

Special Grammar Sheet 17: Split Infinitives and More!

Never separate the parts of an infinitive verb. An infinitive verb begins with TO.

I want to really ace this test.	Grace is going to definitely marry Legolas.	Incorrect
I really want to ace this test.	Grace is definitely going to marry Legolas.	Correct

Couple of vs. Couple: You can't have "a couple things." You must have "**a couple of** things."

Can I borrow a couple dollars until tomorrow?	Incorrect
Can I borrow a couple of dollars until tomorrow?	Correct, but no!

Over To: You can only **go over someone's house** in a plane or if you're a bird or a superhero.

I went over Bapteef's house last week when I was bored.	Incorrect
I went over to Bapteef's house last week when I was bored.	Correct
Drones going over Bapteef's house keep crashing into one another.	Correct

Consists of vs. comprises: "**Comprised of**" is never correct. Use "consists of."

School One's student body is comprised of cool kids.	Incorrect but true
School One's student body consists of cool kids.	Correct and true
Cool kids comprise School One's student body.	Correct and true

Different From vs. Different Than

It's subject to debate, but the majority of scholars support the use of "**different from**" rather than "different than." Standardized tests are among the places this can be important.

Lysis is quite different than anyone I know.	Less Correct
Lysis is quite different from anyone I know.	Correct

Personally and redundancy

Personally is redundant with I. Don't use them together. In fact, personally is always redundant, so avoid it.

Personally, I hate radishes.	Redundant (thus incorrect)
I hate radishes.	Correct but unhealthy
Her Majesty is personally offended by burping and joint cracking.	Incorrect but accurate
Her Majesty is royally offended by burping and joint cracking.	Proper, correct and accurate

Which/That reminder:

That introduces an essential clause and **doesn't follow a comma.**

Which introduces a non-essential clause and **follows a comma.**

Lee's lizard is an animal that gets way too much lovin'.	Correct
Lee's lizard is an animal which gets way too much lovin'.	Incorrect
Lee's lizard is an animal who gets way too much lovin'.	Incorrect
Lee suggests getting a pet at the pound, which would otherwise kill it.	Correct

SO is not a synonym for **very**. It must be followed by a clause indicating so ____ that ____.

Cary is so confused all the time.	Incorrect but true
Cary is very confused all the time.	Very Correct
Cary is so confused that he often makes Stephe laugh.	Correct and true

Beginning a sentence with **NOT ONLY** means you need **BUT** later in the sentence.

Not only is Phil funny, he's flexible.	Incorrect
Not only is Phil funny, but he's flexible.	Correct and true

Etc. – Never use etc. in an essay as it's lazy, even if you spell it ect., as many of you do incorrectly.

Whether/If: Use **whether** whenever there are just **2 choices**. Use **if** when there are **more** than 2.

I can't decide **if** I should eat pizza or a hamburger.

Incorrect

I can't decide **whether** I should eat pizza or a hamburger.

Correct

Correct these sentences as if they were in an essay:

1. Phil wanted to completely relax but he had to decide if he was going to worry about his advisees progress or just ignore theyre laziness missed deadlines earning no credits etc.
2. To seriously have tried to pass the comps. you should of started going for regular help.
3. Heres what you should do if you definately want to finally pass your senior essay proof read get help from your reader and grammar sheets.
4. However smart you may be youre midterm wont be to great if its comprised of comments telling how much work you owe.
5. Its not the end of the world if youre midterms arent to great however youre going to really have to seriously be creative about explaining it to youre parents.
6. Theirs still a chance to catch up this trimester but its going to really be hard with no more long vacations coming up.
7. Its not worth trying to sincerly tell Siobhan that you left a couple essays over Remus house.
8. Its hard to always decide if you should lie or to just confess about the essays which you never did and decide to just do them.
9. If you think youre midterms will be comprised of negative comments you can still improve them if you try to carefully catch up this week.
10. Not only is Natalia into creating art shes into buying it from other artists to.
11. However cold it might be here I personally think it will be nice to warmly snuggle around the fireplace with a couple close friends.
12. Im not sure if im going to go to the movies do my homework or go over Iysis house.
13. If the weathers alright well go over Shilohs house but sing songs that are alot diffrent then the last time we were their.
14. If people are personally opposed to my opion they should calmly except that my view is diffrent then theirs.
15. This sheet is comprised of the final rules you need to know to pass the Humanities comp. so from now on all were going to weekly be doing is to carefully review those which you all ready know.