

Usage in the English Language

10th grade American Studies

Sept. 6- Nov. 4 Agreement (subject/verb- pronoun/antecedent)

Subject/Verb

- *Definition singular/plural (especially w/indefinite pronouns)
- * Subject is not found in a phrase or clause
- * Compound subject
- * Doesn't/Don't
- * Expression of amount
- * Collective nouns
- *Singular Verbs w/plural forms
- * Titles

Pronoun/Antecedent

- *Indefinite pronouns
- * Correlative conjunctions
- *Relative pronouns
- *Collective nouns
- *Expressions of amount

Nov.7-Jan.13 Using Verbs/Pronouns Correctly

Verbs

- *Regular/Irregular (definitions & examples)
- *Common errors with irregular verbs (past participle)
- *Proofreading for errors

*Tense

-correct use

-consistency

*Active/Passive

* Troublesome Verbs (discussion on transitive/intransitive)

-lie/lay

-sit/set

-rise/raise

*Mood

-indicative

-imperative

-subjunctive

Pronouns

*Cases (definition) –nominative, objective, possessive

*Nominatives

-using pronouns as subjects/ predicate nominatives

*Objectives

-direct objects

-indirect objects

-object of the preposition

*Possessive (can be seen as an adjective)

- noun/pronoun preceding a gerund should be in the possessive case (i.e.

We were all thrilled by **his** scoring in the top 5 percent.)

* Special pronoun problem (who/whom)

*Appositives

*Pronouns in an incomplete construction (than/as)

*Clear pronoun reference

Jan.17- March 22 Modifiers

*Adj./Adv. (definiton/distinguishing)

*Phrases

*Clauses

*Eight Troublesome modifiers

-Bad/Badly

-Good/Well

-Slow/Slowly

-Real/Really

*Comparison of modifiers (comparative/superlative)

*Faulty Comparisons (other/else- ie Rodney spells better than anyone **else** in his class.)

*Double Comparisons (ie more colder)

*Clear Comparisons (ie weeds in the lawn are harder to get rid of **than the garden.** than **in** the garden)

*Dangling Modifiers (be sure to add your subject after introductory phrases/clauses and use active voice- ie Together, the litter along the highway was picked up. Together, we picked up the litter along the highway.)

*Misplaced Modifiers

-phrases (ie My cousin's dog was chasing the geese, yapping and barking.)

-clauses (ie There is a car in the garage that has no windshield.)

March 26- May 28 Common Usage Problems

*a/an, accept/except, affect/effect, a lot, anyways, between/among, borrow/lend, bust/busted, can/may, could of/should of/etc., fewer/less, hisself/theirselves, its/it's, kind of/somewhat/rather, like/as, inside of/off of/outside of, suppose/supposed, than/then, their/there/they're, them (not an adj.), use to/ used to

*nonsexist language