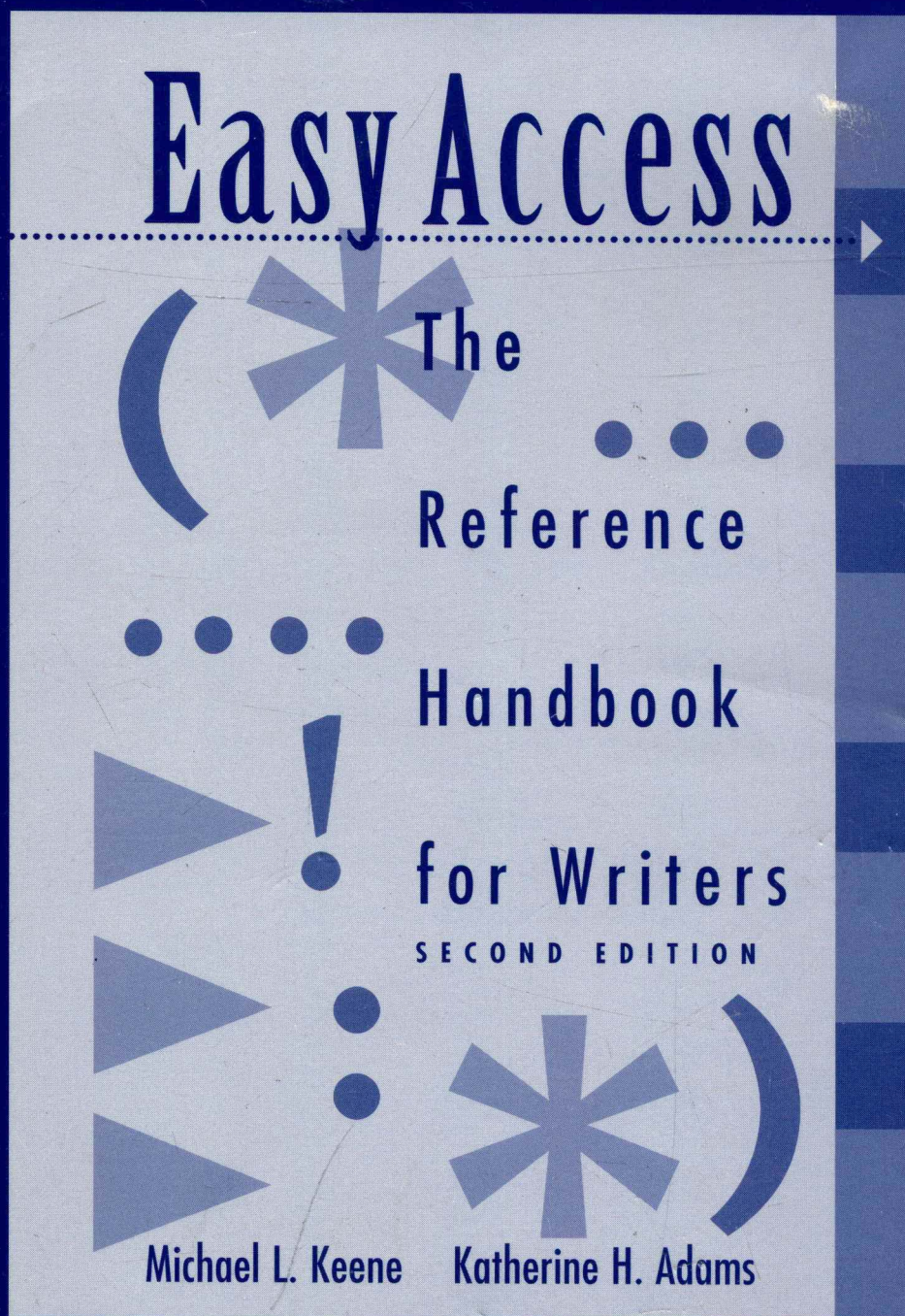


ADDITIONAL EXERCISES TO ACCOMPANY



Exercises Written by Timothy Miank

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Easy Access The Reference Handbook for Writers

Second Edition

Michael L. Keene

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

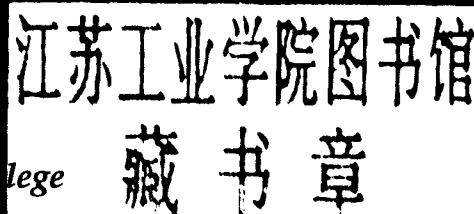
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Mayfield Publishing Company

Mountain View, California

London • Toronto

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International Standard Book Number: 0-7674-0530-7

Manufactured in the United States of America

Mayfield Publishing Company
1280 Villa Street
Mountain View, California 94041

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EXERCISE 1: SENTENCE FRAGMENTS

Edit the following numbered passages to eliminate sentence fragments.

Example: Steve, on the other hand, is serious most of the time. Even though he occasionally tells a good joke.

Correction: Steve, on the other hand, is serious most of the *time, even* though he occasionally tells a good joke.

1. Mary has a peculiar sense of humor. Which endears her to everyone she meets.
2. Classic television shows, such as *M*A*S*H* and *All in the Family*, helped make CBS the dominant broadcasting company of the early 1970s. The popularity of these shows lasting through most of the decade. They eventually ended and went into reruns.
3. Most of my close friends are going to college next year. For example, Tom, Maria, and DuJuan. They are all going to the state university.
4. All students at Hilltop University are required to take a writing course. Although some students manage to have the requirement waived.
5. The rains continued for three days. Forcing most of the town's residents to evacuate. As the Green River overflowed its banks.

The following passage is adapted from a student essay discussing a difficult personal experience. Edit it to correct sentence fragments.

Like Jonathan Bailey, I have a genetic problem. However, although Bailey's was visible the day he was born. Mine was not visible until I was in sixth grade. Which was when the problems started to occur. I remember sitting in reading class. And asking a friend to pull my arm. I thought my shoulder just needed to be cracked. But after she pulled my arm, the pain got even worse. I thought the pain would go away, but after a week or so, it started to feel like knives were entering my bone. I endured the pain until school ended for the summer. Then my mom thought it would be a good idea. For me to go to the doctor.

EXERCISE 1: SENTENCE FRAGMENTS (*continued*)

My doctor sent me to have some X-rays taken. When he received them, he was amazed at what he saw. The bone in my arm had broken in two places. He had no idea what the problem was, so he asked me to go to some specialists at MSU. Eventually, they diagnosed me with a bone disease. Called chronic recurrent multifocal osteomyelitis.

The first week of July, I had to go to the hospital. The day after I was admitted. I had to have surgery. Including a biopsy of my arm, two spinal taps, and insertion of a tube half in my body and half out. The tube was there because the doctors at first thought I had cancer. The spinal taps came back fine, but the biopsy was bad. To find out more about the disease, the next day I had to have many more X-rays. And an MRI and a CAT scan. By this time I was sick of all the radiation. The hospital could not do anything else for my bone. Because it did not have any doctors who knew how to treat chronic recurrent multifocal osteomyelitis.

EXERCISE 2: COMMA SPLICES

Edit the following numbered items to correct comma splices. Some may already be correct.

Example: Good employees know that punctuality is an invaluable characteristic, it separates the successful from the unsuccessful.

Correction: Good employees know that punctuality is an invaluable *characteristic*; it separates the successful from the unsuccessful.

1. A bright yellow Volkswagen pulled up beside me, it looked like a deviled egg on wheels.
2. Rita decided to quit smoking, however, she discovered that quitting was not as easy as she had thought.
3. Their relationship was rocky, they fought constantly.
4. Although the right to marry is seldom denied, it seems that a divorce isn't always as easy to obtain.
5. Our plan seemed to work perfectly, they were truly surprised when they walked through the door.

The following passage is adapted from a student essay arguing that young people do not read nearly enough. Edit it to correct comma splices.

Not only do teenagers not read many books for pleasure, but they also often do everything they can to avoid having to read anything at all, even for school. At the bookstore where I work, a throng of high school students comes in every day to buy *Cliffs Notes*. Buying *Cliffs Notes* for a book that is long and confusing may be understandable, the books for which these teenagers are buying them, however, are short, simple, entertaining ones, such as *The Catcher in the Rye*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *Of Mice and Men*.

If teenagers cannot make it through these books, how can they possibly read academic material for school projects and research papers? The answer is that they don't have to, the advent of the Internet has allowed them to avoid most of that kind of reading. Don't misunderstand me, the Internet is a wonderful research tool. The problem is that when it is time to do research, the Internet is the only source from which many students derive their information, using only the

EXERCISE 2: COMMA SPLICES (*continued*)

Internet can be a problem because the small, neatly packaged bits of information often do not show the big picture of a topic, they are also not always from reliable sources. If teenagers would read books, they would be able to combine what they learn from the Internet with information from the books and gain comprehensive knowledge about a subject.

EXERCISE 3: RUN-ON SENTENCES

Edit the following numbered items to correct run-ons. Some may already be correct.

Example: The victory celebration lasted most of the evening several people continued to party until the middle of the following morning.

Correction: The victory celebration lasted most of the *evening, and* several people continued to party until the middle of the following morning.

1. Texas has some of this country's most cosmopolitan cities Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, and Austin come to mind.
2. We decided to move into an apartment because our house was too much work.
3. Action movies always seem to predominate during the summer when it is hot outside, people must enjoy watching things blow up.
4. Rap music fascinates me it is a unique kind of poetic expression.
5. Abraham Lincoln was president from 1861 until 1865 this period was filled with a national turmoil that we will probably never see again.

The following passage is adapted from a student essay about reggae legend Bob Marley. Edit it to correct run-on sentences.

Many musicians today are influenced by the music of Bob Marley. He sang about what was important to him other musicians were inspired by his music. Eric Clapton, for example, redid Marley's "I Shot the Sheriff" and this song became well known to people who had never heard of Bob Marley. Jerry Garcia of the Grateful Dead redid "Stop the Train" with his other group, the Jerry Garcia Band. The group Sublime has also covered some of Marley's songs. Other groups mention his name in their songs The Red Hot Chili Peppers, for example, refer to Marley as "a poet and a prophet" in their song "Give It Away."

In addition, Marley tried to convey important messages in his music he sang about everyday life and the difficulties that people go through. From his love songs to his songs of redemption,

EXERCISE 3: RUN-ON SENTENCES (*continued*)

Bob Marley wanted to tell people that there is more to life than working every day. He also wanted to expose people to injustices in the world he sang about slavery and how it has affected so many different people although it has been over a century since slavery ended. He wanted people to know that treating others poorly because of skin color is wrong. He wanted to give positive messages to his listeners being alive and happy was what Bob Marley was about.

EXERCISE 4: SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

Edit the following sentences to correct errors in subject-verb agreement.

Example: My pencil and notebook was sitting side by side on the counter.

Correction: My pencil and notebook *were* sitting side by side on the counter.

1. There's several things everyone should know before taking up cross-stitch.
2. Either my neighbor's dog or the Johnsons' two collies is responsible for the mess in my backyard.
3. This year's senior class are as talented as any we have had.
4. The latest sports cars built by the always-creative Foxworth Motor Company is causing quite a sensation.
5. Joe's mountain bike and his calculator has been invaluable to him.

Edit the following passage to correct errors in subject-verb agreement.

Marriage is a funny thing. Many people I have talked to believes that it is the greatest living arrangement in the world, but many others—a good example is my best friend Tony—thinks marriage is “for the birds.” I know that many factors contribute to how we each view marriage, but perhaps the most powerful factor, and the most obvious one, is our direct experience with marriage. For example, if we are fortunate enough to have grown up in a household with two happy, loving parents who respects each other, we probably view marriage in a favorable light. However, if we have experienced problems in the marriage of our parents or someone else close to us, we probably approaches it with skepticism, at the very least.

The truth is, however, that marriage are neither good nor bad, and one couple's experience do not necessarily determine their child's future as a spouse. The key to successful marriage is finding an individual to marry who catches your eye and whom you love and respect. It also helps if that special person make you laugh.

EXERCISE 5: VERB FORM

Edit the following sentences to correct errors in verb form.

Example: I was amazed; Joe had risen me \$200, and I had a full house in my hand.

Correction: I was amazed; Joe had *raised* me \$200, and I had a full house in my hand.

1. By the time Carlita arrived, most of the guests had already went home, even though the party was suppose to last until midnight.
2. Hundreds of mushrooms sprung up in the afternoon rain.
3. Tracy had wore the new jeans only twice before they ripped.
4. Jerry use to spend the afternoon laying concrete while his brother Bill laid in the hammock.
5. Because Wellington University has increased tuition rates by more than 40%, Derrick has chose to enroll at the local community college this fall.

Edit the following passage to correct errors in verb form.

The first time I came home from college, my mother cooked my favorite dinner: pork chops and peas, with a big side of applesauce. When I walked into the kitchen and seen all that beautiful food on the table, I almost cried. After regaining my composure, I hanged my coat on the rack and set down at the table to eat. By the time I was done, I must have ate six pork chops, and I know I drunk most of the gallon of milk she kepted in the refrigerator. It was all I could do to lay down on the couch while my sister and my mom done the dishes. I don't always expect to be treated this well when I come home, but, once in a while, it's certainly nice.

EXERCISE 6: VERB TENSE

Edit the following sentences to correct errors in verb tense.

Example: A dream I had early last year has haunted me ever since, and it still haunted me as I stare at my father's closet.

Correction: A dream I had early last year has haunted me ever since, and it still *haunts* me as I stare at my father's closet.

1. Two days ago Jennie's teacher criticized her for chewing gum in class, but then he comes into class the following morning doing the same thing.
2. Donald told the police that he wasn't the guy they are looking for.
3. After the professor handed back our papers, he had said he was proud of us.
4. Last year my son read *Winnie the Pooh*; it was a wonderful book for all children to read.
5. After I told Antonio how I felt, he says, "Gee, Carrie, I think you should forget about him."

The following passage is from a student essay recalling personal struggles with weight. Edit it to correct errors in verb tense.

One winter I was sick during Christmas vacation and went to the doctor to get some medicine. When the doctor finished his examination, he tells my mother and me that I should go on a diet. He told me, very directly, that I am too fat. He was not kidding, either. My mother and I knew that he's totally serious because he wanted to draw blood from me to check my cholesterol level. I was shocked. I had never thought a professional doctor would say this to a twelve-year-old who has enough to worry about in junior high.

It bothered me at first. Then my mom told me not to listen to a word he was saying to me and to forget all about it. So I tried to do what my mother says to do. But it was difficult. The doctor's comments were always in the back of my mind. It was simple: I am too fat. I felt as if someone has ripped my self-esteem from me and I have none left to build on. Any critical comment directed my way after that made me feel horrible. That man made me feel like the most worthless human on the planet.

EXERCISE 7: VERB MOOD

Edit the following sentences to correct errors in mood.

Example: If he was older, he would understand our concern.

Correction: If he *were* older, he would understand our concern.

1. It's critical that people begin to conserve energy. Try carpooling or riding your ten-speed to work—anything to save gas.
2. The professor suggested that everyone meets in the parking lot before leaving on their field trip.
3. To keep a hitter off balance, a pitcher needs to use good off-speed pitches. Then surprise the hitter with a fastball or a hard slider.
4. The facilitator proposed that everyone takes a ten-minute break.
5. If it was up to me, I wouldn't let anyone near that antique vase.

Edit the following passage to correct errors in mood.

If the world today was perfect, what would we talk about? People should ask themselves this question whenever things are not going well. Imagine how dull perfection would be. Consider the challenges and rewards of dealing with problems and so-called imperfections.

A wise teacher once suggested that my classmates and I each takes time, every day, to anticipate the challenge that might lie ahead the next day. Doing this, he pointed out, would not only help us prepare for the challenge but also help us understand more about the "road of life," as he called it. Think about problems and how you might respond. Be prepared. If everyone was prepared for problems, he believed we would be far more satisfied with our imperfect world.

EXERCISE 8: NECESSARY COMMAS

Add commas where necessary in each of the following sentences. Some sentences may already be correct.

Example: Most instructors are fair when they grade student papers but Dr. Goodfellow seems to be unusually harsh.

Correction: Most instructors are fair when they grade student *papers*, *but* Dr. Goodfellow seems to be unusually harsh.

1. To see her brother this summer Deborah will have to go to his farm in Iowa.
2. The sheets were absolutely beautiful but Toni didn't think she could afford them.
3. Rebecca was born on November 14 1980 in Dallas Texas.
4. The men and women employed by Johnson Steel work overtime almost every week.
5. When Mitsuko begins to serve she bounces the ball twice and takes a deep breath.
6. Felix was eager to go to Miami especially after he heard that Garth Brooks would be playing there.
7. Jarrod's new Calvin Klein jeans for which he paid \$60 already have a big rip in them.
8. It is my belief Dr. Jones that the final exam should be delayed until after spring break.
9. A dark mysterious substance began to ooze from the television screen.
10. "Let's go to Miller's Dairy" said Jody "so that we can see if the cream really rises to the top."

The following passage is adapted from a student essay about the difficulty of growing up poor. Edit it, adding commas where necessary.

Elementary school and food stamps may seem an unlikely pair but for me the two went almost hand in hand. Having had little education and having a family of six my parents had to rely on the welfare system. Consequently I was often sent to the store for groceries and even at a young age I can remember the feeling of having to pay for my items with what other people cruelly refer to as "poor people's money." I can remember quite a few occasions when I would see a friend or acquaintance in the store and would wait acting like I was looking for something until he or she had gone before I made my purchase. Nothing however could stop the feeling of panic

EXERCISE 8: NECESSARY COMMAS (*continued*)

when I was shopping with my mom and one of my friends saw that we were paying with food stamps. Even at such a young age I understood that for the most part low-income families were treated differently silently ridiculed or pitied by those who had money. Even children in elementary school treated welfare children differently mostly by making fun of them with harsh names or excluding them from their circle of friends. Most elementary children were not this way but it was surprising how many were.

Junior high and all its hurdles came next. We didn't have to rely on food stamps during those years but that meant that we struggled even more with the cash we did have. There were always holes in my shoes which weren't even the Nikes or Reeboks that everyone else seemed to be wearing. Frequently I remember the clothes that I wore were mostly outdated and mostly from second-hand stores.

Next groups started to form. People judged others by what they wore and what they had. It was obvious to me which group I would be assigned to: the group of supposed losers and nerds. Being pushed and bumped loomed in my future not to mention the endless sarcasm insults and jokes. Junior high was a time to sit quietly do my work and watch my self-esteem get pushed six feet under the earth.

EXERCISE 9: NECESSARY COMMAS

Add commas where necessary in each of the following sentences. Some sentences may already be correct.

Example: The wedding ceremony was performed by Dr. Alvarez the man who baptized me when I was a baby in Topeka Kansas.

Correction: The wedding ceremony was performed by Dr. *Alvarez, the* man who baptized me when I was a baby in *Topeka, Kansas*.

1. Montpelier Vermont has one of the most beautiful state capitols in America.
2. On that dark and stormy night we all stayed up late and told the scariest stories we could think of.
3. When Shawn was younger her favorite groups were the Beatles Roxy Music King Crimson and the Doors.
4. Hoping to be considered for a promotion Ramon has registered for courses at Penwicker College.
5. The parlor was full of people smoking smelly cigars so we decided to continue our conversation on the patio.
6. The woman who was seated next to us on the plane worked at the United Nations.
7. Joe began to dance like a man possessed during Green Day's opening song something we never thought we would see him do.
8. Their lead singer a young man with lime green hair managed to do the splits between each song.
9. "Each of you needs to spend more time editing your work" stated the professor "especially if you want to publish anything."
10. The Lakers the Bulls the Sonics and the Celtics always seem to be the teams contending for the NBA title.

The following passage is adapted from a student essay discussing some of the myths about drinking alcohol. Edit it, adding commas where necessary.

It is hard to believe that something that can seem so innocent can really be something dangerous. Imagine this: It's 2 a.m. and you are hanging out with some friends. Everyone is pumped. Music is blaring loudly and some drinks are being passed around. No one stops to think what all