Grammatical Sentences

Verbs
Adjectives and Adverbs
Verb usage

• All verbs forms must be appropriate in number, tense, mood and voice.
Number

• A verb must agree with its subject in number.
• Singular subject- singular verb
• Plural subject-plural verb
• Each of the children want a candy bar.
Tense

- Use past tense for events in the past unless discussing a literary work, general truths, ongoing principles, and facts.
- The war began in 1956; the U. S. enters in the 1960’s.
- The Fourteenth Amendment established the right to due process, and continues to protect that right.
Tense

• Use past perfect tense to show order of events in the past.
• I left the dorm realizing that I had forgotten my term paper.
Mood

• Indicative: statements and questions.
• Ralphie was overjoyed to receive a BB gun.
Mood

• Imperative: commands and requests
• Please, hand in your quizzes.
Mood

• Subjunctive: wishes and hypothetical situations
• Always use were instead of was.
• I wish I were an attorney.
Voice

• Maintain a consistent voice in sentences.
• Active voice: subject acts
  – I finished the project on time.
• Passive voice: subject is acted upon
  – The project was finished on time by me.
  – People complain about the price of gasoline, but SUV’s continue to be purchased at an alarming rate.
Voice

• Generally use active voice:
  • Active voice verbs move action
  • Passive voice verbs are stationary
Adjective and Adverbs

• Adjectives and adverbs must clearly modify the word intended and must show appropriate degree.
Adjectives

- Adjectives modify nouns and pronouns
- Generally precede noun modified, or follow linking verbs
- The **tawdry** nightclub was **overcrowded** and **smoky**.
Adverbs

• Adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs
• Often end in *ly*
• Have a less fixed word order.
• An *incredibly* petite young woman sat *primly* beside her gargantuan husband.
• We played really *good* last night.
Degree

- Comparative degree two
- Generally end in **er**
- Superlative three or more.
- Generally end in **est**
- He was the **smallest** of the two.
Degree

- An item can’t be compared with itself.
- The winning candidate received more votes than any candidate.
- A quarter horse is smaller than any draft horse.