

PROFESSIONAL WRITING QUIZ - RESULTS

1. What three kinds of POV (point of view) are used in the example below? How should this be fixed?

Alayna had driven two miles when she realized she forgot her credit card on the desk. She smacked her head. I should have put it in my wallet immediately. Wavering between going back or not, she didn't pay attention to traffic. Little did she know, a car accident up ahead would make the decision for her.

Comment [LD1]: Third person POV

Comment [LD2]: First person POV

Comment [LD3]: Third person POV

Comment [LD4]: Omniscient POV

2. Where are the three sequence problems?

The Rottweiler growled as someone pounded on the door. Grayson recognized Denny after peeking out the nearly covered side window. Denny wanted his money, and Grayson didn't have it. Better to pretend he wasn't home. His dog growled and snarled louder since he decided not to stop her. Denny wouldn't dare break in.

Comment [LD5]: The dog needs to growl *after* hearing the pounding.

Comment [LD6]: Grayson has to look out of the window *first* before seeing who it is.

Comment [LD7]: He needs to decide what action to take before the dog knows to stop or continue barking.

3. What are the four errors in the dialogue below?

At the park, Isaac grabbed Olivia's hand and pointed to a bench.

"Hold on, Olivia, let's sit down a second."

Comment [LD8]: Need comma on either side of names

"Why, Isaac? I thought we were going to walk all around the lake."

Comment [LD9]: Need comma before name

He snorted said (-or- snorted, then said), "We will, Olivia, but I have a stone in my shoe."

Comment [LD10]: You can't "snort" speech. You need "said" or turn it into an action beat.

Comment [LD11]: When only two people talk, they would not say each other's names over and over. Take out names in the last two lines.

4. Where are the incorrect or unnecessary dialogue tags below?

I answered the phone, half asleep. "Mom?" I asked groggily.

Comment [LD12]: Unnecessary. We know she asks and she's groggy.

"Good morning," my mom said, her voice as chipper as a bird chirped like a bird. "It's nine in the morning. I've been up with the sun!"

Comment [LD13]: Incorrect. You can't speak *words* if you're chirping like a bird. Use said, then describe it.

"Goodbye. I need to sleep!" I yelled at her.

Comment [LD14]: Unnecessary. We know with italics and an exclamation point she yelled.

"Wait—this is important. Don't hang up." She sounded serious.

I stayed on the line. "What's going on?"

Comment [LD15]: Unnecessary. We know she stays on the line when she talks instead of hanging up.

5. Can you identify the fourteen punctuation errors below?

In the darkening woods, Cora looked anxiously over at Lukas. "I think we're lost."

Comment [LD16]: Only one space here

"No - we're not." He tromped forward.

Comment [LD17]: No bold

She hurried to keep up with him (as best as she could). He would never admit to being lost.

Comment [LD18]: This is an em dash. Need *em* dash with no spaces.

Comment [LD19]: No parentheses

Yanking on his sleeve, she tried to reason with him. "But... I thought we went by this crooked stump a...while back already."

Comment [LD20]: Single quotes are only used *inside* double quotes

Comment [LD21]: Ellipses have only three periods with a space on either side.

He turned and looked down at her. "I know exactly where we are; we are NOT lost."

Comment [LD22]: No underlining

She shivered. "But what if ---"

Comment [LD23]: No semicolon

Comment [LD24]: No CAPS

~~He interrupted her.~~ "No 'what ifs.' Taking her hand, he squeezed it. "Have a little self confidence. Or at least have confidence in me. OK?"

Comment [LD25]: Use an em dash to show interrupted speech. Take out the explanation.

She nodded, what else could she do?

Comment [LD26]: Missing double quotes after single quote.

Comment [LD27]: Need hyphen in "self-confidence"

Comment [LD28]: No space before end quotes

6. Change the example below to be *showing*, not telling. This will be different for each writer.

Telling is literally telling a story. Showing is when we write this scene from inside Vilma's head.

For example, "She wondered if it was on right" is telling. We are in her mind when we read, "Was it on right?"

Look at the difference between the quiz online and my version.

Vilma's stomach flipped sitting on the ledge of the boat overlooking the choppy, dark Pacific ocean. She tugged at the snorkeling gear. Was it on right? Would she get water in her lungs and choke? What if she couldn't make it to the top to get air?

"Group three—go!"

The four people around her splashed in the water, and she was carried with them. Water closed around her, muffled and filled with bubbles. Flippers smoothly flapped away from her. Above her was the surface, the light wavy and blurry. It was now or never. Taking a deep breath of precious oxygen, she dove down.

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Comment [LD29]: Comma splice