10. **Missing Apostrophes:** An apostrophe is needed to form the possessive form of most words.
   - **Example:** The *dog’s* toy was found under the deck.
   Be sure to check a handbook for variations of this rule. Another common apostrophe error is the inclusion of an apostrophe when the noun is plural
   - **Incorrect Example:** Most Monday’s I want to skip work.
   - **Correct Example:** Most Mondays I want to skip work.

9. **Dangling Modifiers:** A modifying clause must clearly and sensibly modify a word in a sentence. When there is no word that the phrase or clause can sensibly modify, the modifier is said to dangle.
   - **Incorrect Example:** Carrying groceries, *the bird* flew to its nest. (Can a bird carry groceries?)
   - **Correct Example:** While carrying groceries, I saw a bird fly into its nest.

8. **Pronoun Antecedent:** A pronoun should agree in number with the word to which it refers.
   - **Incorrect Example:** Anyone entering must show *their* ticket.
   - **Correct Example:** Anyone entering must show *his or her* ticket.

7. **Vague Pronoun:** A pronoun becomes vague when it does not explicitly refer back to a noun.
   - **Incorrect Example:** J.D. Salinger, Kurt Vonnegut, and John Steinbeck are three of my favorite authors. *He* wrote my all-time favorite book, *East of Eden*.
   - **Correct Example:** J.D. Salinger, Kurt Vonnegut, and John Steinbeck are three of my favorite authors. *Steinbeck* wrote my all-time favorite book, *East of Eden*.

6. **Subject/Verb Agreement:** Subjects and verbs should agree in number; that is, they must both be either singular or plural.
   - **Incorrect Example:** *Meg, as well as her friends, like the Cubs.*
   - **Correct Example:** *Meg, as well as her friends, likes the Cubs.*

5. **Mixed Tenses:** Whatever verb tense you use (past, present, or future), it should remain consistent in your writing.
   - **Incorrect Example:** She *went to the store and goes to the bank.*
   - **Correct Example:** She *went to the store and the bank.*
   When writing about history, use past tense.
   - **Example:** There *was much protest over the Vietnam War.*
   Also, when writing about literature, refer to texts in the present tense.
   - **Example:** Faulkner *writes about the burden of history in The Sound and the Fury.*

4. **Its/It’s:** The “it’s” (with the apostrophe) is short for it is. The “its” is possessive; it indicates that the “it” has ownership over something.
   - **Incorrect Example:** *Its closing time at the local dive.*
   - **Correct Example:** *It’s closing time at the local dive.*
3. **Comma Splice**: A comma splice is created when a comma is used to join two independent clauses. Independent clauses must be joined by a coordinator (and, but, yet, so, etc.), by a full stop (a period, question mark, exclamation point, etc.), or by a semi-colon.

   - **Incorrect Example**: My dog likes to bark at birds, *she* howls when they come around.
   - **Correct Example**: My dog likes to bark at birds; *she* howls when they come around.

2. **Fragments**: A sentence consists of a group of words that contains a subject and a verb and expresses a complete thought. A fragment, therefore, lacks one or more of these conditions.

   - **Incorrect Example**: I saw Jake. *Leaving the Writing Center.*
   - **Correct Example**: I saw Jake *leaving the Writing Center.*

1. **Run-on Sentences**: A run-on sentence occurs when two or more independent clauses are improperly joined. A comma splice (see #3) is one example of a run-on sentence.

   - **Incorrect Example**: I went to the gym, but all the machines were occupied *I decided to eat cake.*
   - **Correct Example**: I went to the gym, but all the machines were occupied. I decided to eat cake.