

Common Mistakes

Please check your papers carefully for these issues

- A lot, not alot or allot
- Affect vs. Effect
 - Affect: 1. to act on; produce an effect or change in: Cold weather affected the crops.
2. to impress the mind or move the feelings of: The music affected him deeply.
 - Effect: 1. something that is produced by an agency or cause; result; consequence: *Exposure to the sun had the effect of toughening his skin.*
2. power to produce results; efficacy; force; validity; influence: *His protest had no effect.*
3. the state of being effective or operative; operation or execution; accomplishment or fulfillment: *to bring a plan into effect.*
4. a mental or emotional impression produced, as by a painting or a speech.
5. meaning or sense; purpose or intention: *She disapproved of the proposal and wrote to that effect.*
6. the making of a desired impression: *We had the feeling that the big, expensive car was only for effect.*
7. an illusory phenomenon: *a three-dimensional effect.*
8. a real phenomenon (usually named for its discoverer): *the Doppler effect.*
- Definitely, not definitely; and,
- Definitely vs. Defiantly
 - Definitely: unequivocally; positively.
 - Defiantly: boldly resistant or challenging
- Opposed, not Apposed
- Background, not Back round
- Their/They're/There
 - Their: a form of the possessive case of they used as an attributive adjective, before a noun: *their home; their rights as citizens; their departure for Rome.*
 - They're: contraction of *they are*.
 - There: in or at that place (opposed to here): *She is there now.*
- Waist/Waste
 - Waist: the part of the body in humans between the ribs and the hips
 - Waste: to consume, spend, or employ uselessly or without adequate return; use to no avail or profit; squander: *to waste money; to waste words.*
- Your/You're
 - Your: possessive pronoun: *Your book; your paper.*
 - You're: contraction of you are: *You're certain that's right?*
- Sentence splicing: check for presence of both subject & verb to determine whether a conjunction (comma + “and” or “but”) is needed.