

'HOW TO WRITE GOOD'

Note that, to state what should be obvious, each of the following sentences is an example of what not to do.

1. Verbs has to agree with their subjects.
2. Prepositions are not words to end sentences with.
3. And don't start a sentence with a conjunction.
4. It is wrong to ever split an infinitive.
5. Avoid cliches like the plague. They're old hat.
6. Always avoid annoying alliteration.
7. Also, too, never, ever use repetitive redundancies.
8. Be more or less specific.
9. Parenthetical remarks (however relevant) are (usually) unnecessary.
10. No sentence fragments.
11. Contractions aren't necessary and shouldn't be used.
12. Foreign words and phrases are not apropos.
13. Do not be redundant; do not use more words than necessary; it's highly superfluous.
14. One should never generalize.
15. Comparisons are as bad as cliches.
16. Don't use no double negatives.
17. Eschew ampersands & abbreviations, etc.
18. One-word sentences? Eliminate.
19. Analogies in writing are like feathers on a snake.
20. The passive voice is to be avoided.
21. Eliminate commas, that are, not necessary. Parenthetical words however should be enclosed in commas.
22. remember proper Capitalization.
23. With modern word procesers, speling and typographival errors are intollerable.
24. Never use a big word when a diminutive one will suffice.
25. Eschew obfuscation; employ the vernacular.
26. Eliminate all exclamation points!!!
27. Use words correctly, irregardless of how others use them.
28. Profanity is for assholes.
29. Understatement is always the absolute best.
30. Use the apostrophe in it's proper place and omit it when its not needed.
31. Eliminate quotations. As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "I hate quotations. Tell me what you know."
32. If you've heard it once, you've heard it a thousand times: Resist hyperbole; not one writer in a million can use it effectively.
33. Puns are for children, not for groan readers.
34. Go around the barn at high noon to avoid colloquialisms.
35. Even if a mixed metaphor sings, it should be derailed.
36. Who needs rhetorical questions?
37. Exaggeration is a billion times worse than understatement.
38. Proofread carefully to see if you any words out.

Author unknown (written in the style originated by William Saphire)