

Introductory writing exercises

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Each of these examples was designed to contain one or more errors or cases of inefficient writing. I encounter most of these problems in writing that I edit from postgraduate students, particularly, but not exclusively, with those attempting to write professionally in English as a second language. Unfortunately, not all of these errors will be picked up with the spelling or grammar check systems in software. See Maguire (2007a) for assistance with writing faults and Maguire (2007b) for solutions to these exercises.

Writing exercises

1. Its a difficult problem to solve.
2. Your the hardest working student in the group.
3. As a researcher he is outstanding, as a teacher he is a poor communicator.
4. The author asked me to comment on his draft paper before he sent the paper to other colleagues to comment on.
5. The Principle of the school first got there attention before he talked to them about the affects, on the school's reputation, of poor behaviour in public.
6. The dog Ben belongs to my friend Tim who slobbers alot.
7. Apple produce the better computers then IBM.
8. PowerPoint software is produced by Microsoft. It is vary useful as it provides many option.

The range of format templates are particular impressive.

9. Architect software is example of computer revolution changing the way professionals does their work.
10. I tried to teach EXCEL to students years ago. Who were doing a Graduate Diploma. They cheated by hand calculating each cells to avoid learning how to use formula.
11. The problem the administrator found with network security procedures were that internal clients are using covert channels.
12. Toms mother gave him a choice of the last two pieces of fruit. He chose an apple rather than banana because it fit better in lunchbox.
13. The problem, with the students writing is, that they are not understanding use of commas.
14. This new software is very exciting because it can be operated by voice for handicapped clients. It was developed in close partnership with experts on the needs of those with relevant disability. The marketing Division is frustrated by the companies refusal to allow it to be adapted for PC.

References

Maguire, G., 2007a. Advice to research students on editing: Opportunities, responsibilities, techniques and direct writing. http://www.ecu.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/193359/Advice-to-research-students_2015.pdf

Maguire, G., 2007b. Solutions to 'Introductory writing exercises': A quick lesson in spelling, commas, subject/verb agreement, combining sentences and direct writing. http://www.ecu.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/193316/Solutions-to-Introductory-Editing-Exercises.pdf