

You Make The Rules!

Directions: Look at these sample sentences and try to figure out what rules the correct sentences follow that the incorrect sentences violate.

1. I like school, I go often. (incorrect)
2. I like school I go often. (incorrect)
3. I like school, and I go often. (correct)
4. I don't like to work, but I still have to do it if I want to pay my bills. (correct)
5. I don't like to work but I still have to do it if I want to pay my bills. (incorrect)
6. I will need to go to school for a long time to get my degree. (correct)
7. I will need to go to school, for a long time to get my degree. (incorrect)
8. I will need to go to school for a long time, for I want to be a veterinarian and that takes a lot of education. (correct)
9. I will need to go to school for a long time, because I want to be a veterinarian and that takes a lot of education. (incorrect)
10. I will need to go to school for a long time because I want to be a veterinarian and that takes a lot of education. (correct)
11. I will need to go to school for a long time I want to be a veterinarian and that takes a lot of education. (incorrect)
12. I will need to go to school for a long time, I want to be a veterinarian and that takes a lot of education. (incorrect)
13. I am working hard to get ahead, so I have a lot of schoolwork to do every night. (correct)
14. I am working hard to get ahead so I have a lot of schoolwork to do every night. (incorrect)
15. I am working hard to get ahead; so I have a lot of schoolwork to do every night. (incorrect)
16. I am working hard to get ahead; therefore, I have a lot of schoolwork to do every night. (correct)
17. I am working hard to get ahead, I have a lot of schoolwork to do every night. (incorrect)

What rules govern the way we use punctuation in the sentences above? Analyze the patterns you see and write your ideas in the space below. In a few minutes, you'll share your thoughts with someone else in the class then we'll talk about this as a group a few minutes later.

Diagnostic Essay Self-Analysis Worksheet

Go through the comments on your diagnostic essay comments on Canvas. To see these, go back to the assignment drop box in our modules and re-open the paper there. You can also find these by clicking on the item in the gradebook. Make note of the types of errors I've identified. In the space below, write down three things I've asked you to work on during this initial stage of the semester.

Look up one of the items you mention above in your *Writing Matters* grammar handbook. Record the page number where we can find the information you would need to study this problem:

In your own words, describe what the grammar problem is and how it can be avoided.

Now find a website online to discuss either this same area in need of attention or a different error I've identified in your writing. Record the name and URL of the website here:

Now write down in your own words what you have learned about this grammar problem by studying it online:

Next, perform a "self analysis" of your own writing. At this stage of the semester, you know your writing better than I do. Think about some of the challenges you've faced as a writer and some of the areas you are still working on as you improve. But you do not need to focus only on problems you have as a writer. Think about what you are doing well, too. You may also want to discuss what you know about your "process." How do you write? How can aspects of your process be changed to help you improve as a writer and succeed in English and in other classes? Write a paragraph to examine these ideas.

