

EXAMPLES OF COMMON WRITING ERRORS

I can still remember my first visit to the Mid-South Fair in Memphis, **TN**. I went along with my mother, sister, and brothers although I was only **7** years old. My sister did not want to get on any of the rides since she was **expecting**, so she helped keep her younger brothers from getting lost. Somehow **I remembers** most of the interesting experiences of that day. **Amazed at the unusual sights, sounds, smells, and tastes.** I never had a day like that **B4, LOL**.

Comment [-1]: Avoid unnecessary abbreviations

Comment [-2]: Spell out numbers less than 100 but not dates

Comment [-3]: Avoid euphemisms

Comment [-4]: Subject-verb agreement error

Comment [-5]: Sentence fragment

Comment [-6]: Avoid IM chat abbreviations

Comment [-7]: Comma splice

I saw many interesting sights at the Mid-South Fair, **I** noticed many rides, food stands, exhibits, musicians, clowns, and con artists. **Walking through the gate,** the blue, rectangular-shaped **porta-potties** were on the left. On the right were several multi-colored flags and balloons. Off in the distance beyond the rides and food stands, I **see** the Liberty Bowl Stadium. At the Mid-South Fair, **you** always saw such interesting and unusual **stuff**.

Comment [-8]: Unclear reference, dangling modifier (participial phrase)

Comment [-9]: Capitalize proper nouns (especially product names)

Comment [-10]: Verb tense shift (most of this paragraph is in past tense)

Comment [-11]: Person-shift error (avoid shifting to second-person "you" or "your" unless inside a direct quote)

Comment [-12]: Avoid slang

I heard many different sounds while I was walking **thru** the Midway area near the rides **I** heard electrical generators roaring, carousels whirring, bells ringing, children crying, **and** fast-talking barkers tricked us into wasting money on rigged games. I heard the loud screams of excited people on the roller coaster. As I walked **further** on, I noticed the irritating, hoarse voice of a security guard shouting at the crowd **people, stay in line**. I **didn't** think the crowd was doing anything wrong, but then someone started a fight when someone else got in front. **Everyone has a right to their own opinions,** but these people were really being ridiculous! Suddenly I was **scarred** by the noisy sirens of the police and **EMT**. By the end of the day, my ears were aching from too much noise.

Comment [-13]: Spelling error

Comment [-14]: Run-on sentence (missing punctuation between clauses)

Comment [-15]: Not parallel

Comment [-16]: Wrong word (should be "farther" not "further")

Comment [-17]: This direct quote (actual words) should be in quote marks

Comment [-18]: Avoid contractions

Comment [-19]: Pronoun-antecedent error ("everyone" is singular but "their" is plural)

Comment [-20]: Spelling error

There were many interesting smells and tastes at the Mid-South Fair, both pleasant and unpleasant. The livestock exhibit and the petting zoo had the odor of **s#t**, but the tasty aromas from the food stands overwhelmed us! My brothers and **me** ate too many hot dogs and funnel cakes, so I did not feel **good**. After we finally got home, I **tossed my cookies** and had to take Pepto-Bismol.

Comment [-21]: Avoid unnecessary abbreviations

Comment [-22]: Generally, do not start a sentence with "There" plus a verb

Comment [-23]: Avoid profanity (use a college word like "manure" instead)

Comment [-24]: Wrong pronoun

Comment [-25]: Adjective-adverb error (use "well" instead)

That day still remains in my mind, even though, **it** was many years ago. It was my first visit to any kind of county **fare**. I had so many interesting sights, sounds, smells, and tastes on that day that just amazed my childhood memories. Even **thow** I later went to several theme parks and other county fairs, I never experienced anything **quiet** like that day. I still have some old **pictures** from that day to show to my friends and relatives.

Comment [-26]: Avoid euphemisms

Comment [-27]: Unnecessary comma

Comment [-28]: Spelling error

Comment [-29]: Spelling error

Comment [-30]: Spelling error

Comment [-31]: Wrong word (use "photographs" instead)

Revised 31 August 2009