

Avoiding Shifts

AVOIDING SHIFT IN PERSON

Change the pronouns (and verbs when necessary) so that there will be no shift in person. Cross out the incorrect words and write the correct ones above. Sometimes you may want to change a sentence from singular to plural to avoid using too many one's or the awkward he or she.

Exercise #1:

I I

Example: I enjoy jogging because ~~you~~ feel so good when ~~you~~ quit.

1. In high school our English teacher wouldn't give you more than a C.
2. I like going out with her because she really makes you feel important.
3. I used to think my parents were fussy, but as you grow older, you become more tolerant.
4. I'm finding you have to do a lot of memorizing if you want to be a good speller.
5. I like living in Oregon because you have good weather all year long.
6. As a rule a person can find work if you are willing to take what you can get.
7. It's wise for a beginning driver to stay out of heavy traffic until I have more experience.
8. If I want to play the guitar well, you really need lessons.
9. All those who intend to graduate should get fitted for his gown.

Exercise #2:

1. Anyone who doesn't have a reservation is taking a chance unless you don't really care whether you have a place to stay.
2. If one has done all the exercises in this book, you should be able to get a perfect score on the final grammar test.
3. At the Oriental Institute one can see the great Winged Bull from Iraq, and you can also see many other Middle East antiquities.
4. When we looked down, you could see the little farms growing smaller and smaller.
5. We were on the plane for six hours, and you get tired of sitting that long.
6. We tried to move around, but there was not too much you could do.

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7. Our car was in the middle of a traffic jam, and you could see that we weren't going to make our appointment.
8. When they opened the door that morning, one could see rabbit tracks in the snow.

Exercise #3:

When students write *you* in a paper, they usually don't mean **you**, the reader. **Rewrite these sentences, eliminating the *you* and stating the sentences as simply as possible. Getting rid of the *you* will usually get rid of wordiness also.**

1. You should have seen the mess my room was in.
2. You can imagine how terrified I was.
3. Swimming is the best exercise you can take.
4. You don't need to be a member of the Kiwanis Club to attend their breakfast.
5. Your paper will always be more interesting if you put in specific details.
6. Her paper was excellent; you could tell she had spent time on it.
7. If you want to succeed in college, you really need to have a good vocabulary.
8. Your vocabulary will improve if you read widely.
9. You feel absolutely foolish after you have said such a thing.
10. You can imagine how I looked forward to that weekend.

Exercise #4:

1. When you watch television for a whole evening, you realize how much violence is on the programs.
2. After you finish that course in psychology, you're an entirely different person.
3. I spent two days in Williamsburg, but you really need more time if you want to see everything.
4. You need to exercise every day if you want to keep fit.
5. Anyone interested can call this number if you want more information.

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6. If you want to prevent air pollution, you should take your car in for a tune-up twice a year.
7. From the above facts you can see that many companies still discriminate in their hiring.
8. You can't imagine how frustrating it was to be unable to get there on time.
9. You should have seen the elegant costume she wore to the masquerade.
10. After an escape like that, you feel pretty lucky to be alive.

AVOIDING SHIFT IN TIME

Most of these sentences have shifts in time, either from past to present or from present to past. Change the verbs in each sentence to agree with the first verb used. Cross out the incorrect verb and write the correct one above it.

Exercise #5:

1. Only a few feet in front of me I saw a quail, and I walk quietly forward, hoping not to frighten it away.

2. Kent stopped me and says he'll see me later.

3. We were enjoying the game tremendously, and then it begins to rain.

4. I tried to keep a study schedule, but sometimes I give up.

5. I closed my book, had a snack, and then decide to call it a day.

6. I wanted to register for that course, but it was full, so I register for this one.

7. He thought he wanted a job, but then he finally come back to college.

8. I added something to my knowledge of nature today; I learn the difference between cumulus and nimbostratus clouds.

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9. In *The Grapes of Wrath* John Steinbeck wrote about the dust bowl days. He describes how one family left their home in Oklahoma and migrated to California.

10. When I was seven, I ran away and stayed away until dark; then I come home.

Exercise #6:

1. We walked along the shore hunting for shells, and finally we are lucky enough to find a perfect specimen of a helmet shell.

2. We found lots of limpets, and before we finally give up for the day, we discovered a beautiful sea fan coral.

3. We took our specimens home, wash them, identified each one accurately, and wrote a label for it.

4. I worked all that summer boning up on my math, and then I am rewarded by passing the proficiency exam.

5. The book gives an account of Dickens' life, but it didn't tell much about his novels.

6. After we had driven about 50 miles on the freeway, we discover we are going the wrong direction.

7. Here we are minding our own business when a cop came along and asks to see my driver's license.

8. *The Two Solitudes* is a novel by Hugh MacLennan which told about the social conflict between the French- and English- speaking Canadians.

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9. We drove to the top of the hill to watch the sunset, and then we come back in time for supper.

10. I locked the door and then realize I have left my keys inside.
