10 MOST COMMON WRITING ERRORS
From: St. Martin’s Handbook, Lunsford and Conners

1. **Missing comma after an introductory element**
   - **Wrong:** Before signing up for classes check the current schedule to see if they offer that course.
   - **Right:** Before signing up for classes, check the current schedule to see if they offer that course.

2. **Vague pronoun reference**
   - **Wrong:** Teresa and Katelyn both had quite a bit of accounting experience; she was the city auditor for five years.
   - **Right:** Teresa and Katelyn both had quite a bit of accounting experience; Katelyn was the city auditor for five years.

3. **Missing comma in compound sentence**
   - **Wrong:** Please look at the enclosed list of web-based businesses and then choose one for the topic of your term paper.
   - **Right:** Please look at the enclosed list of web-based businesses, and then choose one for the topic of your term paper.

4. **Wrong word**
   - **Wrong:** The board’s vote was anonymous.
   - **Right:** The board’s vote was unanimous.

5. **Missing comma(s) with nonrestrictive element**
   - **Wrong:** Joan Smith who started a successful computer company from her kitchen table now teaches management classes.
   - **Right:** Joan Smith, who started a successful computer company from her kitchen table, now teaches management classes.

6. **Wrong or missing verb ending**
   - **Wrong:** She believe she should have received a higher grade.
   - **Right:** She believes she should have received a higher grade.

7. **Wrong or missing preposition**
   - **Wrong:** He refused to comply to university regulations.
   - **Right:** He refused to comply with university regulations.
8. **Comma splice**  
*Wrong:* I really enjoyed his class, he often used relevant examples from his own business.  
*Right:* I really enjoyed his class; he often used relevant examples from his own business.

9. **Missing or misplaced possessive apostrophe**  
*Wrong:* She is one of the Bobcat’s strongest players.  
*Right:* She is one of the Bobcats’ strongest players.

10. **Unnecessary shift in tense**  
*Wrong:* When the students arrive at their dorms, they stopped in the lobby for their room assignments.  
*Right:* When the students arrive at their dorms, they stop in the lobby for their room assignments.