

Error Analysis

Assignment _____

If you want to improve your English, you need to recognize language errors you need to work on. Together with the consultant, do Error Analysis. It will help you identify and prioritize your error patterns.

1. Read your paper and mark any errors you notice yourself.
2. Discuss the errors with the consultant and together mark the remaining errors.
3. Go through the errors and mark each error with a code from the table.
4. Review your errors and put a check in the “Errors” column for each error type.
5. Total your check marks for each error type and enter that number in the “Totals” column.
6. Based on the totals, indicate the three most frequent errors and label them 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 in the “Top Priorities” column.

Work on your most frequent global errors first.

Error Type		Errors	Totals	Top Priorities
Error Type Code	Explanation			
Global errors. More serious which usually interfere with understanding				
cl (clause)	A dependent clause is incorrectly formed.			
cond	A conditional sentence has been incorrectly formed or used.			
conn	The connector is incorrect or missing			
modal	The modal has been incorrectly formed or used.			
pass	The passive voice has not been formed or used correctly.			
ss	There are missing words, extra words, incorrect structures, non-parallel structures.			
vf	Incorrect verb form: the main verb or verb phrase has been incorrectly formed.			
vt	Incorrect verb tense.			
wo	Incorrect word order.			
Local errors. Less serious errors, which, while distracting, usually do not interfere with understanding				
art	The article or determiner (this, that, these, those) is incorrect or missing.			

prep	The wrong preposition has been used.			
s/pl	Incorrect singular or plural noun			
sv	Incorrect subject-verb agreement			
wc	Word choice: the word does not say what the writer means.			
wf	Incorrect word form: the word is correct but its formation is incorrect			
cs	Comma splice: two or more sentences have been joined with a comma.			
frag	Fragment: the sentence is incomplete.			
ro	Run on: two or more sentences have been joined together without punctuation or connector between them.			
dm	Dangling modifier: a phrase or clause has no word to modify.			
pro ref/agree	The pronoun reference is not clear. The pronoun does not agree with the word to which it refers.			
cap	The capital letter is not used, but it should be used, or vice versa.			
p	The punctuation is not correct or missing.			

Adopted from Lane, Janet, and Ellen Lange. *Writing Clearly: Grammar for Editing*. 3rd ed., Heinle, 2012.