

The Fatal Five: An Online Tutorial

1. Subject-verb agreement error

- I seen it.
- Harley-Davidson have sound marketing ideas.

2. Fused sentence or comma splice

- I have a degree from this university I can get a good job.
- I have a degree from this university, I can get a good job.
- I have a degree from this university, therefore, I can get a good job.

3. Apostrophe error

- It's / its
- Company's / companies / companies'
- Can't / cannot

4. Confusing pronouns

- The interviewer made a good impression because they were dressed well.
- Everyone should be proficient on the new software installed on their computers.
- The manager gave the assistant his manual.
- One often misspells words because our spell checker is malfunctioning.

5. Incoherent sentence

Fragments

- Lucas who was recently hired as a technical advisor.

Misplaced or dangling modifiers

- The chef served sundaes to guests with nuts on them.

Confusing or murky construction