

Correction Abbreviations and Symbols Used in Marking Compositions

Content

1. dev Development needed
This abbreviation indicates that an idea, point, or subject needs to be further developed or expanded upon. Revise by supplying details, examples or illustrations or by defining or explaining.
2. log Logic faulty
log: His job was one way to become independent. (A job is not a way.)
Correction: Getting a job was one way to become independent.
log: The police confused the thirty-five-year-old man with his clone. (A clone begins life as a baby; therefore, it will always be younger than the person from whom it was cloned.)
Correction: The police thought the two men looked like father and son.
3. om Omit (delete)
4. wts Weak topic sentence or weak thesis statement

Fluency

5. amb Ambiguous
Ambiguity is a type of lack of clarity in which your sentence can be interpreted in two ways.
amb: John Black wrote a book on the justice system in 1980. (Was the book written in 1980, or was it about the justice system in 1980?)
Correction: In 1980, John Black wrote a book on the justice system.
6. awk Awkward
Awk indicates that there is something wrong with your sentence that cannot be repaired by simply changing a few words. The teacher is suggesting that you rewrite the entire section indicated.
7. cl Clarity
Cl may indicate that your wording makes your idea impossible to understand or that the wording may be correct but your idea itself is unclear.
8. comb Combine sentences
Combining sentences is sometimes desirable to eliminate wordiness or to add some variety to your sentence types. Try using coordination or subordination or perhaps both.
9. coord Coordination needed
coord: Life in the North can be very challenging. Life in a large city offers more variety.
Correction: Life in the North can be very challenging, but life in a large city offers more variety.
10. ill Illegible
Your writing is impossible to read.
11. red Redundancy

red: She gave birth to two twin sons.
Correction: She gave birth to twin sons.

12. ref Reference of pronoun unclear

ref: Because Mr. and Mrs. Jones didn't love their children, they didn't give them gifts on their birthdays.
It is not clear who – the parents or the children – didn't give gifts.

13. sub Subordination needed

sub: Forster has done a superb job in his use of examples. His examples are clear and precise.
Correction: Forster has done a superb job in his use of examples, which are clear and precise.

14. var Variety lacking

Try to improve the variety of lengths, kinds, and patterns of your sentences.

15. w Wordiness

Your ideas could be expressed more effectively if you wrote more concisely.

Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling

16. ab Abbreviation inappropriate or incorrect

ab: He ate meat & potatoes.
Correction: He ate meat and potatoes.

17. adj Adjective missing or faulty

adj: He is feeling badly today.
Correction: He is feeling bad today.

18. adv Adverb missing or faulty

adv: He does not write very good.
Correction: He does not write very well.

19. agr Agreement faulty

Subject-verb

agr: There was not many students in class today.

Correction: There were not many students in class today.

Pronoun-antecedent

agr: If one wants to buy clothes, it must not be too expensive.

Correction: If one wants to buy clothes, they must not be too expensive.

20. apos Apostrophe missing or misused

apos: Whose going to know the truth?

Correction: Who's going to know the truth?

21. art Article missing or misused

art: It was humbling experience.

Correction: It was a humbling experience.

22. ca Case

ca: Dan and me were late.

- Correction: Dan and I were late.
23. cap Capitalization
cap: He is coming on monday.
Correction: He is coming on Monday.
24. cs Comma splice
This abbreviation means that two closely related independent clauses have been joined with a comma. However, a comma is not strong enough to use in this position. Instead use a coordinating conjunction, an adverbial conjunction, or a semi-colon.
cs: He wanted to stay, he had to leave after an hour.
Correction: He wanted to stay, but he had to leave after an hour.
Correction: Although he wanted to stay, he had to leave after an hour.
Correction: He wanted to stay; however, he had to leave after an hour.
25. dm Dangling modifier
A dangling modifier has no noun or pronoun to modify. Correct a dangling modifier by providing a logical noun or pronoun for it to modify.
dm: Running too quickly around the corner of the building, a newsstand suddenly loomed in front of me.
Correction: When I ran too quickly around the corner of the building, a newsstand suddenly loomed in front of me.
Correction: Running too quickly around the corner of the building, I was suddenly confronted by a newsstand looming in front of me.
26. fp Faulty parallelism
This abbreviation indicates that certain parts of your sentence are not in the correct form to be parallel.
fp: I spent my summer with books and going for walks.
Correction: I spent my summer reading and going for walks.
27. frag Fragment
This abbreviation indicates that a group of words do not have all the elements necessary to make an independent clause that can stand alone.
frag: I stayed at home last weekend. Having no money.
Correction: Having no money, I stayed at home last weekend.
28. gr Grammatical error
This abbreviation indicates that your sentence contains a grammatical error that is not defined by one of the other abbreviations.
29. lc Lower case
lc: I had always planned to get a University education.
Correction: I had always planned to get a university education.
30. mm Misplaced modifier
This abbreviation indicates that a phrase has not been placed next to the noun or pronoun it modifies.
mm: To our surprise, John asked Maggie to marry him rather than Beth.
Correction: To our surprise, John asked Maggie rather than Beth to marry him.

31. p Punctuation missing or incorrect
32. pos Possessive missing or incorrect
 pos: Their mother sewed all five daughters dresses.
 Correction: Their mother sewed all five daughters' dresses.
 pos: Their mother sewed all five daughter's dresses.
 Correction: Their mother sewed all five daughters' dresses.
33. passim This is Latin for *throughout* and means that you are repeating the same error.
34. q Quotation marks used incorrectly
 q: "He ate the meal".
 Correction: "He ate the meal."
35. run-on Run-on sentence (also called fused sentence)
 This indicates a failure to put any punctuation between two independent clauses. This can be corrected by using a semi-colon when the two clauses are closely related or a period if they are not.
 run-on: Vancouver is the most beautifully situated city in Canada it also has some ugly slums.
 Correction: Vancouver is the most beautiful city in Canada; it also has some ugly slums.
36. sp Spelling
37. t Tense of verb wrong
 t: He arrives yesterday.
 Correction: He arrived yesterday.
38. vb Verb form wrong
 vb: After the accident he was took to the hospital.
 Correction: After the accident, he was taken to the hospital.
39. wf Word form wrong
 wf: He looked at me strange.
 Correction: He looked at me strangely.
40. wm Word missing
41. wo Word order
 wo: She was naturally hurt his indifference.
 Correction: Naturally, she was hurt by his indifference.

Organization

42. tsm Topic sentence or thesis statement missing
43. org Organization
 A poorly thought out outline or perhaps writing without pre-planning can result in errors of organization such as repetition, lack of emphasis in some places and not enough in others, etc.
44. structure Composition or outline does not follow standard pattern of organization; structure does not match purpose or assigned topic.

45. ¶ Paragraph
This symbol indicates that a new paragraph should start at this point.

Unity/Cohesion

46. coh Coherence lacking
This abbreviation suggests that the connection between two paragraphs or two sentences in the same paragraph is weak or lacking completely. Often, using transition words such as “furthermore” or “however” can solve the problem if the ideas in both are indeed linked.
47. shift Shift in perspective
Shift indicates that you have illogically changed tenses, voice, mood, or person.
48. tr Transition weak or lacking

Word Choice

49. inf Informal diction
inf: He is the most stuck-up boy in the class. (slang)
Correction: He is the most snobbish boy in the class.
inf: You should not attempt this. (Do not use first or second person pronouns.)
Correction: One should not attempt this.
inf: He isn't here. (Do not use contractions.)
Correction: He is not here.
50. nsw No such word
51. ww Wrong word