

# GRAMMAR TIP SHEET

GRAMMAR: THE SET OF RULES THAT EXPLAIN HOW WORDS ARE USED IN A LANGUAGE IN BOTH WRITING AND SPEAKING

## Subject Verb Agreement

The army is coming. ✓

The army are coming. ✗



## Compound Sentences

I like to read, and my sister enjoys painting. ✓

I like to read. My sister enjoys painting. ✓

I like to read my sister enjoys painting. ✗

Use: For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet,  
So

## Comma Splices and Run On Sentences

I locked the door. He was there. ✓

I locked the door and he was there. ✓

I locked the door, he was there. ✗



## Sentence Fragments

Officer Humphrey ran as fast as he could. ✓

Ran as fast as he could. ✗



## Missing Commas

The big red one it was  
lumbering down the field  
towards them all. ✗  
I want to thank my dad Steven  
Willis for all of his love and  
support. ✗



## Misplaced Modifiers

The hostess served cake to the  
ladies on paper plates. ✗  
The hostess served cake on  
paper plates to the ladies. ✓



## Incomplete Comparisons

Watching TV is better. ✗  
Watching TV is better than  
reading. ✓



## Active Voice

The lion was killed by the  
hunter. ✗  
The hunter killed the lion. ✓

## Apostrophes

it's vs its

it's - contract meaning "it is" or it has"  
its - possessive pronoun, like his or hers

Its raining. ✗  
It's raining. ✓

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