

William Safire's Rules for Writers:

- 1: Remember to never split an infinitive.
- 2: The passive voice should never be used.
- 3: Do not put statements in the negative form.
- 4: Verbs have to agree with their subjects.
- 5: Proofread carefully to see if you words out.
- 6: If you reread your work, you can find on rereading a great deal of repetition can be avoided by rereading and editing.
- 7: A writer must not shift your point of view.
- 8: And don't start a sentence with a conjunction.
- 9: (Remember, too, a preposition is a terrible word to end a sentence with.)
- 10: Don't overuse exclamation marks!!
- 11: Place pronouns as close as possible, especially in long sentences, as of 10 or more, to their antecedents.
- 12: Writing carefully, dangling participles must be avoided.
- 13: If any word is improper at the end of a sentence, a linking verb is.
- 14: Take the bull by the hand and avoid mixing metaphors.
- 15: Avoid trendy locutions that sound flaky.
- 16: Everyone should be careful to use a singular pronoun with singular nouns in their writing.
- 17: Always pick on the correct idiom.
- 18: The adverb always follows the verb.
- 19: Last but not least, avoid cliches like the plague; seek viable alternatives.