
WORKSHEET FOR WORDS AND PUNCTUATION WITH A PUNCH

LEARNING OUTCOMES: RECOGNIZE COMMON ERRORS IN SENTENCES,
EXPLAIN WHY THEY ARE ERRORS, AND CORRECT THE ERRORS

FOR THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES OR PARAGRAPHS, IDENTIFY AND NAME THE
ERROR, AND REVISE THE SENTENCE TO MAKE IT BETTER.

Formation of a helical nucleocapsid assembly, that safeguards the viral genome and serves as a template for RNA replication, is a unifying feature of negative strand RNA viruses.

The second phrase should begin with 'which', since this clause is non-defining but provides additional information.

Tissues were then transferred to 70% ethanol and stored for 1–5 d until they were paraffin embedded.

Paraffin, a noun, is being used as an adjective. Revise the final phrase to "until they were embedded in paraffin".

Because of the extreme climatic conditions, the plains are almost exclusively utilized for livestock production.

Some complex words or phrases can be simplified: "Because of the extreme climate, the plains are mainly used for livestock production."



Higher pCO₂ in this perhaps attributed to heterotrophic remineralization of organic detritus, the source of which is derived from both land-based inputs and IN-SITU degradation of macrophyte litter.

'This' must be followed by a noun. As used here, it is an unclear pronoun.

However, alternative selection strategies may enable us to achieve the same discrimination power as random sampling with less experimental validations.

'Validations' as used here can be counted, so it should read "fewer experimental validations".

We quantified acute trampling impacts on assemblages of upper shore invertebrates in a controlled experiment over a range of foot traffic intensities.

Some complex words can be replaced with simple ones. "Trampling", a verb, is being used as an adjective. "We measured impacts of acute trampling on groups of upper shore invertebrates in a controlled study over a range of foot traffic intensities."

In general, the more sources we have, the less informative each of them is, and the less weight we should assign it.

The pronoun 'them', clearly refers to sources (a plural noun), but the pronoun 'it' also seems to refer to sources, but 'it' is singular.



Most of the research has been focused on aboveground relationships and processes, while letting the belowground level, including soil nutrient dynamics, largely neglected and unexplored.

Word choice: "letting the belowground level ... largely neglected" would be better as "leaving the belowground level ... largely neglected".

Samples were washed first in hot SSC buffer and then in hot diluted SSC three times.

We need more precision and information: what temperature is hot? What concentration of SSC buffer in each case? How long were the samples washed?

The placenta is essential for sustaining fetal growth during pregnancy, defects in its function result in fetal growth retardation and fetal death.

A splice comma is joining two independent clauses. The authors could make two sentences or use a semicolon.

The nuclear lamina is a meshwork of proteins located at the nuclear inner membrane.

Word placement in sentence: "inner nuclear membrane" would be better than "nuclear inner membrane".

This is what happens in a normal tissue culture incubator, since it is maintained at 5% CO₂.

This alone: a noun must follow 'this' to correct this sentence.



In the recent years, CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats) has emerged as the powerful approach to edit mammalian genome, including modulation of target gene's expression.

This sentence has some articles where they are not needed, 'the' instead of 'a', and is missing needed articles. "In recent years, CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats) has emerged as a powerful approach to edit the mammalian genome, including modulation of target gene's expression."

One approach, to tease apart the cellular effects, directly attributable to a trisomic imbalance, is to study people with mosaicism.

This sentence contains unnecessary commas. "One approach to tease apart the cellular effects directly attributable to a trisomic imbalance is to study people with mosaicism."

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a branch of computer sciences in which machines, with limited explicit programming, perform tasks, which normally require human intelligence.

The second 'which' should be 'that', and the comma before it should be removed: "tasks that normally require human intelligence".

Carrier proteins comprise a four-helix bundle; 70 to 100 amino acids in length.

The semicolon should not be used before this phrase. "a four-helix bundle 70 to 100 amino acids in length" is fine, or "a four-helix bundle that is 70 to 100 amino acids in length".



However overall studies that specifically focus on the effects of vegetation restoration on NPP are relatively few and the time period covered was not long enough making it hard to comprehensively reflect the relation between vegetation restoration and NPP.

This sentence is missing several commas. “However, overall studies that specifically focus on the effects of vegetation restoration on NPP are relatively few, and the time period covered was not long enough, making it hard to comprehensively reflect the relation between vegetation restoration and NPP.”

With the rise of precision medicine efforts worldwide, our study objective was to describe and map the emerging precision medicine landscape.

This sentence has a cliché and buzzwords: “with the rise of” ... “emerging ... landscape”. Revise with more formal and precise language.