



★**Usage:** Established norms and guidelines writers follow to ensure clear communication and consistency in written language.

RULE	EXPLANATION	EXAMPLE(S)
Word Usage	Use the appropriate word in frequently confused pairs.	
Subject-Verb Agreement	Subjects and verbs must agree in number. If a subject is singular, use the singular form of the verb. If the subject is plural use the plural form of the verb.	
Irregular Verb Patterns	Verbs that do not follow the normal pattern for tense and past participle.	
Comparatives and Superlatives	In general, comparative adjectives end in -er or use the words 'more' or 'less'. Superlative adjectives end in -est or use the words most and least.	
Who vs Whom	Who is used as the SUBJECT of the sentence. Whom is used as the OBJECT of the sentence.	
Simple and Compound Verb Tenses	When using irregular verbs make sure you are still using them correctly.	
Reflexive Pronouns	When referring to the subject, use the correct reflexive pronoun, such as I ← myself we ← ourselves.	

The English College and Career Readiness Standards: Convention: Usage Conventions are comprised of 19 standards. We have focused on 7. For the complete list of standards associated with Usage Conventions, please refer to the C&C Readiness Standards.