td>felt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## IRREGULAR VERBS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRESENT</th>
<th>PAST</th>
<th>PAST PARTICIPLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>fight</td>
<td>fought</td>
<td>fought</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>find</td>
<td>found</td>
<td>found</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>flee</td>
<td>fled</td>
<td>fled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fly</td>
<td>flew</td>
<td>flown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>forget</td>
<td>forgot</td>
<td>forgotten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>forgive</td>
<td>forgave</td>
<td>forgiven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>freeze</td>
<td>froze</td>
<td>frozen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fry</td>
<td>fried</td>
<td>fried</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>get</td>
<td>got</td>
<td>got, gotten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>give</td>
<td>gave</td>
<td>given</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>go</td>
<td>went</td>
<td>gone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>grow</td>
<td>grew</td>
<td>grown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hang (person)</td>
<td>hanged</td>
<td>hung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hang (thing)</td>
<td>hung</td>
<td>hung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>has, have</td>
<td>had</td>
<td>had</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hear</td>
<td>heard</td>
<td>heard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hide</td>
<td>hid</td>
<td>hidden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hurt</td>
<td>hurt</td>
<td>hurt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>know</td>
<td>knew</td>
<td>known</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lay</td>
<td>laid</td>
<td>laid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lead</td>
<td>led</td>
<td>led</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lie</td>
<td>lay</td>
<td>lain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lie</td>
<td>lied</td>
<td>lied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lose</td>
<td>lost</td>
<td>lost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>make</td>
<td>made</td>
<td>made</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mean</td>
<td>meant</td>
<td>meant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>meet</td>
<td>met</td>
<td>met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pay</td>
<td>paid</td>
<td>paid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>read</td>
<td>read</td>
<td>read</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ride</td>
<td>rode</td>
<td>ridden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ring</td>
<td>rang</td>
<td>rung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rise</td>
<td>rose</td>
<td>risen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>run</td>
<td>ran</td>
<td>run</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

©Mercer County Community College
# IRREGULAR VERBS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRESENT</th>
<th>PAST</th>
<th>PAST PARTICIPLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>see</td>
<td>saw</td>
<td>seen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shake</td>
<td>shook</td>
<td>shaken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shine(polish)</td>
<td>shined</td>
<td>shined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shine(light)</td>
<td>shone</td>
<td>shone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>show</td>
<td>showed</td>
<td>shown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shrink</td>
<td>shrank</td>
<td>shrunk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sing</td>
<td>sang</td>
<td>sung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sink</td>
<td>sank</td>
<td>sunk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sit</td>
<td>sat</td>
<td>sat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>slay</td>
<td>slew</td>
<td>slain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sleep</td>
<td>slept</td>
<td>slept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>speak</td>
<td>spoke</td>
<td>spoken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spend</td>
<td>spent</td>
<td>spent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spread</td>
<td>spread</td>
<td>spread</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spring</td>
<td>sprung</td>
<td>sprung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stand</td>
<td>stood</td>
<td>stood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>steal</td>
<td>stole</td>
<td>stolen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sting</td>
<td>stung</td>
<td>stung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>swear</td>
<td>swore</td>
<td>sworn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>swim</td>
<td>swam</td>
<td>swum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>swing</td>
<td>swung</td>
<td>swung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>take</td>
<td>took</td>
<td>taken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>teach</td>
<td>taught</td>
<td>taught</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tear</td>
<td>tore</td>
<td>torn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tell</td>
<td>told</td>
<td>told</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>think</td>
<td>thought</td>
<td>thought</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>throw</td>
<td>threw</td>
<td>thrown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>try</td>
<td>tried</td>
<td>tried</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wake</td>
<td>woke,waked</td>
<td>woken,waked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wear</td>
<td>wore</td>
<td>worn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>win</td>
<td>won</td>
<td>won</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>write</td>
<td>wrote</td>
<td>written</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
USING IRREGULAR VERBS

In the paragraphs below, write in the correct form of the verb in the space provided.

The supervisor considered which of the two assemblers he should use. John (can)_________ work on his own whenever he was (give)_________ the opportunity. Ann (be)_________ with the company for ten years, and (be)_________ therefore more eligible because of seniority. He (think)_________ he (will)_________ consider the matter further.

Each (come)_________ with his own advantages and disadvantages. John, for example, (has)_________ a series of unexplained absences last spring when he (say)_________ one thing to his supervisor and (tell)_________ his co-workers something else. However, he (show)_________ that he (know)_________ the meaning of hard work when he (meet)_________ the deadlines during the pre-Christmas rush.
Ann, on the other hand, (have) different good and bad points. She (be) extremely loyal and (driven) to the airport on several occasions and (write) letters on his behalf when he (go) for his promotion last year. Unfortunately, she (can) not work well on her own and always (spend) to much time asking for his help and advice.

He (come) to the conclusion that the only solution (be) to toss a coin.
WRITING 1  ●  SESSION 4 & 5

OBJECTIVES:

In order to write memos and letters on work related subjects, at the end of this session students will be able to:

- distinguish different tones and styles for different audiences
- apply spelling rules
- use frequently confused words correctly

TOPICS:

- style and tone
- spelling and vocabulary

METHODS:

- guided discussion of principles
- group work
- practice situations for discussion and writing
EVALUATION:

- self evaluation based on correct completion of worksheets

Students will be able to use different styles and tones, according to different situations and will therefore be more effective communicators. Their spelling will improve when they apply the spelling rules and they will be able to distinguish and use frequently confused words correctly.

MATERIALS:

- Tips for Setting out your Letter
- Style and Tone
- Memos for Discussion
- List of Commonly Misspelled Words
- Spelling Rules
- Spelling Exercises
- Frequently Confused Words
TEACHER TIPS  ♦  SESSION 4 & 5

- It will depend on the group as to how best to work through these two sessions. I suggest that you spend the first hour on tone and style and the second on spelling for each of the two sessions.

- Discussion on Tips for Setting Out Your Letter. Link to examples generated by the class.

- Style and Tone. This is a lengthy handout and should not be read to the group. Give examples and generate discussion and let the students read the information themselves.

- Group work - discuss and rewrite memos on Flextime

- Spelling and vocabulary. Students work through this series of handouts and worksheets. Time should be spent focusing in on individual needs and problems. Dictionaries should be used, particularly with Frequently Confused Words. Remember this should not be a testing situation for the students. No one should be made to feel that they are stupid etc.
TIPS FOR SETTING OUT YOUR LETTER

When reader's reaction is positive or neutral and you aren't asking for any action -

- give good news first. Summarize main points in 1st paragraph.
- in body, give supporting details, negative aspects and benefits.
- make last paragraph personal and positive.

When you have bad news -

- open with a neutral statement.
- give the reason for the news before the bad news itself.
- be clear and concise.
- try to give an alternative or compromise.
- try to end positively.

When you want the reader to do something -

- catch the reader's interest.
- define the problem.
- explain the solution.
- show that any objections are outweighed by the benefits
- tell the reader exactly what you want him to do.
STYLE AND TONE

What you say in a memo or letter is partly how you say it.

Your message can get lost in your words. The whole message is more than understanding the dictionary definitions of the words you use.

Writing effectively conveys how you wish to relate to your audience and what you want your audience to feel in response.

You must choose what style is appropriate for the occasion. Should you be personal or impersonal, simple and direct or more complex and colorful, forceful or passive?

To be an effective communicator remember:

1. Your style has an impact on your reader
2. Style communicates almost as much as the content of a message
3. Style cannot be isolated from a situation
4. There is no general style to fit all situations

For a forceful style - appropriate where the writer has power to give orders or to say no, firmly but politely to a subordinate.

- use the active voice
- don’t beat around the bush. Say it directly.
- Write most sentences in subject-verb-object order. Don’t weaken sentences by relegating the action to a subordinate clause: "Mike was offered the job, although the competition was intense," not "Although Mike was offered the job, the competition was intense."
- be confident. Avoid words like possibly, maybe, perhaps, some might conclude that
STYLE AND TONE

For a passive style - appropriate in negative situations and where the writer is subordinate to the reader.

- avoid the imperative
- occasional use of the passive: "Valuable time is being wasted" instead of "You are wasting valuable time."
- use words like possibly, maybe, perhaps, some might conclude that

For a personal style - appropriate in good news and persuasive action/request situations.

- use the active voice
- use personal pronouns (particularly you and I) and people's names, instead of titles
- uses short sentences that give the rhythm of ordinary conversation
- direct questions to the reader
- add positive personal thoughts and references to reinforce that this is not some type of form letter, sent to lots of others

For an impersonal style - appropriate in negative and information conveying situations. (Also in technical and scientific writing)

- avoid using people's names and personal pronouns
- use the passive voice
- make some of your sentences complex and some paragraphs long.
STYLE AND TONE

For a colorful style - appropriate for the more persuasive writing of sales and advertising letters.

- use adjectives and adverbs
- if appropriate, use metaphors - our new product is a miracle of modern design; or similes - our new cleaner works like magic to remove stains

There can be some overlap in these styles. This is a guide to help you, but, in the end, it is up to you to decide how you say what you want to say.
Company ABC has a policy of flextime. Below are a selection of letters written by the Manager of Human Resources telling all employees about the program. Discuss how each meets the needs of the reader and the organization. Is the message clear, complete and concise?

1.
To: All Employees
From: Manager, Human Resources
Subject: Now you can come and go when you want!

Great news! As from Monday, March 1, you get to choose your own hours! Well, not any hours, but as long as you're here from 10 to 3, the rest is up to you. This will make life easier for you moms and dads. We all know what a pain it is trying to juggle home and work. And those without kids won't mind the extra flexibility to catch up on time in the gym. It will be good to get on the machines without having to wait.

Just work it out with your supervisor. Someone has to be around from 9 to 5. We don't want the customers thinking there's nobody here when they phone!

Enjoy!

2.
To: All Employees
From: Manager, Human Resources
Subject: Flextime

Following the Executive Board meeting on February 3, 1993, in accordance with company policy regarding changes to procedures, it is announced that from Monday, March 1, 1993, The ABC Company will be initiating a system of flextime. Attendance between the hours of 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. will be regarded as obligatory. However employees will have the option of choosing their own hours of commencement and departure, subject to their supervisor's approval and providing they are present for the mandatory eight hours. The other stipulation is that personnel are present at all times in order to facilitate the answering of telephones.
3.
To: All Employees
From: Manager, Human Resources
Subject: Another Employee Benefit for Employees who work here at the ABC Company

Some of you may already have got wind of the new policy that we are about to initiate at the ABC Company. We are really excited about it and know that once you get used to the new system, you too will be as enthusiastic as we are. However there are some organizational details that you need to be aware of.

Things will get under way on March 1, 1993. At that time you will be able to be more flexible about your start and finish times. You have to be at work between the core hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. and then have to put in the extra 3 hours to make the 8 hour work day. This means that, for example, you could come in at 6 a.m. and then leave by 3 p.m. Or, if you wanted to come in at 9.30 a.m. it would mean that you could only leave at 5.30 p.m. You will be able to work out whatever suits you best. You can even come in at different times on different days, so long as you have your supervisor's permission.

As I have just said, you do need to get your supervisor's permission. This is obvious, because otherwise it might mean that on some days and at some times, there might not be anybody to answer the telephones. You all know that customers are the lifeblood of our company, so we must have somebody here at all times.

I do see that there might be a few problems with this to start out, but I am confident that we can work it out. I hope that you think that this is a good idea and that it gives you more time to spend with your families or catching up with those things that we never get time to do in a normal work week.

Now rewrite this memo.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMONLY MISSPELLED WORDS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>absenCCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aCCept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aCComplish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aCCurate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>achiEvement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acquaintANCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aCRoss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>adventISement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>adVICE/VISE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A LOT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anSWer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aPPropriate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arGUMent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>artICLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aTHlete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>attendANCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>availABLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bEAUiful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>beginNning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>behaVIOR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>breaTH/THE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUSIness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>calENDAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cElling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cerTAINly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chI Ef</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>choicE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chOOse/chOse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>coMMerCial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>coMMiTTEE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>compETition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conCentrate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>congRATulate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conSCIENCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conSCIOUS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>consEquently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>convenIEnce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>counSelor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>critiCISM/CIZE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>deFINITELY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>desPERate/ly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEScribe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>develope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>diFFErent/ence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>diSAPPoint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>doESN'T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>duRing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eighTTh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>embaRRaSS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>enTRANCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>enveLOPE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>enviRONment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eSPECIALly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exaGGerate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exCept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>existENCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exPERIence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exPERiment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exPLANation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exTREMEly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>familIAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>faSCinate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FeBRUAry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>forEIGN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>genIUS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>goVERNment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gramMAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gUAranTee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hEIGHT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iMMediate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>indepenDENCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>inTEGration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>inTELlectual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>inTERfere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>inteRRupt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRRELevant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>knowLEDGE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEisure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lenGTH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>licEnSe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lonEliness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lOOse/lOse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mainTEnance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maTHEmatics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>misCHIEF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>miSSpell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>niEce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ninEty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ninTH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oCCaSion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oCCuRREnce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>opINion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oPPportunity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oRIGinal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oPTImist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>particULAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PASTime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERhaps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phoNY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phySICAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>poSSible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>poSSible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>preFER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>preJUDiCED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>preVALENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>priviLEGy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>proBABly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>proNUNciation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYchology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PURsue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quiET/quITE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>realIZE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reCOMMend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHyTHM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rIdicUI OUS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>scenERY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCHEDule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SECRETary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sePARate/ly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>siMILar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>siNce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sinCERely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spEEch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>straiGHT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>strenGTH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sUCCeed/sUCCess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SURpriSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>temPERature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>thROUGH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>thoROUGH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>toMoRRow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unNECESSary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNusUALy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WedNESday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PLURAL FORMS OF NOUNS

To make most nouns plural, add -s.
   chairs, tables, dogs, cats

Add -es to nouns ending in -sh, -ch, -ss, and -x.
   dishes, matches, dresses, boxes

If a noun ends in a consonant + -y, change the y to i and add -es.
   ladies, babies, secretaries

If a noun ends in -fe or -f, change the ending to -ves.
   knives, shelves, wives, halves (Except: beliefs, chiefs, roofs, cuffs)

Some nouns that end in -o just take -s in the plural.
   zoos, radios, studios, photos, pianos, autos, solos

Some nouns that end in -o take -es in the plural.
   potatoes, tomatoes, echoes, heroes, mosquitoes

Some can take either -s or -es.
   zeroes/zeros, volcanoes/volcanos, tornadoes/tornados

Some nouns have irregular plural forms.
   children, men, women, people, feet, teeth, mice, gees.

Some plurals are the same as the singular.
   deer, fish, sheep, species, offspring

Plurals that come from Latin and Greek.

bacterium - bacteria
crisis - crises
phenomenon - phenomena

basis - bases cactus - cacti
hypothesis - hypotheses
PLURAL FORMS OF NOUNS

The sentences below are written in the singular. Make the necessary corrections to make them plural.

1. The man on the line worked on in spite of the crisis.

2. The person put up the shelf while he ate his sandwich with tomato.

3. The fire chief confirmed his belief that a match could have started the fire.

4. The secretary typed up the list to show the students who were in the class.

5. A hero is a phenomenon of the past. Today, a boy doesn’t have the same role model that he used to.
Singular nouns that end in s

athletics
economics, mathematics, physics
news
politics
the United States

Nouns that are always plural

clothes
glasses
jeans, pants, shorts, slacks, trousers
scissors
police

Collective nouns are singular when they refer to a group acting as one

audience
club
crowd
group
public

band
collection
faculty
jury
staff

class
committee
family
orchestra
team
SPELLING RULES

1. **i before e**, except after **c**, if the sound of the 2 letters combined is "ee":
   
   mischief  receive

   **i before e** if the sound of the 2 letters combined is "ee". If not, the pattern is reversed:
   
   foreign

   *Exceptions*: either, neither, seize, leizure, weird, sheik

2. If a word ends in "y" and the "y" comes after a **consonant**, change the **y** to **i** before adding more to the word:

   enemy  enemies
   secretary  secretaries
   try  tries  tried
   study  studies  studied
   lonely  loneliness

   But when you add "ing" you keep the "y":

   try  trying
   study  studying

   If the "y" comes after a **vowel**, you do not change it to "i":

   holiday  holidays
   display  displays  displayed
   employ  employment
   pay  payment

   *Exceptions*: day  daily
   pay  paid
   lay  laid
3. Drop the final silent e when adding an ending that begins with a **vowel**:
   
   - accuse → accusing
   - dispute → disputing

   Keep the final silent e when adding an ending that begins with a **consonant**:
   
   - hope → hopeless
   - spite → spiteful

   **Exceptions**: judgment, courageous, dyeing, argument, truly

4. **Double** the final consonant, when adding an ending, when the vowel sound says its sound:

   - sum → summary
   - trim → trimming
   - program → programming

   Usually, in words of more than one syllable, when the accent is on the **1st. syllable**, **do not double** the consonant:
   
   - layer → layering
   - offer → offered
   - cancel → canceled

   Usually, in words of more than one syllable, when the accent is on the **2nd. syllable**, **double** the consonant:
   
   - occur → occurring
   - refer → referred
   - prefer → preferred
   - remit → remittance
   - omit → omitted
SPELLING RULES

Do not double the final consonant, when adding an ending when the vowel sound says its own name:

- time → timing
- rage → raging
- cope → coping
SPELLING REVIEW

Complete the word in parentheses.

1. We hope to (rec______ve) payment for the work by the end of the week.

2. We avoided an (arg______ment) when we held a meeting to change our working (env______ment).

3. The hinges on the door are (I______) and need to be tightened.

4. I did not (bel______ve) the (h______ght) of the new basketball player.

5. In my (jud______ment) the (go______ent) will spend more on training next year.

6. I will send that letter (sep______ly) and would appreciate your answer (im______ d______ly).
FREQUENTLY CONFUSED WORDS

Fill in the blank in each sentence by selecting the word you think most appropriate from the words in parentheses.

1. Don't let my opinion ________________ your decision.  
   (effect, affect)

2. The ________________ of the new price increases will be that fewer people will be able to afford the product.  
   (effect, affect)

3. It becomes a matter of ________________ that we offer products at affordable prices.  
   (principal, principle)

4. After working in sales for a year, she decided that she was ________________ in it.  
   (disinterested, uninterested)

5. Let me ________________ an example to illustrate the point.  
   (cite, site, sight)

6. The ________________ is an important part of this program.  
   (councilor, counselor)

7. Do you mean to ________________ that I am not telling the truth?  (infer, imply)
8. From what you have said, I have reason to ____________ it.  
_(infer, imply)_

9. Nothing that happened after the meeting could ____________ from the initial excitement we all felt.  
_(detract, distract)_

10. He received many ________________ for the presentation he gave on the importance of good customer relations.  
_(complements, compliments)_

11. When we arrived, the others were ________________ to go.  
_(all ready, already)_

12. I make ________________ mistakes in punctuation than I did before I took this course.  
_(less, fewer)_

13. In order to relax, you must ________________ deeply.  
_(breath, breathe)_

14. The new rule, ________________ antagonizing the employees, will be difficult to administer.  
_(beside, besides)_

15. Writing letters is another good ____________ of communication for this purpose.  
_(median, medium)_

©Mercer County Community College
SPELLING EXERCISE

Circle the correctly spelled word in each pair.

1. defendant
   defendant

2. interfered
   interferred

3. paralell
   parallel

4. precede
   proceed

5. bookkeeper
   bookeeper

6. independent
   independant

7. catagory
   category

8. neccessary
   necessary

9. desperately
   desparately

10. liaison
    liason

11. dissapoint
    disappoint

12. refered
    referred

13. temperature
    temperature

14. lisence
    license

15. accessible
    accessable

16. developement
    development

17. Febuary
    February

18. benefited
    benefitted

19. chargable
    chargeable

20. guarentee
    guarantee
SPELLING EXERCISE

Find the spelling errors in the letter below. Then rewrite it correctly.

Dear Madame:

Thank you for your courteous letter requesting information about our latest product. You are apparently extremely knowledgeable about the subject and we would recommend that you become part of our distinguished clientel. We have submitted a questionnaire that is necessary for you to complete before we can accommodate you into our programme. We suggest that you fill in the relevant sections and send it to us at your leisure. Then we will implement our part of the bargain.

You will find our product extraordinary. Congradulations once again, and welcome. We sincerely believe that you will be delighted with the results.

Yours truely,

The Managment, ABC Products.
TO:                John Brown
FROM:            Mary Black
DATE:          April 5, 1993

SUBJECT:  Recognition of your Personnel Achievements.

At a recent meeting of the Environment Committee, the consensus of the group was that you should receive the Achievement award for your unparalleled work to implement changes in the way we get rid of excess waste. This was especially pleasing for me, as I have had the privilege of working with you over a long period of time.

The award will be presented at a separate meeting held in your honour. I will let you know the time, date and venue very soon.

Congratulations!
**WORD USAGE**

Look at the words paired below and, by using them in sentences, make sure you can distinguish between them.

| 1. accept | 11. moral |
| 2. access | 12. quiet |
| 3. adapt | 13. continual |
| 4. advice | 14. stationery |
| 5. aide | 15. incite |
| 6. ascent | 16. disburse |
| 7. coarse | 17. cooperation |
| 8. desert | 18. eminent |
| 9. farther | 19. allowed |
| 10. loose | 20. berth |

©Mercer County Community College
WORD USAGE

Make sure you know the difference between the following:

1. already
   all ready
2. anyone
   any one
3. beside
   besides
4. everyday
   every day
5. less
   fewer
6. their
   there
7. who's
   whose
8. your
   you're
9. among
   between
10. I
    me
Dear Ms. Jones:

Thank you for your letter inquiring about the job we advertised in last week's newspaper. Unfortunately, the position has already been taken. However, I advise you to keep in contact with our cooperation. Everyday things change and I can cite you many examples of situations when people, who's circumstances change, leave suddenly.

We complement you on your qualifications, and hope that we have further dealings with you.

Yours sincerely,

U.R. Amoron.
WRITING 1  ◆  SESSION 6

OBJECTIVES:
In order to write effective memos and letters, at the end of this session students will be able to:

- brainstorm
- organize their ideas into the most effective order
- reorganize a memo for visual impact

TOPICS:
- brainstorming
- organizing ideas
- the importance of visual impact

METHODS:
- guided discussion of principles
- group work applying principles
- writing
EVALUATION:

- self evaluation, based on correct completion of worksheets

Students will be better able to generate their own ideas, by applying the brainstorming techniques. They will also be able to organize these ideas, put them down on paper and reorganize them for visual impact.

MATERIALS:

- The Brainstorm Outline
- The Importance of Visual Impact and exercise
Discussion on **brainstorming** - tends to be useful for **longer** memos, letters and reports.

1. Regular jotting down of ideas
2. **Picture Outline**
   - nonlinear, pictorial way of getting ideas and their relationship to each other on paper
   - encourages free association of ideas
   - space to squeeze in new ideas
   - visual grouping of ideas
   - put related ideas on same spoke or close to it
   - less important facts stem out of more important ones

Brainstorm using both methods (either 2 of 3 original memos or new ones)

**Organizing ideas:**
- what order will be most effective?
- can any details be combined?
- look at what general topics emerge
- will these be separate headings/paragraphs?

**Visual Impact** and exercise.
BRAINSTORM OUTLINE
THE IMPORTANCE OF VISUAL IMPACT

USE:

- **Short paragraphs**

  Paragraphs have three purposes:
  - to develop the single idea presented in the topic sentence or subject line
  - to provide a logical break in material
  - to create physical breaks that help the reader visually

  Paragraphs should be short - 5-6 lines.

- **Headlines**

  Headlines focus your reader on major ideas

- **Highlighting**

  Use bold, italics, capitals to focus your reader on important information

- **Bullets**

  For impact, use bullets to replace lists within sentences
Using some of the above techniques, rewrite the following memo, so that you improve its visual impact.

TO: All personnel
FROM: Mary Smith, company nurse
DATE: March 6, 1993
SUBJECT: Safety dress code

Following observations by the Safety Committee during routine safety inspections throughout the plant, we have decided that this facility requires all employees to follow a safety dress code in order to minimize injury on the shop floor. The safety code requires that all employees dress in the following manner: Upper garment will cover the upper body from the collar bones to at least the waistline and from shoulder point to shoulder point. Lower garment will cover the lower body from the waist to below the knee. The following types of shoes are not allowed in the shop area: open-toed shoes, sandals, canvas shoes, high-heeled shoes, any type of sneaker. The new rules will be in operation from Monday, March 8, 1993. It is the responsibility of all supervisors to enforce this. If you choose to ignore this policy, you will face disciplinary action.
WRITING 1  ◆  SESSION 7 & 8

OBJECTIVES:

In order to write effective memos and letters, at the end of this session students will be able to:

- freewrite
- write a first draft
- punctuate correctly, using commas, semicolons, colons and apostrophes

TOPICS:

- freewriting
- writing a first draft
- punctuation

METHODS:

- guided discussion of principles
- group work applying principles
- writing
EVALUATION:

- self evaluation, based on correct completion of worksheets

Students will be better able to generate their own ideas, by applying the brainstorming techniques. They will also be able to organize these ideas, put them down on paper and reorganize them for visual impact. In addition, by mastering all the punctuation exercises, students will write more correctly and therefore their writing will be more effective.

MATERIALS:

- Worksheets on:
  - commas
  - colons
  - semicolons
  - apostrophes
- Punctuation review
TEACHER TIPS  ◆  SESSION 7 & 8

Freewriting:

Students will spend these sessions writing their first drafts of their memos. They will use the original three, using information from Session 2:

- customer complaint
- letter to co-worker
- letter about a grievance/disciplinary procedure

and/or the two subjects they brainstormed from Session 6

- write from beginning to end. If a good beginning doesn't emerge, go onto next idea.
- let your thoughts flow. Don't worry about mechanics. That comes with editing.
- change nothing as you write.

Punctuation handouts and worksheets.
COMMAS

1. Use a comma in a compound sentence between the 2 independent clauses and before the conjunction unless it obstructs the flow.

   IC, for IC.
   IC, but IC.

   *Examples:*

   He asked for a promotion, but he got a demotion.
   She had to go to the warehouse, so she left early.

2. Use commas around removable information.

   *Examples:*

   The house, made of wood and cement, was demolished in 1988.
   The company, a turbine manufacturer, has three locations.
   Steve, who has worked for the company for 10 years, has taken his GED test.

3. Use commas to separate items in a list. The items can be things (nouns) action phrases.

   *Examples:*

   He brought nails, screws, tacks, and a hammer.
   They take the order, call the customer, check the order, and ship the merchandise.
COMMAS

NOTE: The final comma before the "and" is optional, but it depends on the context. If the reader could be confused without the comma, then put it in.

Examples:

He drinks tea, beer and milk.

The afternoon garbage man will drive the truck, make the stops, eat and pick up the garbage.

This being my last will and testament, I am leaving my estate to be divided among my sons: Bill, George and Steve.

4. Use a comma between a subordinate clause and a main clause. SC, MC.

Examples:

Even though it was 110 degrees, he was wearing a sweater.

Since they lost the key to the room, they had to break down the door.

NOTE: If you put the MC first, you don't need a comma. MC, SC.

Example:

They had to break down the door since they lost their key.
5. Use a comma to set off a direct quote.

Examples:

He said, "The meeting will be at noon."

They asked, "Where is the meeting being held?"

NOTE: In reported speech, omit the comma.

Examples:

He said the meeting would be at noon.

They asked where the meeting was being held.

6. Use commas between adjectives of equal importance.

Examples:

She is a wise, witty woman.

The big, expensive, obnoxious American car was parked illegally.

NOTE: use a comma between adjectives when you would say "and"

Example:

The big AND expensive car is parked wrong.

But: The expensive American car (you wouldn't say expensive AND American car)
COMMAS AND SEMICOLONS

DO NOT use a comma between two independent clauses. (IC, IC.). This error is known as a comma splice, because you are splicing together two ideas that could stand independently.

He was late, he came to work at 9:00.

HOW TO FIX A COMMA SPLICE?

1. Use a period to separate the 2 clauses.

IC. IC.

2. Use a comma and a conjunction to separate the 2 clauses.

IC , so IC.
IC , for IC.
IC , but IC.

3. Use a semicolon to separate the 2 clauses.

IC ; IC.

4. Use a semicolon and a transition word (followed by a comma) to separate the 2 clauses.

IC ; however, IC.
IC ; nevertheless, IC.
IC ; regardless, IC.
LONG ITEMS OR CLARIFICATIONS IN A LIST

1. Use **semicolons** between long or wordy items in a list, and **commas** between the **adjectives** and **phrases**.

   *Example:*

   There were several reasons why she hated going to the warehouse alone: the dark, damp space scared her, the extreme quiet rankled her nerves, made her skin crawl, and left her tense, and her fear of being locked in, a fear that stemmed from her childhood, froze her in her tracks.

   There were several reasons why she hated going to the warehouse alone: the dark, damp space scared her; the extreme quiet rankled her nerves, made her skin crawl, and left her tense; and her fear of being locked in, a fear that stemmed from her childhood, froze her in her tracks.

2. Use **commas** between **items** and **clarifications**, then **semicolons** between the **separate items** in a list.

   *Example:*

   Many people attended the meeting: Paul Smith, President, Ken Lewis, Vice President, Stan Heim, Marketing Representative, and the secretary.

   How many people attended that meeting?

   Many people attended the meeting: Paul Smith, President; Ken Lewis, Vice President; Stan Heim, Marketing Representative; and the secretary.

   How many people attended this meeting?
COLONS

1. Use colons to introduce a list. Be sure that you have a complete sentence before the colon.

Example:

Many different classes are being offered: English, Math, Economics, and Writing.

But not:

The classes are: English, Math, Economics, and Writing.

2. Use a colon to come to a conclusion or generalization.

Example:

He had no other choice: he had to change shifts.

The wheels were broken, the radiator was smoking, and the fenders were falling off: her car was a piece of junk.
APOSTROPHEs

Apostrophes for Contraction

1. Use an apostrophe to replace the removed letter(s):
   
   We are = we're  
   can not = can't  
   we have eaten = we've eaten

Note: He's could mean he is or he has, and you need to know the context to determine the tense.

Apostrophes for Possession

1. Use an apostrophe and an S to show possession:
   Carol's book  
   Lorna's pencil  
   the student's notebook

2. If the name/noun ends in an S, you have two options:
   1) add only the apostrophe:  
      Luis' book  
      Jesus' mother
   2) add the apostrophe and the S:  
      the boss' office  
      Jesus's mother

3. If the noun is plural and you are showing plural possession, add the S to make the countable noun plural then add just the apostrophe:
   the teacher's book = one teacher and his/her book  
   the teachers' lounge = many teachers use the lounge
4. If the spelling changes on the plural, make the change, then add the apostrophe after the S to show possession:

the company's policy = one company
the companies' policy = more than one company

5. If the plural is irregular, use apostrophe S to show possession:

the women's room
the children's babysitter

6. If the plural and singular noun are the same, add apostrophe S:

the sheep's barn

7. If you are using the possessive for an indefinite pronoun, use 'S.

anyone's
everyone's
someone's
no one's
somebody's
**APOSTROPHES**

**REMEMBER:**
Possessive pronouns that replace the noun do **not** take an apostrophe:

- yours       not your’s
- theirs      not their’s
- ours        not our’s
- hers        not her’s

**BE CAREFUL!**

It is = it’s

its = possession

*Example:* It’s raining so hard that the sheep can’t find its barn.
OTHER PUNCTUATION MARKS

QUESTION MARKS

The question mark (?) follows a direct question.

Do you have the stock we ordered?

Indirect questions tell the reader about a question, rather than ask it directly. They do not require question marks, but end with periods.

He asked if they had the stock they ordered.

EXCLAMATION POINTS

The exclamation point (!) shows that a word or statement expresses excitement or another strong feeling.

Look out for that truck!

Be careful not to use the exclamation point too frequently, as it loses its effectiveness.

HYPHENS

Use hyphens (-) for adjectives joined as one unit to modify a noun.

The company uses the most up-to-date equipment.

Use hyphens with the prefixes ex and self.

The problem is self-evident.

I saw my ex-boss at a conference last week.
Use hyphens for fractions and numbers above 20 and below 100 when they are spelled out.

A two-thirds majority is needed to pass the motion.

Seventy-three of our employees received long-service awards.

A hyphen is used to divide a word at the end of a line.

If you ever visit our plant in the United Kingdom, please come and see me.

DASHES

Dashes (--) are used for emphasis or to set off parenthetical expressions that already contain commas. Do not add a space before or after a dash.

CPR sometimes--but not always--succeeds in reviving people who have had heart attacks.

PARENTHESES

Parentheses ( ) are used to set off explanatory information from the rest of the sentence.

The information that follows (worksheets 2, 3 and 4) will help you to understand the rules of punctuation.
OTHER PUNCTUATION MARKS

QUOTATION MARKS

Quotation marks (" ") are needed for direct speech. They enclose the exact words of the speaker or writer.

The supervisor said, "Get to work on time, or your job is on the line!"

Titles of short works, including song titles, short stories, newspaper and magazine articles, book chapters and TV shows, are set off in quotation marks. Longer works should be underlined, or set in italics.

I read an article in Newsweek about training in the workplace. I think it was called "Training for the Twenty-First Century."
PUNCTUATION EXERCISE

Punctuate the paragraph below.

a new employee is usually assigned the easiest tasks in the office for example she will be expected to learn what tasks are to be performed and who performs them. The new employee also learns the company's policies, procedures, and benefits. There are different levels of entry into the company: hourly paid, salaried, and management. On her first day, the new employee may be asked by the human resources department, "Do you understand the way your contract is set out?"
PUNCTUATION EXERCISE

Punctuate the memo below.

To: Customer Service Employees

From: Jane Brown, Supervisor

Date: April 1, 1993

Subject: Letters to Customers

I have become concerned about the correspondence that we are sending out to customers copies of employees memos and letters for the months of January February and March reveal some real problems people are making a variety of punctuation errors commas colons and semicolons are used incorrectly spelling mistakes are common and this shouldnt happen with spell checks and messages are not clear concise or to the point

Even though many of you were at Mercer County Community Colleges last training session Im signing you all up for their new set of mini courses called Grammar Brush Up there are four sessions on offer parts of speech punctuation spelling and sentence problems

Im also purchasing the book Proofreading/Editing Proficiency pay particular attention to Chapter 2 Rules of Good Editing and Chapter 4 Punctuation Made Easy

You must all make a concerted effort to be more accurate do you want your mistakes to affect your relationship with your customers

©Mercer County Community College
PUNCTUATION EXERCISE

Punctuate the letter below.

April 1, 1993

Mrs Lorna Burt
7531 Chichory Avenue
New Lawrence N.J.14930

Dear Mrs Burt

Thank you for your letter asking about information on our latest product the Automatic Childrens Room Tidier we are pleased that you have seen our commercials on TV weve also advertized regularly in Good Housekeeping and local newspapers

As you requested were sending you the following an order form to be sent to our plant in Edison New Jersey a sample of our product together with a self explanatory evaluation form and a rebate coupon which could be worth nearly two thirds the cost of the product

We know youll love your Automatic Childrens Room Tidier In the words of our many satisfied customers this is XYZs best product ever

Sincerely

Bill Leavitall
Sales Manager
PUNCTUATION REVIEW

1. During the meeting the manager was shrewd clever and controlled but the order went to the company's competition

2. In spite of the Equal Opportunities Act women still find it difficult to move up in the company let alone become president

3. We thought we would have to work over the Labor Day weekend therefore we were delighted when we finished the order two days before schedule

4. The employees handbook is updated occasionally when there are policy changes when there are holiday changes and at the end of every year.

5. The Christmas bonuses were distributed on December 21 but Bill and Mary two workers in the warehouse complained that they hadn't gotten theirs yet they had a Merry Christmas

6. My new office contains a lot of new furniture a top of the line IBM compatible computer a laser printer a modern streamlined wooden credenza and an environment sensitive halogen lamp

7. The guard at the security house is thorough and reliable he always asks for identification and often requires strangers to show a second form of ID a drivers license a social security card or a recent photo
WRITING 1  ●  SESSION 9

OBJECTIVES:

In order to write clear, well constructed letters and memos, at the end of this session, students will be able to:

- simplify complicated sentences
- remove cliches, redundancies and obsolete expressions

TOPICS:

- basic rules for editing:
  trimming unnecessary words, simplifying language, removing cliches, redundancies, and obsolete expressions

METHODS:

- guided discussion of principles
- worksheets of examples
- application of the above to own first drafts
EVALUATION:

- comparison of first to second drafts
- successful completion of worksheets

Students will be able to edit their own work so that their messages are clear, concise and coherent. If they write well, their ideas are more likely to be taken seriously by their peers, supervisors and managers.

MATERIALS:

- Editing: What to look for
- Simplifying Prepositional Phrases
- Simplifying Phrases
- Sentences to Simplify
- Outdated Business Language
- Redundancies
- Being Tactful and Positive
- Eliminating Redundancies
The purpose of the following sessions is for students to edit their five memos that they have been working on throughout the course. These will be submitted in session #14.

Students are introduced to the rules of editing, using company and class generated materials. The handouts are for back-up and for the students to use later.

The handouts are supplemented by worksheets to edit.

Then students look at their own writing. Encourage them to be critical of their first drafts and to edit ruthlessly. This is a good time for the instructor to spend time with individual students and their specific writing problems.
EDITING: WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Lengthy Sentences
In arranging for the customer to finance his car, Chrysler dealers were at a disadvantage when competing with General Motors and Ford dealers because both these companies offered direct auto financing to dealers and customers through their own financing sources and Chrysler dealers had to look to outside sources to satisfy their financing requirements.

Clichés
Enclosed please find the information as per your request. Hopefully, you can utilize our product to benefit your company within the parameters of your computer's invoice processing. We appreciate your input.

Too Many Big Words
Pursuant to our discussion, herewith we acknowledge receipt of your correspondence as of the above date.

Subsequently, we'll require your endorsement.

Vague Expressions
The company's negative cash flow position forced it to resize its operations to the level of profitable market opportunities.

Active vs. Passive Voice
It was necessary to terminate the search

The secretary was hired by Mary.

The Ford corporation was founded by Henry Ford in 1903

New and used automobiles are financed by G.M.A.C.
### SIMPLIFYING PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORIGINAL</th>
<th>REVISED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>at all times</td>
<td>always</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at a later date</td>
<td>later</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at an early date</td>
<td>soon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at the present time</td>
<td>now</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at the time when</td>
<td>when</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at this time</td>
<td>now</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in the amount of $10.00</td>
<td>for $10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in the development of</td>
<td>in developing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in the event that</td>
<td>if</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in the meantime</td>
<td>meanwhile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in the nature of</td>
<td>like</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in the near future</td>
<td>soon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in view of the fact that</td>
<td>because</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for the collection of</td>
<td>to collect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for making the comparisons</td>
<td>to compare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for the learning of</td>
<td>to learn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for the mastery of</td>
<td>to master</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for the month of July</td>
<td>for July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for the operation of</td>
<td>to operate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for the purchasing of</td>
<td>to buy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for the preparation of</td>
<td>to prepare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for the purpose of reviewing</td>
<td>to review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for the operation of</td>
<td>to operate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for the reason that</td>
<td>because</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for this to be accomplished</td>
<td>to do this</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>along the lines of</td>
<td>like</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of this nature</td>
<td>like this</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>on the grounds that</td>
<td>because</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>on the part of</td>
<td>by</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>over the signature of</td>
<td>signed by</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to the attainment of</td>
<td>to get</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>through the use of</td>
<td>by using</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>under the direction of</td>
<td>directed by</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>under separate cover</td>
<td>separately</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SIMPLIFYING PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

UNNECESSARY WORDS

are as follows
aware of the fact that
if it is deemed to be satisfactory
in order to be well-prepared
in the course of his speech
in the month of July
in the year 1993
it is interesting
it is obvious that
it is possible to do this
until such time as
we are in the process of preparing
we are in the process of restructuring
we wish to advise
we find it objectionable
we came to the conclusion that

are
aware of
if satisfactory
to be well-prepared
in his speech
in July
in 1993
(leave it out)
(leave it out)
we can do this
until
we are preparing
we are restructuring
(leave it out)
we object
we concluded that
SIMPLIFYING PHRASES

Simplify the phrases below. Eliminate any wordiness, jargon, obsolete expressions or incorrectly used words.

at this point in time
as per your suggestion
I would like to call your attention
in the event of
due to the fact that
at a later date
kindly advise
in the normal course of our procedures
this will acknowledge with thanks
in accordance with your request
under separate cover
on a daily basis
each and every one
in my opinion, I think
irregardless
owing to the fact that
we regret to inform you
therefore, we ask you to remit
there is no doubt but that
so very happy
clenched tightly
close proximity
close scrutiny
in the majority of instances
at this juncture of maturation
in the amount of
Rewrite the following sentences so that they are simpler and more concise.

1. Pursuant to our meeting last week, the undersigned requests the opinion of your workteam concerning the feasibility of the proposed guidelines.

2. In the event of an unexpected accident and you are a witness who saw the accident, you should file a completed accident report with the office of the safety director.

3. They would not divulge the reason that their equipment was in a non-operative condition.

4. We must interface with the Personnel Department as to the availability of the training facility in order to assemble for our Working Class.

5. Enclosed you will find various selections from literature about Continuous Improvement to assist assemblers in increasing their productivity.
OUTDATED BUSINESS LANGUAGE

Good business writing requires flexibility and a willingness to change. Many obsolete phrases and overused expressions are no longer appropriate and make your writing dull and expressionless.

Examples:

comply with your request
permit us to remind you
pleasure of a reply
regret to advise you
thanking you kindly
we take pleasure in advising
subsequent to your letter of
as per our agreement
as per your request
enclosed please find
under separate cover
until such time
prior to the start of
regarding the matter of
in the near future
pursuant to
hereby advise
please be advised
in the matter that
please remit
Redundancies are unnecessary repetitions of words. Writing should be concise and to the point.

Examples:

- exact same
- past history
- past experience
- free gift
- personal opinion
- true fact
- other alternative
- return back
- basic fundamental
- both alike
- cooperate together
- revert back
- Jewish rabbi
- Catholic priest
- meet together

Avoid these phrases:

- As a general rule
- In my opinion, I believe that
- In my personal opinion
- Enclosed you will find

- goals and objectives
- fair and just
- advised and informed
- rules and regulations
- full and complete
- prompt and immediate
- each and every
- right and proper
- continuous and uninterrupted
- refuse and decline
- modern and up-to-date
BEING TACTFUL AND POSITIVE

Be sensitive to your audience's viewpoint. Avoid tactless expressions.

Examples:
I don't agree with you
Surely you realize
You claim that; you complain that; you neglect
Your claim; your complaint; your neglect
You forgot
We are unable to grant
We must insist
Everybody knows

Use positive words.

Examples:
able        dependable        important        please
absolutely  direct           improve          pleasure
benefit     encourage         immediately      popular
capable     enthusiasm        kind             prompt
certain     grateful          often            pertinent
clear       happy            optimistic        willing
ELIMINATING REDUNDANCIES

Rewrite the sentences below, eliminating the unnecessary words.

1. In my opinion, I personally like working on a J.I.T. line.

2. Joint cooperation is absolutely essential for the mutual benefit of everyone.

3. The working environment at the company is very unique in the Trenton area.

4. Before I understood how continuous flow worked, I was somewhat critical of J.I.T., but now I think it is totally excellent.

5. At the present moment, use of schedules is restricted just to Insight 2.
WRITING 1  •  SESSION 10

OBJECTIVES:

In order to write clear, well constructed letters and memos, at the end of this session, students will be able to:

- use the active rather than the passive voice
- correct sentence problems, e.g. subject and verb agreement and parallel construction
- use proofreading techniques to edit a first draft

TOPICS:

- active and passive voice
- subject and verb agreement
- parallel construction
- proofreading

METHODS:

- guided discussion of principles
- worksheets of examples
- application of the above to own first drafts
WRITING 1 ◆ SESSION 10

EVALUATION:

- comparison of first to second drafts
- successful completion of worksheets

Students will be able to edit their own work so that their messages are clear, concise and coherent. If they write well, their ideas are more likely to be taken seriously by their peers, supervisors and managers.

MATERIALS:

- Making Passive Sentences Active
- More Sentences to Edit
- Subject-Verb Agreement
- Parallel Construction
The purpose of this session is for students to continue learning and applying the rules of editing. They continue to edit their five memos that they have been working on throughout the course. These will be submitted in session #14.

For half the session students work with handouts and class and company generated materials. The handouts are for back-up and for the students to use later.

Then students look at their own writing. Encourage them to be critical of their first drafts and to edit ruthlessly. This is a good time for the instructor to spend time with individual students and their specific writing problems.


**MAKING PASSIVE SENTENCES ACTIVE**

Overusing the passive voice makes you sound ineffectual, and unwilling to take a stand. Instead, use the active voice to sound more positive and capable of getting the job done.

*Example:*

We have received your letter *or* Thank you for your letter *rather than*

Receipt of your letter is acknowledged

Rewrite the sentences below using the active voice.

1. The supervisor was notified by the employees that the meeting would take place the following Thursday.

2. Suggestions and comments about my ideas can be given without hurting my feelings.

3. It was stated in the nurse’s report that fewer accidents were suffered by employees this year than in the previous three years.

4. It is advised that accurate minutes of all departmental meetings be kept and reports submitted by departments at the end of every month.
MORE SENTENCES TO EDIT

Edit the sentences below. Make passive sentences active and get rid of any unnecessary words that make the meaning less clear and to the point.

1. After the order form was checked, the box containing the necessary and required materials with which to fill the particular order was organized and packed by the employee.

2. We have been handed out notebooks and we have been given writing utensils by the MCCC teacher, and many notes have been taken in the MCCC writing class that is held in the company.

3. Firstly, the truck will be driven by the individual in charge of cargo motion management, namely Steve, and the units will at that point in time be relocated to a new location by that same individual employee.
4. By the time she left the department, the envelopes had been decollated and the materials had been replaced back into their respective and individual locations by her, because she had been instructed to do so.

5. The holidays are a good time when parties are thrown, cookies are baked, and much good cheer is spread and a good time is had by all, especially in a small company where personal connections are easily established and maintained.

6. The application must be filled out and the resume must be attached with a staple to the aforementioned document in order that you be considered for the position which is trying to be filled before the beginning of the new year, 1993.
Subject - verb agreement problems stem from having one of them plural and the other singular, so they don't match.

**INCORRECT**

Some people *has* a lot of money.

**CORRECT**

Some people *have* a lot of money.

**INCORRECT**

A person should do *their* own work.

**CORRECT**

A person should do *his or her* own work.

**INCORRECT**

The supervisors *was* disappointed with the outcome.

**CORRECT**

The supervisors *were* disappointed with the outcome.

Sometimes, agreement errors are not so obvious.

**INCORRECT**

The board of directors control the company, so *they* have the final decision about policy changes.

**CORRECT**

The board of directors controls the company, so *it* has the final decision about policy changes.

**INCORRECT**

An analysis of the problems *make* me conclude that we have a lot of work to do.

**CORRECT**

An analysis of the problems *makes* me conclude that we have a lot of work to do.

Some compound subjects name a unit that calls for a singular verb.

**INCORRECT**

Bacon and eggs *are* my favorite breakfast.

**CORRECT**

Bacon and eggs *is* my favorite breakfast.

but

**INCORRECT**

Her loyalty and her ability *makes* her a valuable employee.

**CORRECT**

Her loyalty and her ability *make* her a valuable employee.
**SUBJECT - VERB AGREEMENT**

With *either ......or*, and *neither ......nor*, when *both* elements are *singular*, the *verb* is *singular*. When *one* subject is *singular* and the *other plural*, the *verb* agrees with the *nearer subject*.

INCORRECT  
Neither the early nor the late appointment *are* good for me.  
Neither the early nor the late appointment *is* good for me.

CORRECT  
Neither the early nor the late appointment *is* good for me.

INCORRECT  
Neither the ideas nor the style *are* satisfactory.  
Neither the ideas nor the style *is* satisfactory.

CORRECT  
Neither the ideas nor the style *is* satisfactory.

INCORRECT  
Neither the style nor the ideas *is* satisfactory.  
Neither the style nor the ideas *are* satisfactory.

CORRECT  
Neither the style nor the ideas *are* satisfactory.

The *verb* must agree with the *subject* in number, even when there are modifiers of a different number.  
(Modifiers are words or groups of words that describe, limit or make more exact the meaning of other words)

INCORRECT  
The final report, including the graphs and reference sections *are* being published this week.

CORRECT  
The final report, including the graphs and reference sections, *is* being published this week.
A) Make the verbs in the following sentences agree with their subjects.

1. The new supervisor (seem, seems) pleased with our work.

2. Each of the customers (is, are) anxious to see our new product.

3. A new consignment of computers (is, are) expected to arrive today.

4. All the members of the department (joins, join) me in wishing you a speedy recovery.

5. The Human Resources Manager, as well as all her department, (has, have) decided to implement the new procedure.

6. Either the secretaries or Bill Smith (answer, answers) the phones during the lunch hour.

7. There (has, have) been times when some people were unable to go to class.

8. The purpose of these classes (is, are) to help improve our skills in writing.
B) Identify whether the subjects below are singular or plural. Then complete the sentences using the verbs in parentheses. Make sure that the subjects and verbs agree.

1. Going to classes (consist of)

2. None of my supervisor's colleagues (know)

3. Jose is the type of person who (get)

4. Doing my work in advance and having a longer coffee break (make)

5. The memos we get from the Human Resources Department always (involve)
PARALLEL CONSTRUCTION

To be grammatically parallel, nouns should align with nouns, verbs with verbs and phrases with phrases.

INCORRECT: Working with others is sometimes harder than to work by yourself.
CORRECT: Working with others is sometimes harder than working by yourself.

INCORRECT: My supervisor is a woman of understanding, compassion and who knows how to be fair.
CORRECT: My supervisor is a woman of understanding, compassion and fairness.

INCORRECT: The training room was painted, had new carpeting put in and cleaned for the new classes.
CORRECT: The training room was painted, carpeted and cleaned for the new classes.

INCORRECT: To record, to write up and distributing minutes are all tasks of the team secretary.
CORRECT: To record, to write up and to distribute minutes are all tasks of the team secretary.
OR: Recording, writing and distributing minutes are all tasks of the team secretary.

also

INCORRECT: It has and continues to be important.
CORRECT: It has been and continues to be important.

INCORRECT: You can teach a dog to listen but not talk.
CORRECT: You can teach a dog to listen but not to talk.
EXERCISES USING PARALLEL CONSTRUCTION

Revise the following sentences so that they are grammatically parallel.

1. Making mistakes costs money, wastes time and customers take their business elsewhere.

2. Over the holidays, our department likes to go out for lunch, sending cards and baking cookies.

3. It was a very long meeting but very productive.

4. Our company is profitable, competitive and it is a stimulating place to work in.

5. You can program a computer to give forecasts but not think for itself.
WRITING 1  ◆  SESSION 11

OBJECTIVES:

In order to write clear, well constructed letters and memos, at the end of this session, students will be able to:

- recognize and correct misplaced, dangling and wrongly used verbal modifiers
- correct split infinitives
- use pronouns correctly
- recognize and correct ambiguities in their writing

TOPICS:

- misplaced modifiers
- dangling modifiers
- verbal modifiers
- split infinitives
- pronouns
- ambiguities

METHODS:

- guided discussion of principles
- worksheets of examples
- application of the above to own first drafts
EVALUATION:

- comparison of first to second drafts
- successful completion of worksheets

Students will be able to edit their own work so that their messages are clear, concise and coherent. If they write well, their ideas are more likely to be taken seriously by their peers, supervisors and managers.

MATERIALS:

- worksheets on modifiers
- worksheets on pronouns
- agreement of pronouns and antecedents
- avoiding ambiguity
TEACHER TIPS  ◆ SESSION 11

- As with the previous sessions, the purpose of this session is for students to edit their five memos that they have been working on throughout the course. These will be submitted in session #14.

- During the first half of the session students will become more familiar with the rules of editing, using company and class generated materials. The handouts are for back-up and for the students to use later.

- The handouts are supplemented by worksheets to edit.

- Then students look at their own writing. Encourage them to be critical of their first drafts and to edit ruthlessly. This is a good time for the instructor to spend time with individual students and their specific writing problems.
**DANGLING MODIFIERS**

Modifiers are words or phrases that give more information about the subject, verb or object in a clause. A modifier *dangles* when the word it modifies is not actually in the sentence.

1. Confirming our conversation, the meeting will be next Tuesday morning.

2. At the age of five, I began teaching my daughter to read.

3. Signs advertising the new exhibition are seen, driving towards Philadelphia.

4. Standing in the same spot for two hours, the assembler's foot fell asleep.

5. Unless completely rewired, nobody should handle the faulty equipment.
MISPLACED MODIFIERS

A misplaced modifier seems to modify another part of the sentence than the writer intended.

1. We need to have a meeting to discuss the new recommendations that will be put into practice by March 9.

2. He bought the unit from the warehouse that was made of lightweight aluminum.

3. Everyone, except assemblers and secretaries with less than two years experience, is eligible for the training.

4. I grabbed the fire extinguisher and put out the blaze running down the aisle.

5. Sitting on the top shelf, he saw the missing package of instructions.
VERBAL MODIFIERS

When verbal nouns (gerunds - ending in -ing) are modified by another noun or pronoun, the modifying noun or pronoun must be in the possessive case.

INCORRECT: We appreciate you making this effort
CORRECT: We appreciate your making this effort.

INCORRECT: It was Mike saving carefully, that allowed them to buy the house.
CORRECT: It was Mike's saving carefully, that allowed them to buy the house.
**SPLIT INFINITIVES**

Split infinitives occur when at least one word is placed between to and the verb.

**INCORRECT:** We were told to not go to the meeting yesterday.

**CORRECT:** We were told not to go to the meeting yesterday.

**INCORRECT:** "To boldly go where no one has been before."

**CORRECT:** "To go boldly where no one has been before."
A pronoun replaces a noun and makes sentences easier to read:

Without pronouns:
Frank took Frank’s car out of Frank’s garage and then Frank took Frank’s car to the mechanic.

With pronouns:
Frank took his car out of his garage and then he took it to the mechanic.

Subject Pronouns

I
you
he, she, it
we
you (plural)
they

Object Pronouns

me
you
him, her, it
us
you (plural)
them

Personal Pronouns (to show possession)

my/mine
your/yours
his, her/hers, its
our/ours
your/yours
their/their

Note: personal pronouns that replace the noun completely do not take an apostrophe before the s.

That is your car → That is yours (not your's)
PRONOUNS

Indefinite Pronouns

- anyone
- everybody
- something
- everyone
- somebody
- nothing
- someone
- nobody
- neither
- no one
- everything
- everything

Note: indefinite pronouns are always singular

Neither George nor Anna has a stamp
Everyone has time to eat lunch
Someone is making fresh coffee

Pronoun Agreement

When you use an indefinite pronoun, make sure the possessive pronoun matches.

1. Everyone has a right to speak ________________ mind.
   (their/his, her)

2. Somebody left ________________ car in my parking place.
   (their/his, her)

Sometimes the sentence can get really messy with too many his/hers. In that case, make the singular noun plural and change the rest accordingly.

Awkward:
Every employee should have his/her photo taken for his/her ID card so that he/she has access to his/her entrance area.

Better:
Employees should have photos taken for their ID cards so that they can have access to their entrance areas.
AMBIGUOUS PRONOUNS

WHICH: takes the place of an idea or action, but is singular

He broke the stapler, used all the tape, and lost the hole punch, which really annoyed me.

What annoyed you? The first? The second? The last? Or all three? Be clear! Think of ways to write this so that your meaning is not ambiguous.

THIS: takes the place of an idea or action, but is singular

My air gun isn't working and the line is down. This is a problem.

What is a problem? Rewrite the sentence to get rid of the ambiguous this.

Sometimes we can put in a noun after this to clarify:

The radio is loud and people are screaming. This is annoying! (weak)
The radio is loud and people are screaming. This noise is annoying! (better)

Sometimes a sentence has two subjects or objects, so that the pronoun is unclear.

Example 1:

Bill asked Ted if he could go to the ball game, but he said no, so he didn't go.
AMBIGUOUS PRONOUNS

Because there are two male subjects and the pronoun HE, the reference is unclear. Who wanted to go to the game? Who didn't go? One way to clear up this problem is by using direct speech with quotation marks:

Bill asked Ted, "Can you go to the ball game?" Ted said he couldn't, so Bill didn't go either.

Example 2:

After Steve picked up the garbage and took out his lunch, he ate it.

The IT is unclear! What did he eat? To clarify the idea:

Steve ate his lunch after he took it out and picked up the garbage.
AVOIDING AMBIGUITY

Rewrite the sentences below, so that they are no longer ambiguous.

1. Maintenance doesn't have the parts in stock to fix the Halo Box. This must be taken care of immediately.

2. After the pressure valve was removed from the unit, it was inspected immediately.

3. Assemblers and welders with less than two years experience are not eligible for the program.

4. Joe asked Ron if he could go to the meeting at M.C.C.C. next week, but he said he couldn't.

5. Send him a memo listing everything he must discuss at his team meeting by November 5.

6. No one took time to complete their time cards, so they weren't sent to personnel.

7. When I saw Sarah standing next to Joan, I asked her if she had met her before.
WRITING 1  ◆  SESSION 12

OBJECTIVES:

In order to edit their own work, at the end of this session students will have had extensive practice applying all the principles of editing that have been covered over the preceding weeks.

TOPICS:

- memos to edit

METHODS:

- worksheets
- application of the above to own first drafts

EVALUATION:

- competent rewriting of memos
- comparison of first to final drafts

Students will be able to edit their own work and the work of others so that the messages are clear, concise and coherent. If they write well, they will feel confident about putting their ideas down in writing and these ideas are more likely to be taken seriously by their peers, supervisors and managers.

MATERIALS:

- Memos for Revision
TEACHER TIPS  ◆  SESSION 12

- The purpose of this session is to put into practice all the rules of editing, covered in the previous sessions.

- Students rewrite memos following class discussion about what is wrong with them. Encourage students to discuss ideas among themselves, with as little input from the instructor as possible.

- Then students look at their own writing. Encourage them to be critical of their first drafts and to edit ruthlessly. This is a good time for the instructor to spend time with individual students and their specific writing problems.
MEMO FOR REVISION

TO: All Fellow Employees
FROM: John Brown, General Manager
DATE: December 15, 1992

SUBJECT: A Holiday Message

I was reflecting on how much has changed for the Brown family this year. Moving from Ohio. Getting settled in the New Jersey area. And best of all, getting to meet all of you.

Just as there have been a lot of changes in the Brown family, you have experienced lots of changes here too. A full year of our customers being served with a passion. We have done well. And we can all be proud of our accomplishments this year!

Like all successful companies made up of individuals committed to each other, the commitment includes believing in a common goal. And making this place a little better everyday. Many thanks to each of you for your continuing efforts above and beyond the call of duty.

I trust the Holiday Season will bring you and your family Happiness, Joy and Peace. I look forward to us having even more fun in 1993.

Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year!

John.
MEMO FOR REVISION

TO: Mary Smith
FROM: Fred Jones
DATE: October 15, 1992

SUBJECT: M.C.C.C. Grant

Pursuant to our telephone conversation of October 1, the decision we made then to assign Lorna Burt to work at the company has been implemented by me and she has been informed of this.

There is a possibility that course binders do not exist there in sufficient quantity for all the participants who will be attending the courses. It is imperative that these be purchased ahead of the commencement of the courses. If this cannot be done by you, please see me so that we can make acquisition of appropriate quantities.

In order to prepare for the enormity of work involved in the organization of the next 18 months, a memo must be sent to all individuals in your section explicitly delineating their responsibilities. This should be done by you at your earliest possible convenience.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call.
OBJECTIVES:

During these sessions, students will work on their final drafts of their memos and letters, to be submitted by the end of Session #14. Students will apply all the principles of editing covered over the preceding weeks.

TOPICS:

- memos and letters

METHODS:

- individual writing
- one-on-one work with students

EVALUATION:

- Teacher evaluation and input into students' writing
TEACHER TIPS ◆ SESSION 13 & 14

- Students will submit their portfolios of 5 memos and letters at the end of Session #14. The instructor must then spend time marking and giving detailed constructive criticism, so that the portfolios can be returned to the students at the beginning of Session #16.

- During these sessions the instructor will spend time with each student, offering advice, evaluating what he/she has done so far, and focusing on individual problems. This is an extremely important element of the course as not all writing problems will have been covered and it is up to the instructor to identify and be sensitive to individual needs.
WRITING 1  ◆  SESSION 15

OBJECTIVES:

In order to respond to a customer complaint, at the end of this session students will be able to work as a team to:

- identify a problem
- devise strategies for dealing with the problem
- write a clear, well constructed letter to solve the problem

TOPICS:

- identifying a problem
- team building
- writing to solve a problem

METHODS:

- group discussion
- teamwork
- writing

EVALUATION:

- assessment of memos and whether they achieve what they set out to do.

Students will be able to focus directly on a problem and respond clearly and efficiently in writing. The strategies learned can be applied directly to problem solving on the line.

MATERIALS:

- Writing to Solve a Problem
- Weservyou Airlines
TEACHER TIPS  ♦  SESSION 15

- This session gives the instructor time to be assessing the students' portfolios to be returned in Session #16. At the same time new concepts are being covered and once again the class is working as a team after several sessions of individual work.

- Class discussion on what is wrong with the letter "Wesurveyou Airlines". Does it solve the problem? In groups, let them rewrite it.

- Using the handout Writing to Solve a Problem, students write their own letters, solving a problem. This can be one generated by the teacher or from their own experiences.
WRITING TO SOLVE A PROBLEM

1. **Identify** the problem - *What?*

2. **Describe** the problem - *Who is involved? Where? When?*

3. **Effects** of the problem? - *How does it affect us? Specifically?*


5. **Solution** to the problem - *How to eradicate the problem.*

6. **Implementation** of the solution - *How to make the solution work.*
January 15, 1993

Mr. John Smith  
1387 Neagy Road  
Trenton, NJ 08690

Dear Mr. Smith:
I was asked to investigate the circumstances that prompted your recent letter and respond directly to you. I apologize that your special meals continue to be a source of irritation and you are simply not receiving them as requested.

In checking your recent past date record, it appears that special meals were ordered for flights 123 and 456, but not on flight 654 as your documentation states. I believe that this problem is occurring between the transmission of the information your travel agent is putting into the computer and what we are receiving. It does not seem to be any body’s fault, but simply a computer glitch. However, I realize how frustrating and inconvenient this must be for you. I would be more than happy to speak with your travel agent regarding this issue so that he and I can come up with a solution to your problem. Please feel free to have her call me so we can figure this out together.

Mr. Smith, again, I apologize that you are having such a difficult time. This is not something that you should have to worry about and I am more than happy to solve the problem. Thank you for the opportunity to be of assistance. We, at WESERVEYOU AIRLINES, are here to serve you.

Yours truly,
WRITING 1  ◆  SESSION 16

OBJECTIVES:

In order to complete this course, at the end of this session students will be able to:

- write clear, well constructed letters and memos

TOPICS:

- students' final drafts
- teacher feedback on students' letters and memos
- post-class exercise
- course evaluations

METHODS:

- group discussion
- individual teacher/student conferences
- post-class exercise
WRITING 1  ◆  SESSION 16

EVALUATION:

- teacher evaluation of coursework memos
- students' evaluation of course
- teacher evaluation of pre and post class exercises

Students will be more effective communicators. This will make them more efficient at their jobs and more willing to take responsibility for mistakes made through miscommunication.

MATERIALS:

- Students' portfolios
- post-class exercise
- course evaluations
TEACHER TIPS  ●  SESSION 16

- Return students' portfolios, giving detailed feedback. Spend time conferencing with students individually while the others are working on post-class exercises and evaluations.

- Post-class exercises and course evaluations