



**School of Social Work
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Writing Rules:

An Online Self-Assessment

Do you want to assess your specific strengths and weaknesses as a writer? Now you can do so online – at your convenience – and learn about a wide range of writing rules, tips, and guidelines at the same time. If after completing these fun and educational online exercises you have questions or think you need some extra help, you can contact the School of Social Work’s writing consultant to help you enhance your knowledge of grammar and style. (See contact information above.)

Of course good writing involves more than just grammar and style, but the fundamental rules of English composition are important to achieving clarity and professionalism in scholarly and work-related writing.

Follow the simple directions on the other side of this paper to begin your online self-assessment.

ELECTRONIC GRAMMAR EXERCISES

The Web site you will visit to begin your self-assessment is:

<http://dianahacker.com/writersref/index.html>

This site is produced by the academic publisher Bedford/St. Martin and uses material developed by long-time writing teacher and expert, Diana Hacker. The site often refers to Hacker's book, *A Writer's Reference*, but it is not necessary to buy or own the book to complete the self-assessment exercises.

Directions in 10 Easy Steps:

1. Go to the Web site *<http://dianahacker.com/writersref/index.html>*.
2. Move your cursor over the box that says "ELECTRONIC Grammar Exercises" and click once on that box.
3. You will be taken to a page with seven different categories of grammar exercises. The categories are:
 - **Sentence Style**
 - **Word Choice**
 - **Grammatical Sentences**
 - **ESL Trouble Spots**
 - **Punctuation**
 - **Mechanics**
 - **Basic Grammar**
4. Click on one of the categories to begin – for example, "Grammatical Sentences," and then choose from one of the online exercises that pops up on the right-hand side of the screen. After you do, you will be prompted for your name and your instructor's e-mail address. You **do not** have to provide any of this information to begin. **Simply proceed with the online exercise by clicking on "BEGIN."**
5. Select what you believe is the correct answer by clicking on it once. You will immediately be informed whether you selected the correct answer or not.
6. At the end of the exercise, after you have answered all the questions, you will have the option to see your total score. Click on "SCORE" to see how you did.
7. You will see 1) how many questions you attempted, 2) how many you answered correctly, and 3) what your percentage score is.
8. Click on "Print Record" if you would like a hard copy of your exercise questions, correct answers, and your score. Review your questions and answers and make a note on this print-out of questions you would like to ask the writing consultant.
9. Complete as many online exercises as you want to. There are approximately 100!
10. Contact writing consultant if you want to discuss your results. E-mail *sswwrite@u.washington.edu* or call (206) 221-6141. Try other exercises on the Web site as well if you have time. Good luck!

