

Green Meadow High School Writing Guidelines

English Expectations and Unacceptable Errors

English 9 – by Spring Term

No run-on sentences, fragments or comma splices

Accurate subject-verb agreement

Correct capitalization and use of periods

Correct spelling of certain words (see the list)

Correct spelling of book titles and character names

Correct comma use: in compound sentences with coordinating conjunctions

After certain introductory elements in a sentence

(e.g. adverb clauses, participial phrases, a succession of prepositional phrases, appositives)

Correct semi-colon use

Correct possessive forms and punctuation

Paragraph unity and good topic sentences

- English teachers will collect your lists of roots and prefixes at the end of the year, and return them to you in the fall.

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English 10 – English 9 expectations plus the following:

No mistakes with essential and non-essential modifier use of commas

- Jimmy Waldorf who is my cousin is an artist. *Jimmy Waldorf, who is my cousin, is an artist.*

Pronoun usage and agreement

- It certainly must have been ~~her~~ she. I know the thief to be ~~he~~ him.
- Mother called Jane and I me in to dinner. All but Sarah and ~~we~~ us are going to the lecture.

Correct usage (see list)

Correct subordination and reduction

- Mr. Henderson was stooping to pick the rare lady slipper when the scorpion bit him.
Just as Mr. Henderson was stooping to pick the rare lady slipper, the scorpion bit him.
- When they were stranded by a flood, the sailors waited for rescuers.
Stranded by a flood, the sailors waited for rescuers.

Clear reference

- There is a blue spot on my shirt? Can you remove ~~it~~ the stain?

Paragraph unity and development (variety and richness of support)

Active verb use

- The rose was handed to the boy. Frederick handed the boy the rose.

Variety of paragraph structure

English 11 – English 10 expectations plus the following:

Elimination of other usage errors (see Chapter 10 in *Warriners*)

Dictional appropriateness

Adult sentence structure and emphasis

Footnotes and bibliographies

Paragraph unity, development and coherence

English 12 – English 11 expectations plus the following:

Comparison-contrast techniques mastered

Adult diction and structure in sentences and paragraphs