

Dr. D's Grammar Hints of the Week



1. Be a keeper of the language.
2. Phrases are groups of related words that lack a subject, a verb or both.
3. Clauses are groups of related words that contain both a subject and a verb. Clauses may be either independent or dependent.
4. FANBOYS connect equally.
5. Never start a sentence with “me.”
6. Don’t use apostrophes to create plurals.
7. Don’t use apostrophes to create possessive pronouns, with “one” exception.
8. Go “which” hunting, with commas.
9. Replace “he” for “who” and “him” for “whom.”
10. I lie down, but I lay it down.
11. I wish I were president, but I’m not.
12. Don’t use a comma before the final “and” in a simple series, AP says.
13. Macaroni and cheese is one meal children love.
14. Dr. D is one of those people who laugh a lot.
15. Don’t use no double negatives.
16. Don’t feel bad if it goes badly.
17. Oofdah! she said exhaustedly.
18. Grammar used to be hard, but now it’s easy.
19. Therefore, put a comma after a conjunctive adverb.
20. And you can start a sentence with a coordinating conjunction.
21. Hyphens join; dashes separate.
22. Commas slow down, semicolons stop, and periods make a full stop.
23. Words have power: Choose them wisely.
24. The ABCs of good writing are accuracy, brevity and clarity.
25. Bad grammar makes me (sic).

(Prepared by Dr. LaRae M. Donnellan, Language Skills for Journalists, Florida A&M University, 2009)