

# Grammatical Rules

Here is a list of grammar mistakes to avoid. Some of them are always wrong; others are just over used and should generally be avoided. Hopefully you will notice that each rule breaks itself.

1. Verbs HAS to agree with their subjects.
2. Prepositions are not words to end sentences with.
3. And don't start a sentence with a conjunction.
4. It is wrong to ever split an infinitive.
5. Avoid cliches like the plague. (They're old hat)
6. Also, always avoid annoying alliteration.
7. Be more or less specific.
8. Parenthetical remarks (however relevant) are (usually) unnecessary.
9. Also too, never, ever use repetitive redundancies.
10. No sentence fragments.
11. Contractions aren't necessary and shouldn't be used.
12. Foreign words and phrases are not apropos.
13. Do not be redundant; do not use more words than necessary; it's highly superfluous.
14. One should NEVER generalize.
15. Comparisons are as bad as clichés.
16. Don't use no double negatives.
17. Eschew ampersands & abbreviations, etc.
18. One-word sentences? Eliminate.
19. Analogies in writing are like feathers on a snake.
20. The passive voice is to be ignored.
21. Eliminate commas, that are, not necessary. Parenthetical words however should be enclosed in commas.
22. Never use a big word when a diminutive one would suffice. In other words, eschew obfuscation.
23. Kill all exclamation points!!!
24. Use words correctly, irregardless of how others use them.
25. Understatement is always the absolute best way to put forth earth shaking ideas.
26. Use the apostrophe in it's proper place and omit it when its not needed.
27. Eliminate quotations. As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "I hate quotations. Tell me what you know."
28. If you've heard it once, you've heard it a thousand times: Resist hyperbole; not one writer in a million can use it correctly.
29. Puns are for children, not groan readers.
30. Go around the barn at high noon to avoid colloquialisms.
31. Even IF a mixed metaphor sings, it should be derailed.
32. Who needs rhetorical questions?
33. Exaggeration is a billion times worse than understatement.
34. Proofread carefullp:// see if you any words out, or made any spilling
35. Do not use run-on sentences, they are usually a bad idea.
36. You should defiantly know that you are using the correct word.
37. when ur writing paperz, u dont rite lik ur on a cell phone. k? hahaha. LOL. jk.
38. The modifier is dangling, not having followed the rules of grammar. Similarly, after understanding this rule, your modifiers should no longer dangle.
39. Writers should avoid writing several parts of speech based on the same root word when they write a single sentence.

Original list from <http://www.uoregon.edu/~guion/440notes/grammar.html>. Used with permission.  
Several items added by Charles Cusack.

40. Make sure your using the correct spelling of words that sound alike—their are times when they're incorrect usage will be obvious to others as there reading you're writing.
41. Do not use really long sentences that go on and on forever, since it can be really hard to follow what you are trying to say, especially if what you are trying to say can be broken up into multiple sentences, and this is particularly difficult if the sentence is not composed of just a single thought, like also not using run-on sentences and making sure that if you have a long sentence it "agrees" throughout so that they can follow what you are trying to communicate, and if you want to make it readable they should certainly not change "person" mid-stream because that doesn't make a lot of sense like when you say one thing and then add another idea and finally start talking about something else, and using paragraphs when appropriate.