

## **M.U.G. #1**

**This year writing will be a major focus, its important to understand grammer rules, without them you're writing is difficult to understand.**

**During each session, well edit one of these sets of M.U.G. sentences, M.U.G. by the way is an abbreviation of "mechanics, usage and grammer"**

## M.U.G. #1

set off introductory  
elements from the main  
clause with a comma

It's = It is  
Its = possessive

This year, writing will be a major focus, ~~its~~<sup>≡</sup>  
important to understand grammar rules;  
without them, ~~you're~~<sup>your</sup> writing is difficult to  
understand.

semicolon

non-essential element anchored with commas

During each session, we'll edit one of these  
sets of M.U.G. sentences. M.U.G., by the  
way, is an abbreviation of "mechanics,  
usage, ~~and~~<sup>a</sup> grammar."

use an Oxford comma in formal writing

**The ripped seat cushions along with the  
splotchy paint job made Eric's truck near  
impossible to sell.**

**Amira please set down your phone while  
I paint your nails Sarah said.**

## M.U.G. #2

non-essential element  
anchored with commas

The ripped seat cushions, along with the  
splotchy paint job, made Eric's truck nearly  
impossible to ~~sale~~.  
sell

need the adverb  
form here

use a comma to set off  
direct address of a person

"Amira, please set down ~~you're~~ phone while  
I paint ~~you're~~ nails," Sarah said.

comma goes inside quotation mark

**Preparing our breakfast the smell of  
cinnamin pan cakes made Billy hungry**

**Tyler a talented chef will probably get a  
better review then i will Gloria remarked.**

## M.U.G. #3

While Billy prepared

"smell" can't cook  
(misplaced modifier)

~~Preparing~~ our breakfast, the smell of  
cinnamin pan cakes made ~~Billy~~ hungry.  
○ it's one word him

non-essential element  
anchored with commas

"Tyler, a talented chef, will probably get a  
better review ~~then~~ i will," Gloria remarked.  
a ≡

then = chronological  
than = comparative

**To coax his puppy into the car Roberto opened a bag of treats immediately the puppy lept into Robertos arms.**

**Jon hasnt paid his school libary fine consequently he can't neither lend more books or recieve his new class schedule.**

## M.U.G. #4

To coax his puppy into the car, Roberto  
opened a bag of treats; immediately, the  
puppy ~~lept~~ into Roberto's arms.

leapt/leaped

both are correct

avoid double-negatives

Jon hasn't paid his school library fine;  
consequently, he can't ~~neither~~ ~~lend~~ more  
books or ~~recieve~~ his new class schedule.

receive

"i" before "e," except after "c" (usually)

**My friend Amber who never cooks stored her extra shoes in her oven unfortunately she forgot about her footwear when on a rare whim she preheated the oven to bake some cookies.**

**The stench of melting dripping rubber souls filled the building everyone evacuated.**

## M.U.G. #5

non-essential elements  
anchored with commas

My friend Amber, who never cooks, stored her extra shoes in her oven; unfortunately, she forgot about her footwear when, on a rare whim, she preheated the oven to bake some cookies.

separate similar stacked adjectives with a comma

The stench of melting, dripping rubber ~~soles~~ filled the building everyone evacuated.

When joining two independent clauses with FANBOYS (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so), add a comma

**The sassy wisecracking cashier an older woman with little patients for indecisiveness shouted make up your mind or go to the end of the line**

**It's ironical when student's say they dont like poetry yet they love rap music.**

## M.U.G. #6

similar stacked adjectives

The sassy, wisecracking cashier, an older woman with little ~~patience~~ for indecisiveness, shouted, "make up your mind or go to the end of the line!"

It's ironical when student's say they don't like poetry, yet they love rap music.

When joining two independent clauses with FANBOYS (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so), add a comma

## **M.U.G. #7**

**A trash can is not a giant stacking game  
mom shouted take out the trash now.**

**Stop, take those straws out of you're nose  
my dad ordered before you give yourself  
brain damage.**

"A trash can is not a giant stacking game!"  
mom shouted. take out the trash now."

"Mom" is capitalized because it's used here as a name, while "my dad" in the next sentence isn't capitalized because it's a descriptor, not a name.

"Stop! take those straws out of ~~you're~~ nose,"  
my dad ordered, before you give yourself  
brain damage."

**For Holloween my boyfriend Ollie dressed up as a roaring fire breathing dragon.**

**On Saturday night some teens in my neighborhood dressed up as vampires and ghouls write some funny songs and went Halloween style caroling**

## M.U.G. #8

non-essential element  
anchored with commas

For ~~H~~alloween, my boyfriend, Ollie, dressed  
~~up~~ as a roaring fire breathing dragon.

cut unnecessary words  
maintain consistent  
verb tense

insert a hyphen  
"fire" and "breathing" work together  
as one adjective here

On Saturday night, some teens in my  
neighborhood dressed ~~up~~ as vampires and  
ghouls, write some funny songs, and went  
Halloween style caroling.

Oxford comma

insert a hyphen

**Last summer the patel twins visited san francisco with there family due to crowds they had wait nearly ninety minutes to cross the golden gate bridge.**

**There dependable car who has taken them over 250,000 miles still has a solid reliable engine.**

## M.U.G. #9

Last summer, the patel twins visited san francisco with ~~there~~ family. ~~due~~ to crowds, they had wait nearly ~~ninety~~ minutes to cross the golden gate bridge.

multiple ways to fix this run-on

for numbers, spell out one to ten and use numerals for 11+

~~Their~~ ~~There~~ dependable car, ~~who~~ has taken them ~~more than~~ over 250,000 miles, still has a solid, reliable engine.

use "over" for spatial relationships  
use "more than" for things that can be counted

**In The Scarlet Ibis, a short story by James Hurst, a boy named Doodle is symbolically connected to a exotic bird the author did this to show the beauty of a fragile life.**

**The bird whipt it's wings wildy as it flew thru heavy unrelenting rain and wind.**

## M.U.G. #10

### Indefinite articles:

- use "an" when the next word has a vowel sound
- use "a" when the next word has a consonant sound

In "The Scarlet Ibis," a short story by James Hurst, a boy named Doodle is symbolically connected to a<sup>n</sup> exotic bird; the author ~~did~~<sup>does</sup> this to show the beuty<sup>a</sup> of a fragile life.

- titles of short works (songs, stories, poems) receive quote marks
- titles of long works (books, albums, publications) are italicized if typed or underlined if handwritten

literature is generally discussed in the present verb tense because it's always fresh, always alive every time we read

whipped its

The bird ~~whipt~~ it/s wings wildly as it flew ~~thru~~<sup>through</sup> heavy, unrelenting rain and wind.

**While skating Marlee past close in front of Kim, and then she lost her footing fell and sprained her ankle.**

**Sitting on top of his locker Ben spotted his missing spanish textbook.**

While skating, Marlee ~~past~~<sup>passed</sup> close<sup>ly</sup> in front of Kim, ~~and then she~~ lost her footing, fell, and sprained her ankle.

This edit assumes Marlee was injured.  
Can you edit to show Kim as the injured skater?

the book – not Ben – was on top of the locker

~~Sitting on top of his locker~~ Ben spotted his missing spanish textbook, ~~sitting on top of his locker.~~

**Ms Green our Librarian used funds to buy new books for hiring an assistant and to open a computer lab.**

**James our uber driver told us hes saving money to by an engagement ring for his beutiful girlfriend Helen.**

## M.U.G. #12

lowercase "l" because "librarian"  
isn't being used as a title here

ms. green, our Librarian, used funds to buy  
new books, for hiring an assistant, and to  
open a computer lab.

maintain parallel structure

proper nouns, like Uber, need capitalization

James, our uber driver, told us he's saving  
money to buy an engagement ring for his  
beautiful girlfriend, Helen.

**it was chilly and cloudy we decided to  
cancel our trip to myrtle beach**

**Dr. Smith a profesor who prohibited  
phones in class turned beat red as the  
phone in his pocket begins to ring.**

## M.U.G. #13

multiple ways to fix  
this run-on

it was chilly and cloudy, <sup>so</sup> we decided to  
cancel our trip to myrtle beach.

Dr. Smith, <sup>s</sup> a profesor who prohibited  
phones in class, turned ~~beat~~ red as the  
phone in his pocket ~~began~~ to ring.

need to maintain consistent verb tense

**Tom scrubbed the tub, while Kim vacuumed the carpet, they try to complete a days worth of cleaning in just a hour.**

**Congradulations on your graduation,  
principle Lee said holding back his tiers  
Were proud of you.**

## M.U.G. #14

Tom scrub<sup>b</sup>ed the tub, while Kim vac<sup>u</sup>cumed  
the carpet; they <sup>tried</sup>~~try~~ to complete a day's  
worth of cleaning in just <sup>an</sup>~~a~~ hour.

use a semicolon (or one of the FANBOYS or  
break into two separate sentences) to fix the comma splice

"Congrad<sup>t</sup>ulations on your graduation,"  
principle<sup>al</sup>~~al~~ Lee said, holding back his <sup>tears</sup>~~tiers~~.  
"We're proud of you."

**Extreme whether is one cause of drought but wasteful water usage is another cause of drought.**

**Sewing furious, the dress was finished by Stella before the 10 am dead line.**

weather

Extreme ~~whether~~ is one cause of drought,  
but wasteful water usage is another ~~cause~~  
~~of drought.~~ avoid unnecessary repetition/wordiness

a dress can't sew (misplaced modifier)

ly Stella finished the dress

Sewing furious, ~~the dress was finished by~~  
~~Stella~~ before the 10 ~~am~~ dead line.  
a.m. it's one word

**Each candidate must report all funding  
irregardless of where the money came  
from.**

**When people have heart attacks you  
expereince sharp shooting pain down the  
left arm.**

Each candidate must report all funding,  
~~irregardless of where the money came~~  
~~from.~~ the money's source.

↑  
when possible, avoid ending with a preposition

When people have heart attacks, ~~you~~<sup>they</sup>  
~~expeirence~~<sup>ie</sup> sharp, shooting pain down the  
left arm.

↑  
in formal writing, stick with third-person  
pronouns when possible

**Even though he didnt win the candidate said the race was still a victory, because he gained alot of expeirence.**

**I wanted a slice of apple pie unfortunately Luke ate the last peace.**

Even though he didn't win, the candidate  
said the race was still a victory, because  
he gained a lot of experience.

a lot

"a lot" is two words

no comma when using  
"because" to link two  
independent clauses  
("because" isn't one of  
the FANBOYS)

I wanted a slice of apple pie; unfortunately,  
Luke ate the last ~~peace~~.  
piece

**When I looked around the corner I am  
suprised to see what my cousin was up to.**

**Fierce out of control ferrats chased the  
children all kindergardeners to the parking  
lot there parents were not amused.**

## M.U.G. #18

avoid shifting verb tenses

When I looked around the corner, I ~~was~~ <sup>am</sup> surprised to see what my cousin ~~was~~ <sup>doing</sup> up to.

when possible, avoid ending with a preposition

hyphenate when you have three words  
working as one adjective

Fierce, <sup>out-of-control</sup> out of control ferrats chased the  
children, all <sup>kindergartners</sup> kindergardeners, to the parking  
lot. ~~there~~ parents were not amused.

↑ <sup>Their</sup>

multiple ways to fix this run-on

**Its time to begin our next exciting unit of study this month well right an in depth essay on state of the art technologies**

**Once in awhile a inventer is discovered who's work holds world changing possibilitys.**

It's time to begin our next exciting unit of study; this month, we'll <sup>write</sup> ~~right~~ an in-depth essay on state-of-the-art technologies.

"a while" is two words  
in this usage

Once in a while, <sup>an</sup> ~~a~~ inventor <sup>o</sup> ~~/~~ is discovered  
<sup>whose</sup> ~~who's~~ work holds world-changing  
possibilities. <sup>ie</sup> ~~/~~

who's = who is  
whose = possessive