Writing & Rhetoric Entrance Quiz Review Guide

Listed below are a few subjects we recommend students review before attempting the Writing & Rhetoric grammar and style quizzes. Each section includes a brief summary as well as an online resource you might use for further explanation, additional examples, or simple review.

*Reading through the online resources and looking up additional practice sentences are highly recommended.

**Subject-Verb Agreement**

- Refer to: [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/grammar/subject_verb_agreement.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/grammar/subject_verb_agreement.html)
- Subjects and verbs must agree with one another in number (singular or plural). If a subject is singular, its verb must also be singular, and if a subject is plural, its verb must also be plural.
- Quick Examples:
  - One of the boxes *is* open. (Singular subject *one*, singular verb *is*)
  - The boxes *are* open. (Plural subject *boxes*, plural verb *are*)

**Subject-Pronoun/Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement**

- Refer to: [https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/pro_antagree.htm](https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/pro_antagree.htm)
- A pronoun is a word that substitutes for a noun. Many pronouns have antecedents in a sentence, or nouns or pronouns to which they refer. These must agree with one another in number (both singular or plural).
- Quick Examples:
  - Allie finished *her* reports. (Singular subject *Allie*, singular pronoun *her*)
  - The students finished *their* reports. (Plural subject *students*, plural pronoun *their*)
Sentence Structure and Punctuation Regarding Independent vs. Dependent Clauses

- Refer to: [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/punctuation/independent_and_dependent_clauses/index.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/punctuation/independent_and_dependent_clauses/index.html) and [https://pages.uoregon.edu/munno/Writing/ClausesandCommas.html](https://pages.uoregon.edu/munno/Writing/ClausesandCommas.html)
- In determining where to use commas and semicolons in sentences/identifying whether a sentence is or is not a fragment, it is vital to understand the relationships between dependent and independent clauses.
- Quick Examples:
  - My professor read the slides, and I took notes. (*Two independent clauses separated by a comma*)
  - Because I forgot my book, I had to share with my classmate. (*A dependent clause separated from the following independent clause with a comma*)
  - I had to share with my classmate because I forgot my book. (*An independent clause followed by a dependent clause, no comma*)

Pronoun Case (Nominative, Objective, Possessive)

- Refer to: [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/grammar/prouns/pronoun_case.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/grammar/prouns/pronoun_case.html)
- Make sure you use the correct pronoun depending on how it functions within the sentence – consider whether it is acting as the subject or object.
- Quick Examples:
  - Jesse gave the pictures to Ellie and **me**. (*The object pronoun *me* is used because it is part of the object of the verb *gave*)
Ellie and I gave the pictures to Jesse. (The subject pronoun I is used because it is part of the sentence’s subject, which is performing the verb gave).

### Apostrophes and Possession

- Refer to: [http://www.thepunctuationguide.com/apostrophe.html](http://www.thepunctuationguide.com/apostrophe.html)
- Remember to place apostrophes according to the number of the noun (singular or plural).
- Quick Examples:
  - That is the student’s book. (The singular noun student is made possessive by adding ‘s)
  - Those are the students’ books. (The plural noun students is made possessive by adding an apostrophe)
  - That is the women’s house. (The plural noun women does not already end in “s” like most plural nouns, and is made possessive by adding ‘s)

### Active vs. Passive Voice

- Refer to: [https://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/CCS_activevoice.html](https://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/CCS_activevoice.html)
- Active voice refers to when the subject of the sentence performs the action. Passive voice is when the subject receives the action or has the action done unto it.
- Quick Examples:
  - My mother cooked the meal. (Active voice)
  - The meal was cooked by my mother. (Passive voice)
Quotation Marks and Italics (Around Quoted Material and to Denote Certain Titles)

- Refer to: [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/punctuation/punctuation/index.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/punctuation/punctuation/index.html) and [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/punctuation/quotation_marks/index.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/punctuation/quotation_marks/index.html)

- Remember where quotation marks are placed in a sentence in relation to commas, as well as the difference between direct and indirect quotations. Also recall which kinds of titles should be italicized (magazines, books, newspapers, academic journals, films, television shows, long poems, plays of three or more acts, etc.) and which should appear in quotation marks (short poems, song titles, short stories, magazine or newspaper articles, essays, speeches, chapter titles, short films, and episodes of TV shows).

- Quick Examples:
  - I enjoyed the poem “The Raven,” but I liked reading Jane Eyre even more. (*The poem title is set off with quotation marks, while the book title is italicized*)

There, Their, and They’re; Its and It’s; Your and You’re

- Refer to: [https://smallbluedog.com/how-to-spell-your-youre-there-theyre-their-its-and-its.html](https://smallbluedog.com/how-to-spell-your-youre-there-theyre-their-its-and-its.html)

- Take care to use the correct form of the above words depending on the meaning of the sentence. Recall that “there” denotes place, “their” refers to possession, and “they’re” is a contraction for “they are.” The word “its” denotes possession while “it’s” is a contraction for “it is.” The word “your” denotes possession while “you’re” is a contraction for “you are.”

- Quick examples:
You’re very secretive about your projects.
I really liked the show. It’s a shame its ratings were poor.
They’re looking for their sister over there.

General Notes on Style and Concision

- Refer to: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/academic_writing/conciseness/avoid_common_pitfalls.html
- Remember the importance of concision and avoidance of clichés within writing in general.
- (Examples provided in online resource)