

Word Usage

AP Style

TODAY

We will learn many important **rules for word usage** *including tense, active voice, subject-verb agreement, perspective, and boring words.*

I will copy **edit work using my knowledge of word usage** *and the AP Stylebook.*

ON YOUR OWN

Edit the sentence on the right to correct it. There are four errors.

It is 1980 the last time
John have a Dr Pepper.
The soda was drank by
him as his very last
carbonated drink ever.

ON YOUR OWN

Corrected sentence.

*It **was** 1980 the last time
John **had** a Dr Pepper. He
drank the soda as his
~~very~~ last carbonated
drink ever.*

Example Word Usage Answers

Corrected.

History teacher Matty Smith just bought a plane ticket. He said he plans to go to Holland with other teachers on a federal-grant-sponsored trip over his summer break. The movie “Weekend in Holland” popularized the area.

“I’ve always wanted to visit that area,” Smith said. “The pictures are so beautiful and so is the culture. Everyone should have the chance to experience other cultures in their youth.”

YOU SHOULD HAVE LEARNED

- 1. Make sure the verbs match when the action happened — past, present or future.*
- 2. Use active voice — subject does verb to object — rather than passive voice to be concise and clear unless object is much more important than subject.*
- 3. Make sure the number of subjects matches the verb format. It describes singular, nonpeople; they describes plurals; who/whom describe people; that/which describe nonpeople.*
- 4. Use third-person pronouns always.*
- 5. Avoid using: very, that, a lot, things, and some.*

INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE

Rewrite each sentence/paragraph to improve upon the TWO errors included

1. Mary, which is 15 years old, is running for sophomore class president. Students voted next week.
2. The senior class will hold their election the following week. Ask your teacher for an application to run for office.
3. Votes will be collected by teachers during second period. After teachers collects the ballots, the principal will announce the winner.
4. Candidates are currently campaigning in a lot of classrooms across campus. Flyers, posters and even yard signs are being put on display by those students to earn votes.

INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE KEY

Corrected sentences

1. Mary, **who** is 15 years old, is running for sophomore class president. Students voted **it** next week.
2. The senior class will hold **its** election the following week. Ask **a** teacher for an application to run for office.
3. **Teachers will collect votes** during second period. After teachers collect **s** the ballots, the principal will announce the winner.
4. Candidates are currently campaigning in ~~a lot of~~ classrooms across campus. **Students are putting up** flyers, posters and even yard signs ~~are being put on display by those students to earn votes.~~

ON YOUR OWN

Edit the sentence on the right to correct it. There are four errors.

The school board will hold their very first meeting in a year next week. The meeting will be attended by our Principal Annie Red.

ON YOUR OWN

Corrected sentence.

*The school board will hold
its ~~very~~ first meeting in a
year next week. ~~The
meeting will be attended
by our~~ Principal Annie
Red **will attend.***

INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE

Rewrite each sentence/paragraph to improve upon the TWO errors included

1. The tennis player lose their last match against a rival yesterday because of something major.
2. If you are planning to get a ticket to prom, Class President Sally O'Malley said that you should do so this week.
3. The tree was being sat next to by the boy when a group of cows moo at him.
4. Student Council members voted to change its constitution to provide us with more input.

INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE KEY

Corrected sentences

1. *The tennis player **lost** their last match against a rival yesterday because of something major. (Be more clear.)*
2. *If **students** are planning to get a ticket to prom, Class President Sally O'Malley said **they** should do so this week.*
3. ***The boy sat by the tree** when a group of cows mooed at him.*
4. *Student Council members voted to change **their** constitution to provide **students** with more input.*