



Present

The Split-Infinitive World of English Grammar (Part 2)

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Grammar 2

Part 1: The Flexibility of the English Language

A. Things Change

Part 2: Proper Agreement in Grammar

A. Subject / Verb Agreement

B. Noun and Article Agreement

Part 3: Sentence Problems

A. Sentence Fragments

B. Comma Splices

C. Run-on Sentences

Part 4. Finding Clarity

A. Tense Shifts

B. Vague Pronoun Reference

C. Faulty Parallels

Part 5: Acceptable 'Errors'

A. Use of Contractions

B. Split Infinitives

C. Ending Sentences With Prepositions

Grammar Guides

- A noun's number is either singular or plural.
- The subject and the verb in a sentence must agree in terms of number. A singular subject takes a singular verb. A plural subject takes a plural verb.
- To insure proper subject/verb agreement, keep your eyes on the subject, no matter how far away it is from the verb.

- Use the definite article ('the') when you know specifically what noun you're referring to. Use one of the indefinite articles ('a,' 'an') before an unspecified noun.
- Use 'a' before all nouns that start with a consonant. Use 'an' for nouns that begin with a vowel.
- Two independent clauses can not be joined by a comma.
- Words can be used as more than one part of speech. Nouns can be used as verbs or adjectives verbs can be used as nouns, and adjectives can be used as adverbs.

Subject Pronouns

I	first person singular
you	second person singular
she/he/it	third person singular
we	first person plural
you all	second person plural
they	third person plural

To ensure proper subject/verb agreement in your sentences:

1. Find the simple subject.
2. Ignore any appositive phrases or intervening clauses.
3. Find the verb.
4. Use the correct form of the verb with the simple subject of the sentence.

A sentence fragment may be one of 3 things:

1. A phrase without a noun.
2. A phrase without a verb.
3. A dependent clause masquerading as an independent clause.

3 Ways to Fix a Sentence Fragment

1. If the phrase doesn't have a noun, add one.
2. If the phrase doesn't have a verb, add one.
3. If the phrase is a dependent clause, hook it up with an independent clause.

