

**Second
Edition**

Find the Errors!

Proofreading Activities



► **High-interest readings!**

► **Assessment tools!**

Exercise I

Find the Errors! Pretest

Directions: Each sentence below has one or more major errors. The errors may be in capitalization, punctuation, or verb usage. You may find sentence fragments, run-on sentences, wordy sentences, clichés, or inconsistent verb tenses. There may be misplaced or dangling modifiers or incorrect pronouns.

Rewrite each sentence correctly in the space below it. There are also 10 misspelled words in this test. Circle each of the 10 words and rewrite them correctly as you rewrite the sentences. (Missing capital letters do not count as spelling errors.)

1. My father visited john grisham, author of the novel a time to kill, in oxford, mississippi.

2. Our american history class visited the museum of the native american last month, accompanied by principle thomas.

3. There are many spanish-speaking americans living in the western United States.

4. Did you give the certified letter to Mauricio C Alegria PhD?

5. Dr Alegria won \$50000 in the Publishers Clearinghouse contest.

(continued)



Exercise I
Find the Errors! Pretest (continued)

6. Jens said, "Kandra the party will be on Friday May 17 at 392 High Street Canton New York."

7. Mykesia our waitress said "The choice of bevrages includes iced tea soft drinks and milk."

8. That was a long tough test but at least its over.

9. The letter was signed, "Yours truecly Dr M L King Jr."

10. A two thirds majority voted to ask the ex athelete with the never say die attitude to speak at the ocasion.

11. At 7 00 PM I'm meeting my three best friends Avery Latonya and Melvin.

12. Escaping from the car, the engine caught fire.

(continued)



Find the Errors!

1. Let's Be Proper!

Background Information

This exercise deals with the capitalization of proper nouns and adjectives according to the following rules:

Rule 1: Capitalize all proper nouns. A proper noun names a particular person, place, or thing. (A common noun names one of a group of persons, places, or things and is not capitalized.)

Rule 2: Capitalize common nouns used as part of a proper noun. For example, in the proper noun *Casey Elementary School*, the word *school* should be capitalized since it is part of the proper noun.

Rule 3: Do not capitalize prepositions, the word *and*, or the articles *a*, *an*, or *the* when used as part of a proper noun (for example, *the Statue of Liberty*).

Answer Key

The story in Exercise 1 has been rewritten below with all proper nouns and adjectives capitalized and underlined. The misspelled words have been underlined and respelled correctly. They are *threw*, *know*, *especially*, *proceeded*, and *actually*.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was the author of the famous Sherlock Holmes stories. As you'll remember, Sherlock Holmes was the detective who could solve the most baffling case with only the remotest of clues.

One day Sir Arthur Conan Doyle hailed a cab in Paris. He threw in his small Samsonite suitcase and climbed into the cab.

The driver, a senior at the Sorbonne University, said, "Where to, Mr. Conan Doyle?"

"How do you know my name?" asked the author in surprise.

"Well, sir, I am a member of the Detective Fan Club. Yesterday I read in the Paris Times that you had been on vacation in a city in the

south of France and were planning a visit to Paris in April. It is now April 1, or April Fool's Day, which should be a national holiday, in my opinion. I picked you up at the railroad station, where I observed you getting off the Orient Express train from the southern town of Marseilles. You have a nice tan, especially for so early in the spring. You look British. The royal blue ink stains on your fingers indicate you could be a writer. You are not speaking French. Putting all the clues together, I deduced that you could be none other than Sir Arthur Conan Doyle."

"That is remarkable work!" replied Doyle. "You yourself should be a detective with your keen powers of observation."

"Well," said the driver as they proceeded past the Eiffel Tower, "actually there is one other bit of supporting evidence I did not mention."

"And what is that?"

"There was also the fact that your name is written on your suitcase!"

Additional Activities

1. Write a list of common nouns on the board. Have students write two proper nouns for each one.

Examples:

country England Somalia
park Hyde Park Yellowstone Park

2. Have students write a one-page paper describing their hometown. They should list its location, points of interest, major industries, schools, etc. Remind students to capitalize all proper nouns.
3. Write on the board pairs of words that could be either a proper noun or a common noun. Have students use each word you list in a sentence.

1. Let's Be Proper!

Directions: The story below has many proper nouns and adjectives that should be capitalized. Write in the capital letters where they are needed. Circle the five misspelled words in the story. Rewrite each word correctly in the Spelling Box.

sir arthur conan doyle was the author of the famous sherlock holmes stories. As you'll remember, sherlock holmes was the detective who could solve the most baffling case with only the remotest of clues.

One day sir arthur conan doyle hailed a cab in paris. He through in his small samsonite suitcase and climbed into the cab.

The driver, a senior at the sorbonne university, said, "Where to, mr. conan doyle?"

"How do you no my name?" asked the author in surprise.

"Well, sir, I am a member of the detective fan club. Yesterday I read in the *paris times* that you had been on vacation in a city in the south of france and were planning a visit to paris in april. It is now april 1, or april fool's day, which should be a national holiday, in my opinion. I picked you up at the railroad station, where I observed you getting off the *orient express* train from the southern town of marseilles. You have a nice tan, expecially for so early in the spring. You look british. The royal blue ink stains on your fingers indicate you could be a writer. You are not speaking french. Putting all the clues together, I deduced that you could be none other than sir arthur conan doyle."

"That is remarkable work!" replied doyle. "You yourself should be a detective with your keen powers of observation."

"Well," said the driver as they proceded past the eiffel tower, "actually, there is one other bit of supporting evidence I did not mention."

"And what is that?"

"There was also the fact that your name is written on your suitcase!"



SPELLING BOX

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____

