

PROOFREADING EXERCISE (075)

Good writing often involves editing and revising. Proofreading, critically reviewing a paper to eliminate errors, is a valuable tool to master. The following paragraph contains many errors in organization, grammar usage, and spelling. Rewrite the paragraph in the space provided correcting all errors. Some sentences may need to be changed or omitted completely. Be sure to catch all spelling and grammatical errors. When you have finished, turn to the other side and read the analysis of the paragraph to see how well you proofread the material. If you need more practice, ask your instructor for additional proofreading exercises.

My sister's home on Jefferson Street is terrably noisy. Every five minutes or so a monster jet takes off from the nearby airport and its screeching silences everyone until it passes overhead. So many people travel these days that its difficult to get tickets for certain flights. I'D like to go too Colorado for the summer. Then, too, their is the noise from the heavy traffic in front of the house. I wish they would get a new shopping center for this area. Last and worst, there is the noise from the bulldozing for the new apartment building project in back of my sisters house. You can believe it. My sisters home is a noisy place.

ANALYSIS

It is very clear that the paragraph lacks unity. It contains several sentences which fail to support the controlling idea expressed in the topic sentence, "My sister's home on Jefferson Street is terribly noisy." There are actually four different topics: the noisy home, extensive travel, desire to go to Colorado, and a new shopping center. Each one of these could be developed into a paragraph, but they cannot be brought together in a single paragraph about my sister's noisy home.

In addition to the lack of unity present in the paragraph, there are mistakes in second person usage, spelling, and punctuation. The following paragraph demonstrates one method of correcting the errors.

CORRECTED PARAGRAPH

My sister's home on Jefferson Street is terribly noisy. Every five minutes or so, a monster jet takes off from the nearby airport, and its screeching silences everyone until it has passed. Then, too, there is the noise from the heavy traffic in front of the house. Last and worst is the noise from the bulldozing for the apartment complex in the back of her house. My sister's home is definitely a noisy place.