

Signs: A Grammar Handbook

Online Exercises

Section II

Chapter 11

EXERCISE 1

Directions: In the following sentences, revise any word choice problems.

*EXAMPLE: In my opinion, the signs posted in my city should have reflective letters. →
The traffic signs in Murfreesboro should have reflective letters.*

1. I think that signing to songs has become a booming trend in the hearing world.
2. Students who are learning America Sign Language (ASL) like to apply their new signs to music for the purpose of practice.
3. I myself love signing to songs, and at the present time, I often try to figure out how to sign a phrase in ASL.
4. If I were to sign those songs in Signed English, then I could chalk up an easy victory.
5. However, I don't want to sign in Signed English; I want to sign in ASL due to the fact that is meaning based.

Adapted from <http://teachmesignlanguage.com/online-resources/songs-in-sign-4-must-see-asl-music-video-interpretations/>

EXERCISE 2

Directions: The following summary of a news event contains words that are not appropriate for the more standardized language used for summarizing. Change these words to more appropriately reflect the summary writing you might do in a writing course.

No tracks, no cars, and no date for a pioneering, but the Cincinnati streetcar scheme now has some well-marked stops. Despite losing a pile of state money and an upcoming yes-or-no vote in November, Cincinnati leaders forge ahead on the streetcar project. Today, the city started marking the 16 stops on the 3-mile rail system. They promised construction on the 95-million-dollar project will begin anon this year.

This is what the stop markers come across as... temporary poles that lay out the route for the first phase of the streetcar line. They went up just a week after opponents got enough signatures to put the issue on the ballot... again. That's why today felt as much like a political rally as an unveiling. It was an unveiling, and a reminder that the project is a go and the first phase is funded... not with money available for police, fire, and city pools. But jobs were on people's psyches.

Mark Mallory, Cincinnati Mayor: "Our streetcar project is in the top tier of new projects across the country. WE NEED JOBS! That's the reason we are pursuing a streetcar for the very reason that person just yelled out. Because we need jobs. YES (applause)."

Mallory verbalizes that the 3 mile loop from Government Square to Findlay Market will create 300 construction jobs, ember redevelopment and raise property values. Vocal opponents, who crashed the party, say it will go the way of the ill-fated Cincinnati subway.

Tom Luken, former Mayor: "100 years ago, we had a transit system. We now have wine cellars in them. We have all kinds of white elephants that the transit system has left over."

Adapted from <http://www.local12.com/news/local/story/Temporary-Streetcar-Signs-Installed/nF4MJNdEikewLB7Pe3DIew.csp>

Chapter 12

EXERCISE 1

Directions: Correct any problems with commonly confused or misspelled words.

Though only a small percentage of people are bitten by dogs each year, they're many other types of aggressive dog behaviors that are unacceptable. Some times aggressive behaviors can be obvious signs of aggression, while other types of aggressive dog behavior may be more passive.

Whether you see these behaviors as a threat or more passive-aggressive, they are still behaviors that can escalate or cause problems in your home or in social settings.

Aggressive Dog Behavior is NOT Breed Specific

First, it is important to note that the numbers of aggressive dog behavior are not more prominent in any one breed over another. About .1 percent of dogs in every breed show signs of aggressive behavior. It is just that certain, more volatile, types of aggressive behavior in certain breeds of dogs seem to make the news more often, so that we think they are more common. Therefore, it is important to realize that any dog showing signs of aggressive dog behavior needs to be trained out of those behaviors.

Signs of Aggressive Dog Behavior

There are certain types of aggressive dog behavior that occur for a variety of reasons. Most commonly, signs of outward aggression are growling, snarling, curling lips, and biting. When we discuss the types of aggressive behavior, these are the traits most people think of, because they seem to be the most threatening traits. However, common dog behaviors like mounting people, lunging, blocking a person's path, and barking can also be types of aggression in dogs. However, because these behaviors are not as directly aggressive toward people, dog owners tend to dismiss them as quirky traits.

Dominance Aggression

Why these types of aggressive dog behavior occur mainly depends on what the underlying causes are. They're an amount of reasons for these types of behavior. One of the more common reasons for dogs jumping, lunging, blocking a person's path, or mounting is that the dog is trying to establish dominance. Dogs are pack animals, so they will often try to establish themselves as the alpha dog in the group. Herding dogs may even try to establish dominance over small children by "herding them" which may involve small nips at their ankles, while male dogs may try to establish dominance by trying to mount members of the family. It is important when you see these types of aggressive dog behaviors to establish that you are really the 'alpha dog' by taking control of things and situations.

Adapted from http://www.dogproblemsolutions.com/types_aggressive_dog_behavior.php

Chapter 13

EXERCISE 1

Directions: Use your dictionary to correct any misspelled words in this paragraph. In addition, correct any commonly confused words.

Fear Aggression

Another reason for aggressive dog behaviour is fear. A fearful dog's first response will usually be to put its tail between its legs, pull its ears back, and look away, or it will even run. However, if a dog feels cornered, it may lash out with growling, snarling, and even biting. It is important for your dog to feel safe, but there are many ways to condition your dog to lower a fear response.

Territorial/Possessive Aggression

This type of aggressive dog behavior may occur if your dog is feeling territorial or possessive. Dogs often have a sense of territory, even over people, and do not like to share. If they feel their

territory is being breeched or that family members are in danger, many of the aggressive behaviors will occur. It is important to discourage this type of behavior by taking pre-cautions and avoiding potentially volatile situations. For instance, if your dog is aggressive only when he or she eats, then you need to keep people away from the food bowl during feeding times. You also need to establish that you are the boss over the food.

Redirected Aggression

Especially when dogs face fear or territorial breaches, when they cannot take their aggression out on the thing causing the anxiety, they will often turn their aggression toward something or someone else. This is called redirected aggression. Again, this behavior needs to be discouraged. Be aware though that discipline may be good, but punishment is not. Using punishment to discourage the types of aggressive dog behavior will only make the problem worse by encouraging more aggression.

No matter what the reasons are behind the types of aggressive dog behavior, it is important to discourage your dog from exhibiting the behaviors. Take time to train your dog, which often requires a lot of patients and time, so that you keep your dog healthy, happy, and safe.

Adapted from http://www.dogproblemsolutions.com/types_aggressive_dog_behavior.php

Chapter 14

EXERCISE 1

Directions: This student apparently overused the thesaurus as he was writing this short paper. See if you can help him out by revising the underlined inappropriate words with more appropriate ones.

Making a Neon Sign

Unoccupied glass tubes used to make neon lamps come in 4, 5 and 8 ft lengths. To character the tubes, the glass is heated by lit gas and forced air. Several compositions of glass are used depending on the realm and supplier. What is called 'Soft' glass has compositions including lead glass, soda-lime glass, and barium glass. "Hard" glass in the borosilicate family is also used. Depending on the glass composition, the working range of glass is from 1600' F to over 2200'F. The temperature of the air-gas flame, depending on the fuel and ratio, is approximately 3000'F using propane gas.

The tubes are scored (partial cut) while arctic with a file and then snapped apart while oppressive. Then the artisan creates the point of view and curve combinations. When the tubing is finished, the tube must be processed. This process varies depending on motherland; the procedure is called "bombarding" in the US. The tube is partially evacuated of air. Next, it is short circuited with high voltage current until the tube reaches a temperature of 550 F. Then the tube is evacuated again until it reaches a vacuum of 10⁻³ torr. Argon or neon is back filled to a specific pressure depending on the diameter of the tube and sealed off. In the case of an argon-filled tube, additional stairs are taken for the injection of mercury; typically, 10-40ul depending on tube length and climate it is to operate in.

Red is the color neon gas produces; neon gas glows with its characteristic red light even at atmospheric pressure. There are now more than 150 colors possible; almost every color other than red is produced using argon, mercury and phosphor. Neon tubes actually refer to all positive-column discharge lamps, regardless of the gas filling. The colors in regulation of discovery were blue (Mercury), white (Co₂), gold (Helium), red (Neon), and then different colors from phosphor-coated tubes. The mercury spectrum is rich in ultraviolet light which in

turn excites a phosphor coating on the inside of the tube to glow. Phosphors are available in most pastel blushes.

Adapted from <http://inventors.about.com/od/qstartinventions/a/neon.htm>