

ENGL210/CA - WEEK 3 - DAY 1

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# INTRODUCTION TO ESSAY WRITING

## HOW TO WRITE GOOD

1. Avoid Alliteration. Always.
2. Prepositions are not words to end sentences with.
3. Avoid cliches like the plague. They're old hat.
4. Comparisons are as bad as cliches.
5. Be more or less specific.
6. Writers should never generalize.
- Seven: Be Consistent!
8. Don't be redundant; don't use more words than necessary; it's highly superfluous.
9. Who needs rhetorical questions?
10. Exaggeration is a billion times worse than understatement!

**ACTIVE VOICE VS.  
PASSIVE VOICE**

## ACTIVE VOICE

- ▶ Voice is the form a verb takes to indicate whether the subject of the verb performs or receives the action.
- ▶ Active Voice – indicates that the subject of the verb is acting = “The dog jumped onto the boy.”
- ▶ Passive Voice – the subject and object flip-flop. The subject becomes the passive recipient of the action = “The boy was jumped onto by the dog.”



~~it is being  
loved by me~~

*i'm lovin' it*



## Active Voice

You stole the cookie from the cookie jar.

## Passive Voice

The cookie was stolen from the cookie jar.



**Rebecca Johnson**

@johnsonr



I finally learned how to teach my guys to ID the passive voice. If you can insert "by zombies" after the verb, you have passive voice.



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## Shit Academics Say



9 hrs · 

Active voice: I love your writing  
Passive voice: Your writing is loved  
Passive-aggressive voice: I love how you have  
time to write how great for you



3.5K

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You had me at your impeccable  
spelling and correct  
use of grammar.



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"You don't need to be a grammar nerd to enjoy this one....Who knew grammar could be so much fun?"—*Newsweek*

The **#1** *New York Times* Bestseller

# Eats, Shoots & Leaves



Includes a  
limited-edition  
Punctuation  
Repair Kit



The Zero Tolerance  
Approach to Punctuation

**LYNNE TRUSS**

With a Foreword by Frank McCourt,  
author of *Angela's Ashes*

## GRAMMAR HUMOUR

**A panda walks into a café. He orders a sandwich, eats it, then draws a gun and proceeds to fire it at the other patrons.**

**'Why?' asks the confused, surviving waiter amidst the carnage, as the panda makes towards the exit.**

## GRAMMAR HUMOUR

The panda produces a badly punctuated wildlife manual and tosses it over his shoulder.

'Well, I'm a panda,' he says, at the door. "Look it up."

The waiter turns to the relevant entry in the manual and, sure enough, finds an explanation. "Panda.

Large black-and-white bear-like mammal, native to China. Eats, shoots and leaves."

## GRAMMAR'S POWER

**Truss dedicates the book "to the memory of the striking Bolshevik printers of St. Petersburg who, in 1905, demanded to be paid the same rate for punctuation marks as for letters, and thereby directly precipitated the first Russian Revolution."**



**“GRAMMAR IS A  
PIANO I PLAY BY EAR.  
ALL I KNOW ABOUT  
GRAMMAR IS ITS  
POWER.”**

**Joan Didion**

**Writing has laws of perspective, of light and shade just as a painting does, or music. If you are born knowing them, fine. If not, learn them. Then rearrange the rules to suit yourself.**

**Truman Capote**



\*WERE



**Subjunctive Mood**

@iflwerejudgingU



Following

The subjunctive mood makes the future possible, because it enables us to imagine a future that is different from the present. -G. Guengerich



G<sub>2</sub> R<sub>1</sub> A<sub>1</sub> M<sub>3</sub> M<sub>3</sub> A<sub>1</sub> R<sub>1</sub>

GRAMMAR MATTERS



IN-CLASS WRITING:

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# PARAGRAPH #2

## PARAGRAPH EXERCISE #2

- ▶ In a well-developed paragraph of approximately 100 words, please respond to ONE of these prompts:
- ▶ Is it better to have a laptop-free classroom or one that allows electronic devices?
- ▶ Is it better to live at home or on campus for university?