

Hamilton

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https://www.hamilton.edu/academics/centers/writing/style/essentials#site_contact

Essentials of English Usage


Following are some problems commonly found in college students' writing. Each type of problem is identified by a general abbreviation that your professor may use to indicate the presence of this error in your sentence. This list includes errors (that is, violations of rules of grammar and punctuation) as well as problems of expression.

Choose your area of inexpertise:

Abbreviation	Error	Abbreviation	Error
act	<u>active vs. passive voice</u> (/academics/centers/writing/style/essentials/passive-voice)	poss	<u>possessives</u> (/academics/cente
agr	<u>agreement</u> (/academics/centers/writing/style/essentials/agreement)	pr	<u>primer style</u> (/academics/cente

ca	<u>case</u> (/academics/centers/writing/style/essentials/case)	p-ref	<u>pronoun reference</u> (/academics/centers/writing/style/essentials/case)
cite	<u>citation</u> (/academics/centers/writing/style/essentials/citation)	p	<u>punctuation</u> (/academics/centers/writing/style/essentials/citation)
cs	<u>comma splice</u> (/academics/centers/writing/style/essentials/comma-splice)	pq	<u>punctuation of quotation</u> (/academics/centers/writing/style/essentials/comma-splice)
cg	<u>congruity</u> (/academics/centers/writing/style/essentials/congruity)	ps	<u>subordinate element</u> (/academics/centers/writing/style/essentials/congruity)
da	<u>dangling element</u> (/academics/centers/writing/style/essentials/dangling-element)	r	<u>run-on</u> (/academics/centers/writing/style/essentials/dangling-element)
d	<u>diction</u> (/academics/centers/writing/style/essentials/diction)	semi	<u>semicolon use</u> (/academics/centers/writing/style/essentials/diction)
f	<u>fragment</u> (/academics/centers/writing/style/essentials/fragment)	sxt	<u>sexist language</u> (/academics/centers/writing/style/essentials/fragment)

j	<u>jargon</u> (<u>/academics/centers/writing/style/essentials/jargon</u>)	SU	<u>subordination</u> (<u>/academics/cente</u>
mp	<u>misplaced modifier</u> (<u>/academics/centers/writing/style/essentials/misplaced-modifier</u>)	t	<u>tense (/academics/</u>
m	<u>mood</u> (<u>/academics/centers/writing/style/essentials/mood</u>)	u	<u>unity (/academics/</u>
pl	<u>parallelism</u> (<u>/academics/centers/writing/style/essentials/parallelism</u>)	w	<u>wordiness</u> (<u>/academics/cente</u>
pv	<u>passive voice</u> (<u>/academics/centers/writing/style/essentials/passive-voice</u>)		



Find Your Voice

What good is having a great idea if you can't communicate it effectively? We'll teach you how to express yourself through writing and speaking, of course, but also through digital communications and artistic expression – all of which will help you stand out no matter what path you choose after graduation.

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[Written & Oral Communication \(/academics/open-curriculum/written-oral-communication\)](#)

[Express Yourself \(/about/know-thyself/express-yourself\)](#)

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