

Ambiguous sentences

1) *Creating ambiguous sentences is a common problem. Look at the following examples, identify the issue and try to correct it.*

I've killed multiple bees with scissors by cutting them in half while flying.

I saw her duck.

The landlord painted all the walls with cracks.

Republicans Grill IRS Chief Over Lost Emails. (a newspaper headline)

Look at the dock with one eye.

Police help dog bite victim.

Book stays in London.

Free whales.

2) *Look at the following sentences. How many possible meanings does it have?*

I saw a man on a hill with a telescope.

Verbs and prepositions

Write one word in each gap.

Defining the Age

Ages, eras and wars will always be defined (1) they are over, or at least well after they (2) started. (3) the year 1914, for example, no one said: 'Tomorrow I'm going (4) go and fight in the First World War.' Why not? Because it wasn't generally called the First World War until the Second World War had started. Similarly, no one ever said: 'Next year (5) be the start of the Industrial Revolution.' The era now known as the Industrial Revolution only started being called that once it was well under way.

(6) the time we are old, we will all (7) experienced enormous technological advances. We might even (8) walking round with computer chips implanted in our bodies, or perhaps computer chip technology will have (9) replaced by even more advanced technology. There's talk (10) the moment that human skin itself might make an excellent electronic circuit board. We can all make predictions, but nobody knows for sure. And nobody knows what the era we will live in (11) the near future will be called by future historians. If we already live in the Computer Age or the Information Age as some people suggest, the present-day era (12) be referred to by future historians, then who knows what era we're just (13) the beginning of right now?

Formal Letter Exercise

The following is an informal letter requesting an informational interview at a law firm. Change it so it sounds more formal (and the applicant actually has a chance of seeing the desired person!). You can – and should – rewrite words, phrases and even full sentences.

Hi Ms. Goldstein!

- 1) My buddy, Filoména Šebestová, who previously worked for your Law Firm as an Office Clerk, told me I should contact you for a nice info interview. Filoména said you're an awesome business law attorney who's going to help me a lot about understanding the field.
- 2) Now I'm in the process of exploring different professional law schools. Would it be ok to schedule a 20-25 minute informational meeting with you? Why I want to see you is to gather additional information that will better assist me with my career decisions.
- 3) I'd really love to be a business law attorney, such as yourself. Your background and experience in business law will be great for me as I pursue my career in law.
- 4) I'm now an undergraduate student at Ivy League University majoring in Criminal Justice.
- 5) I'll call you by telephone on June 9th to see if we can schedule a meeting. Thanks for your attention, and I hope we can spend some productive time together pretty soon!

Have a nice day,

Přemysl Vomáčka