Error Codes

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Wondering how to fix it? Match your error code number with the explanations below!

001 vague

If you've gotten this code, it means that the sentence you've written doesn't contain a clearly identifiable meaning. This problem could result from a misused word or from a weak overall claim. To fix it, try thinking about what you really want to say and put it in a simpler sentence format or strengthen your vocabulary.

Example of a vague sentence: Everyone has problems, especially characters who fall in love with the wrong person.

Example of a stronger sentence: [Name of specific character] faces challenges because of their relationship with [name of other specific character], who is from a different social class.

002 wordy

This error means that your sentence contains too many words or that the number of words detracts from the meaning and makes reading difficult. Most of the time, these are a number of small words that can be cut or replaced by a more meaningful word.

Example: There is a huge problem facing the US, and that problem being ice cream headaches.

Stronger: Ice cream headaches plague the US.

003 comma splice

A comma splice means that two independent clauses are joined *only* by a comma. They need something stronger than a comma to join them (a comma + conjunction, a period, a semicolon). You can change the punctuation or simply revise the sentence entirely.

Example: Many writers join independent clauses with commas, commas are not strong enough for that function.

Stronger: Many writers join independent clauses with commas, but commas are not strong enough for that function.

Many writers join independent clauses with commas; commas are not strong enough for that function.

Commas are too weak to connect independent clauses by themselves.

004 fused sentence

A fused sentence occurs when two independent clauses are joined with no punctuation. These "run on" sentences usually contain a conjunction, but the conjunction is not enough to connect the clauses. Sometimes, nothing at all is used to join the clauses, and that is also a problem. You can fix it by properly joining the clause *or* revising the sentence entirely.

Example: The first half of the novel characterizes Grant as stable and intelligent his addiction is not revealed until the second half.

Also incorrect; The first half of the novel characterizes Grant as stable and intelligent but his addiction is revealed in the second half.

Correct: The first half of the novel characterizes Grant as stable and intelligent, but his addiction is revealed in the second half.

Also correct: In the first half of the novel, Grant hides his addiction and appears stable.

005 fragment

A sentence fragment means that what you have written does not have all of the elements required for a sentence. Usually, it's just a subject or just a predicate. You can fix it by finding out what it's missing and adding that.

Example: Carrying his family's legacy, learning his true identity, and defeating his father.

Corrected: Jason faced the burdens of carrying his family's legacy, learning his true identity, and defeating his father.

006 passive voice

The passive voice occurs when the sentence does not have an active verb or clear actor. In passive sentences, the subject is often the passive recipient of an action

rather than the agent. To fix the passive voice, you should make sure the subject of the sentence is clearly performing the action (think mechanics, not meaning)

Example 1: New Orleans was destroyed by the hurricane.

Example 2: The novel is considered to be one of the best in the genre.

Active voice 1: The hurricane destroyed New Orleans.

Active voice 2: Critics consider *Dracula* a genre-defining horror novel.

007 subject verb disagreement

This error means that the noun in the sentence is singular or plural, so the verb must be in a corresponding singular or plural form. Most writers make this mistake when they have some space between their subject and verb, so they forget with form of the verb to use.

Example: The **characters**, who are all from America, **has** different heritages.

Correct: The **characters**, who are all from American, **have** different heritages.

008 incorrect parallelism

This error means that your parallelism is not completely consistent. To check it, you should read each part of your list with the beginning of the sentence.

Incorrect parallelism: In this novel, characters learn to run a political campaign, speak a new language, and go apple picking.

Corrected: The characters run a political campaign, learn a new language, and go apple picking.

009 awkward phrasing

This error is an opportunity to rewrite your sentence so that it captures your meaning more directly. To fix the sentence, try to rephrase with clear nouns and strong verbs.

Example: The problem here is that too many characters try to take the role of leader, the role of leader being meant for only one person, so issues understandably arise.

Corrected: Tammy, Chris, and Blake disrupt the others' lives by competing to lead the small group.

010 word choice

This error is more of an opportunity. You have either used the wrong word or a word that can be replaced with stronger vocabulary.

Example: There's a really big issue with prejudice in the story.

Corrected: Classism prevents Jan from becoming a successful businesswoman.

011 weak verb

This error is actually more of an opportunity to use stronger vocabulary. Many writers will use verbs like "mean," "is," or "says" when they can use better words like "represent," "symbolize," "argue," "suggest," "maintain," etc

Example: The author **says** that the text **is** about the Korean war.

Corrected: [Name of specific author] **argues** that [name of specific text] **questions** the Korean war.

012 unclear noun

The noun in the sentence is does not correctly identify the subject of the sentence. This lack of clarity can be a mistake or just a vague word.

Example: People should understand what sexism means in this text.

Corrected: Readers can understand the sexism faced by women in the 19th century through Chopin's "Story of an Hour."

013 use of second person

The second person includes both use of second person pronouns and sentences with implied "you" as a subject. Both address the reader directly.