



New Zealand Institute of Business Studies

Jobs  Events  Competitions

[nzibs.co.nz](http://nzibs.co.nz)

June 2014 - Issue 347

The need for competent freelance writers and editors increases daily in this age of information. Are you prepared?



Write better:  
Hone your craft with more tips and ideas this month.

The world changes swiftly, like the dawn sky at sunrise: Are you changing too?

Inside, career ideas and choices, plus competitions and challenges. Enjoy!

# Indie-Pub Book Fair, August, Auckland.

Louise de Varga is coordinating the first Book Fair for independent book publishers.

She invites any authors of printed books, ebooks or wannabe book authors to contact her.

c4s@clear.net.nz

**Date = Sat 16 August 2014.**

**Venue = St Paul's Church Hall, 100 Victoria Road, Devonport, Auckland 0624.**

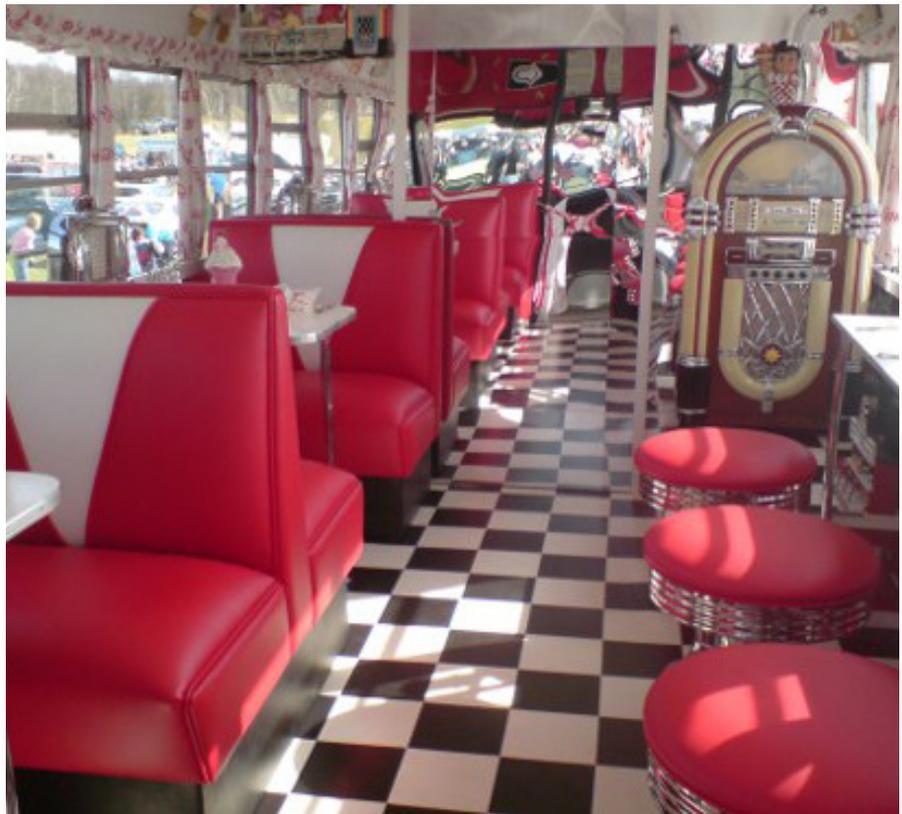
**Map ref = [tinyurl.com/kjxvvk9](http://tinyurl.com/kjxvvk9)**

The programme for the Fair is still being developed, but make your diary note now. Would you like to reserve a table to show and sell your books?

Register your interest with Louise today.

## Ways we once ordered food:

Found at Futility Closet



“Adam and Eve on a raft and wreck ‘em”:

Two scrambled eggs on toast

“Burn one, take it through the garden, and pin a rose on it”:

A hamburger with lettuce, tomato, and onion

“Burn the British and draw one in the dark”: English muffin, toasted, with black coffee

“Adam’s ale, hold the hail”: water, no ice

“Give it shoes”:  
An order to go

“Honeymoon salad”:  
‘Lettuce alone’

“Life preservers”: doughnuts

“Noah’s boy on bread”:  
A ham sandwich

“Put out the lights and cry”:  
Liver and onions

“Zeppelins in a fog”:  
Sausages and mashed potatoes

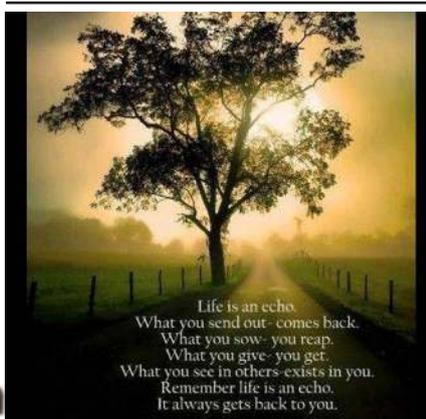
### Good news.

The “NZIBS Webinar For Fastidious Spellers” is on YouTube.

It runs 38 minutes, so allow enough time.

Have pen and paper.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9JQMIXnudd0>

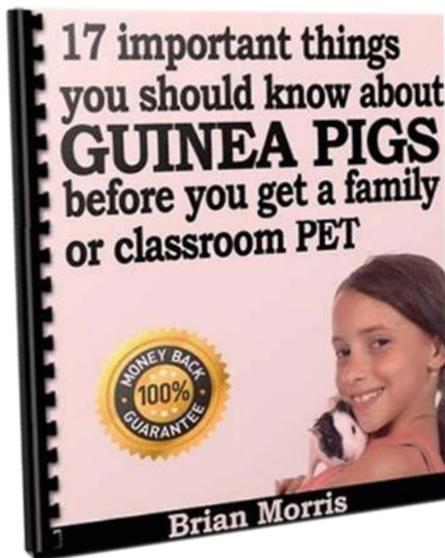


Life is an echo.  
What you send out- comes back.  
What you sow- you reap.  
What you give- you get.  
What you see in others- exists in you.  
Remember life is an echo.  
It always gets back to you.



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**Sports Writer**  
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## How I wrote a short ebook about guinea pigs by Brian Morris



Back in February 2013, I wrote “17 important things you should know about guinea pigs before you get a family or classroom pet”.

It’s a short ebook (4863 words) which only took me about a week to write.

I used my own knowledge and my family’s experiences with guinea pigs (2) as family pets when my two children were aged about five or six. The guinea pigs were very successful family pets as I recall (one pet each).

I did some Wikipedia research, found dozens of royalty-free guinea pig photos on Google and put my ebook together.

NZIBS student Janis Van der Laan proofread it for me. (Many people forget this step.)

My front cover was designed by Vikiana at [www.fiverr.com](http://www.fiverr.com). She lives in Romania and always does a nice job.

Then I put it on Amazon and – ahem – basically forgot about it. Maybe that’s why it’s languishing on page 6 at #66. Memo to self: When I do something to promote it the ebook might go higher up the list, which would help sales.

However, someone is buying it almost every day.

From the \$3.68 selling price my royalty is 70% (USD\$2.57) which soon mounts up over time.

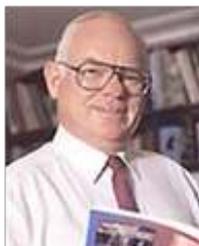
Amazon sends me a cheque in the post every month for this and my other 36 ebooks.

I’m still waiting for one of my ebooks to go VIRAL and sell in the millions!

All it’ll take is for someone like Oprah Winfrey to say “I found this wonderful little book about guinea pigs ...”

The good news is my ebook royalties will keep earning me \$USD for the next 50 years. That makes me an exporter of WORDS and a contributor to New Zealand’s financial wellbeing.

If YOU would like to write a short book about something, please call me for a chat. 0800-801994.



Brian Morris | Principal



**Reporter, Western Leader, Auckland**  
Seeking a reporter with a nose for a good story and an eye for accuracy. <https://careers.fairfaxmedia.co.nz/jobdetails/ajid/Md6s7/Reporter,7676>  
Closes 13 June.

**Kaikoura Reporter, Marlborough Express**  
A chance to create your reputation in daily journalism. <https://careers.fairfaxmedia.co.nz/jobdetails/ajid/eKfs7/Kaikoura-Reporter-Fixed-term,7741>  
Closes 9 June.

**Northern Region Digital Editor, Stuff, Auckland**  
Do you love the digital news world? <https://careers.fairfaxmedia.co.nz/jobdetails/ajid/SVOp7/Northern-Region-Digital-Editor,6854>  
Closes 12 June.

**Reporter, Southland Times, Invercargill or Gore**  
You must be capable of generating an endless supply of story ideas. <https://careers.fairfaxmedia.co.nz/jobdetails/ajid/aBnq7/Reporter-Southland-Times,7092>  
Closes 15 June.

**Business Reporter, Fairfax Media, Auckland**  
Seeking an experienced reporter to specialise in writing about property. <https://careers.fairfaxmedia.co.nz/jobdetails/ajid/ZETr7/Business-Reporter,7589>  
Closes 12 June.

**Don't delay, apply today!**

**Journalist, NTZB, Whangarei**  
Conduct interviews; write compelling stories; file voice reports. <http://www.trademe.co.nz/jobs/market-ing-media-communications/journalism/listing-734924970.htm>  
Closes 13 June.

**Senior Communications Advisor, Christchurch City Council**  
Play a part in the rebuild and recovery of Christchurch. <http://www.trademe.co.nz/jobs/marketing-media-communications/communications-pr/listing-735744654.htm>  
Closes 11 June.

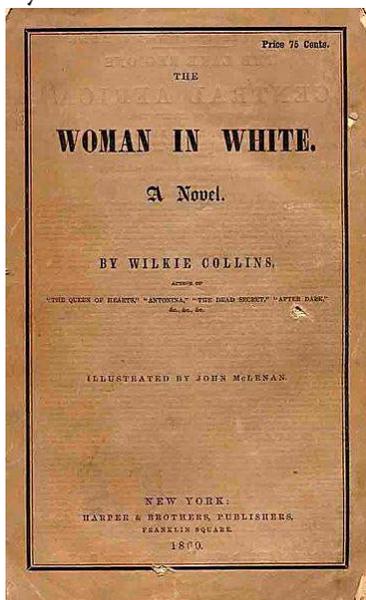
**Photographer, Sunday Sisa, Auckland**  
Korean newspaper seeks experienced photographer. <http://www.trademe.co.nz/jobs/healthcare-occupational-therapy/listing-732781322.htm>  
Closes 9 June.

# Crime does pay, if you can write it well . . . and to write it well, you need to read it

Tutor Tina Shaw drew our attention to *The Telegraph* newspaper's list of the 'Top Crime books of all time', a wonderful collection of best-selling books.

This is the list, starting off with Wilkie Collins's 150-year-old detective classic that helped spawn an entire genre.

**The Woman In White**  
By Wilkie Collins



**Strangers On A Train**  
By Patricia Highsmith

**The Daughter Of Time**  
By Josephine Tey

**The Complete Sherlock Holmes**  
By Arthur Conan Doyle

**The Murder Of Roger Ackroyd**  
By Agatha Christie

**The Madman Of Bergerac**  
By Georges Simenon

**The Nine Tailors**  
By Dorothy L. Sayers

**Rebecca**  
By Daphne De Maurier

**Miss Smilla's Feeling For Snow**  
By Peter Hoeg

**In Cold Blood**  
By Truman Capote

**The Name Of The Rose**  
By Umberto Eco

**The New York Trilogy**  
By Paul Auster

**Misery**  
By Stephen King

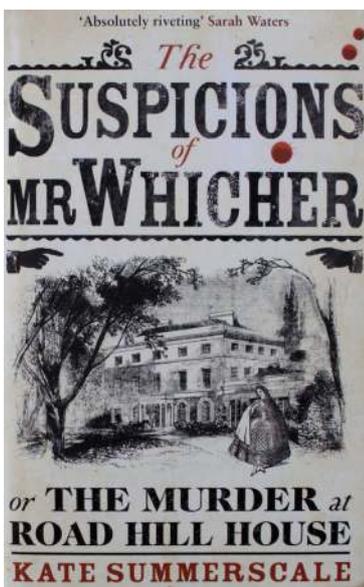
**The Big Sleep**  
By Raymond Chandler

**LA Confidential**  
By James Ellroy

**Fatherland**  
By Robert Harris

**True History Of The Kelly Gang**  
By Peter Carey

**The Suspicions Of Mr Whicher**  
By Kate Summerscale



**Get Shorty**  
By Elmore Leonard

**Fingersmith**  
By Sarah Waters

## And a few more:

These are taken from several 'best of' lists; you'll note that many of the authors come up again and again; a sure sign their works are ones to read if you want to enjoy a successful formula done well.

**Agatha Christie**  
And Then There Were None (1939)

**John Le Carré**  
The Spy Who Came In From The Cold (1963)

**Wilkie Collins**  
The Moonstone (1868)

**John Buchan**  
The Thirty-Nine Steps (1915)

**Raymond Chandler**  
The Long Goodbye (1953)

**Dashiell Hammett**  
The Maltese Falcon (1930)

**Frederick Forsyth**  
The Day Of The Jackal (1971)

**Eric Ambler**  
The Mask Of Dimitrios (1939)

## BITE THE BULLET

This means to grin and bear a painful situation. In the days before anesthetics a soldier about to undergo an operation was given a bullet to bite on so he wouldn't bite his own tongue.

## Part 4: Using a Hook as a Gimmick

Many well-meaning writing instructors will tell you that you need to start your story with a good “hook” to snag the attention of your readers’.

To an extent, they’re right.

While I was teaching at one writing conference a woman gave me her story to critique. It started off with an exciting car chase.

I said, “Great, so this is an action story.”

“No,” she told me. “It’s a romance. The woman goes to the hospital and falls in love with the doctor.”

“But it starts with a car chase and explosion. Readers will expect it to escalate after that.”

“I had a different opening,” she admitted, “but my critique group told me I needed a good hook.”

It may have been true that her story needed a better hook.

However, she landed on the wrong one. Hooks become gimmicks if they don’t provide the platform for escalation.

Too many times a writer will grab readers’ attention early on with a scene that’s clearly been contrived just for that purpose, without introducing either the characters or the setting of the story.

Consequently, the writer is forced to insert excessive back-story into the next scene.

This undermines the forward momentum of the plot.

Take your time, trust your readers and craft a hook that orients them to the world you’ve created.

Then drive the story forward without having to explain why you started it the way you did.

**When you get infuriated with the intricacies of English, remember that challenges may be found elsewhere too . . .**

### Dutch tongue twisters:

De koetsier poetst de postkoets met postkoetspoets.  
The coachman cleans the stagecoach with stagecoach cleaner.

De kat krabt de krullen van de trap met drie droge doeken.  
The cat scratches the woodcurls of the stairs with three dry cloths.

De knappe kapper kapt knap, maar de knappe knecht van de knappe kapper kapt knapper dan de knappe kapper kappen kan.

The clever barber cuts hair well, but the clever helper of the clever barber cuts hair more cleverly than the clever barber can cut it.

De meid snijdt recht, en de knecht snijdt scheef.  
The maid cuts straight, and the servant cuts crooked.



### Designer, Cleo Magazine, Auckland

<http://www.seek.co.nz/job/26616504>  
No closing date.

### Magazine Editor, Adrenalin Publishing, Auckland

Requires solid credentials in written journalism.  
<http://www.seek.co.nz/job/26608669>  
No closing date.

### Magazine Editor, Key Media, Sydney

Relocate to Sydney to lead a successful business magazine.  
<http://www.seek.co.nz/job/26614020>  
No closing date.

### Public Relations Consultant, Blackland, Wellington

Write and pitch story ideas to journalists.  
<http://www.seek.co.nz/job/26613315>  
No closing date.

### Communications Advisor, Caritas, Wellington

Initiate, manage and complete communications tasks.  
<http://www.seek.co.nz/job/26619139>  
CVs in by 6 June; interviews 11 June.

### External Communications Coordinator, Victoria University of Wellington

Lead the external communications planning and delivery for the Students' Association.  
<http://www.seek.co.nz/job/26613104>  
No closing date.

### Reporter, North Waikato News, Huntly

Your work will embrace general and community news, but may extend to sports and feature writing.  
<https://careers.fairfaxmedia.co.nz/jobdetails/ajid/3sOr7/Reporter-North-Waikato-News,7552>  
Closes 9 June.

**Don't delay, apply today!**

### Communities Reporter, The Press, Ashburton

Seeking talented all-round reporter who has loads of initiative.  
<https://careers.fairfaxmedia.co.nz/jobdetails/ajid/99es7/Communities-Reporter-The-Press,7737>  
Closes 12 June.

# Ten things which will likely disappear in our lifetime

Whether these changes are good or bad depends in part on how we adapt to them.

## 1. The Post Office

Get ready to imagine a world without the post office. They are so deeply in financial trouble there is probably no way to sustain it long term. Email, Fed Ex, UPS, and DropBox have just about wiped out the minimum revenue needed to keep the post office alive. Most of your mail every day is junk mail and bills. And even invoices get emailed now.

## 2. The Cheque

Britain is already laying the groundwork to do away with cheques by 2018. It costs the financial system billions of dollars a year to process cheques. Plastic cards and online transactions will lead to the eventual demise of the cheque. This plays right into the death of the post office. If you never got your bills by mail and never paid them by mail, the post office would go out of business.



## 3. The Newspaper

The younger generation simply doesn't read the newspaper. They certainly don't get a daily delivered print edition.

It will go the way of the milkman and the laundry man and the ice man. As for reading the paper online, get ready to pay. The rise in mobile Internet devices and ereaders has caused newspaper and magazine publishers to form an alliance.

They have met with Apple, Amazon, and the major mobile phone companies to develop a model for paid subscription services.

## 4. The Book

You say you will never give up the physical book you hold in your hand and turn the paper pages. I said the same thing about downloading music from iTunes. I wanted my hard copy CD.

But I quickly changed my mind when I discovered I could get albums for half the price without ever leaving home to get the latest music. The same thing will happen with books.

You can browse a bookstore online and even read a preview chapter before you buy.

And the price is less than half of a real book. Think of the convenience!

Once you start flicking your fingers on the screen instead of turning pages, you find you are lost in the story.

You can't wait to see what happens next, and you forget you're holding a gadget instead of a book.

## 5. The Land-Line Telephone Connection

You probably don't need it now. Most people keep it because they've always had it. But you are paying twice for the extra service. All the mobile providers will let you call those who use the same provider (no extra charge), on your minutes 'package'.

## 6. Music

This is one of the saddest parts of the change story. The music industry is dying a slow death. Not just because of illegal downloading. It's the lack of innovative new music being given a chance to get to the people who would like to hear it. Greed and corruption is the problem. The record labels and the radio conglomerates are simply self-destructing. Over 40% of the music purchased today is "catalogue items," meaning traditional music the public is familiar with. Yes, older established artists. This is also true on the live concert circuit. Audiences want to hear their old favourites, not the new songs.

To explore this fascinating and disturbing topic further, read this book:

"Appetite for Self-Destruction" by Steve Knopper, and the video documentary, "Before the Music Dies."

## 7. Television

Revenues earned by the networks are down dramatically. It's not just the economy.

People who are watching TV and movies get it streamed from their computers.

And they're playing games and doing lots of other things instead of watching TV. Prime time shows have degenerated down to lower than the lowest common denominator.

Cable TV rates are skyrocketing and in America there's a commercial break about every 5 minutes.

## 8. The 'Things' You Own

Many of the possessions we used to own are still in our lives, but we may not actually own them in the future. They may simply reside in "the cloud." Today your computer has a hard drive where you store your pictures, music, movies, and documents. Your software is held on a CD or DVD, and you can always re-install it if need be.

But all of this is changing. Apple, Microsoft, and Google are all polishing up their latest "cloud services." It means when you turn on a computer, the Internet will be built into the operating system. So, Windows, Google, and the Mac OS will be tied straight into the Internet.

If you click an icon, it will open something in the Internet cloud. If you save something, it will be saved to the cloud. And you will pay a monthly subscription fee to the cloud provider.

In this virtual world, you can access your music, photos, your books, or your whatever else from any laptop or hand-held device. This is the good news. But, will you actually own any of this stuff or will it all be able to disappear at any moment in a big "POOF?"

## 9. Joined-up Handwriting

Already gone in some schools. They no longer teach joined-up cursive handwriting because nearly everything is done now on computers or keyboards of some type.

*Thus, handwriting is scrawly and difficult to read.*

## 10. Privacy

If there ever was a concept we can look back on nostalgically, it would be privacy.

It's gone. There are CCTV cameras on the street, in most office buildings, and even built into your computer and mobile phone. You can be sure "THEY" know who you are and where you are 24/7, down to the GPS coordinates.

The TV show "Person of Interest" isn't as far out as you may think.

If you buy something using your credit card, swipe card, loyalty card, etc, your action is put into a gazillion computer profiles.

And the ads you see change to reflect your buying behaviour habits. That's why retailers entice you to buy something else closely related to what you've just bought.

Yes, it can be a helpful extra service. But now you know how they guessed what else you might like.

Soon, all we will have left, and they can't be changed, will be our memories.



## Community Journalists, Digital Sales, South Auckland

Seeking qualified journalists and writers at all levels.

<http://www.seek.co.nz/job/26599817>

No closing date.

## Journalist, One21, Tauranga

Seeking journalist who can apply their skills to both print and online media.

<http://www.seek.co.nz/job/26606486>

No closing date.

**New job listings are posted on the Student Discussion Board twice a week.**

## Desktop Publisher, Shoof International, Cambridge

Requires experience with photography and digital printing.

<http://www.seek.co.nz/job/26585127>

Closes 6 June.

## Home and Property Writer/Editor, Stuff, Auckland

This job is for someone who lives and breathes home and property.

<https://careers.fairfaxmedia.co.nz/jobdetails/ajid/TF8q7/Home-and-Property-Writer-Editor,6989>

Closes 8 June.

## Health and Wellbeing Writer/Editor,

## Fairfax Media, National

Produce and edit a mix of online and print journalism.

<https://careers.fairfaxmedia.co.nz/jobdetails/ajid/9Oas7/Health-and-Wellbeing-Writer-Editor,7710>

Closes 8 June.

## Online News Reporter, Maori Television, Auckland

Requires a strong news sense and a sound understanding of te reo Maori.

<http://www.trademe.co.nz/jobs/market-ing-media-communications/journalism/listing-732612551.htm>

Closes 6 June.

## Photographer/ Mobile Studio Manager, Duo Photo, Wellington

Looking for someone to head up a Wellington Mobile Portrait Studio.

<http://www.trademe.co.nz/jobs/customer-service/other/listing-732902966.htm>

Closes 30 June.

# Common Writing Mistakes 101

This advice is from Michael LaRocca, who teaches English at a university in China

Most books aren't rejected because the stories are bad. They're rejected because they're not "ready to read."

In short, what's wrong is only minor stuff which can be fixed, like typos, grammar, spelling, etc.

I don't mean places where we, as authors, deliberately break the rules. Those are fine.

That's part of our job.

Language always changes with use, and we can help it on its way.

No, I'm referring to places where someone just plain didn't learn the rule or got confused or overlooked it during the self-edits.

I started editing novels in 2001. Looking back at my experiences, I feel like sharing the most common mistakes I've seen. If you'll go through your manuscript and fix these before you submit it to a publisher, your odds of publication will increase dramatically.

Once you've found a publisher who publishes what you write, you want to present yourself in the best way possible.

Submitting an unedited manuscript is a bit like going to a job interview wearing a purple Mohawk, no shoes, torn jeans, and a dirty T-shirt.

Your resume may be perfect, and your qualifications impeccable, but something tells me you won't get the job.

The publisher is investing a lot in every book he/she accepts.

Epublishers tend to invest loads of time, and print publishers tend to invest an advertising budget and the cost of carrying an inventory.

Why ask them to invest hours or days of editing time as well? If the publisher gets two or three or ten nearly identical books, you want yours to be the one requiring the least editing.

The first thing to do, and I hope you've already done it, is use the basic spelling and grammar checker in your word processor.

This will catch many of the "commin spelling mistakes" on my list.

I've been asked to edit many books where the author obviously didn't do this, and I confess I may have been lazy and let a couple of mine get to my editors unchecked.

Bad Michael!

**Here's a list of the mistakes I see most often.**

★ Dialogue where everyone speaks in perfect English.

Yes, dialogue which never violates any of the bullet points below. Okay, I made that up. That's not really a common problem at all. But I have seen it, and it's a terrible thing.

These are terrible as well - and you should fix them!

★ It's is a contraction for "it is" and its is possessive.

★ Who's is a contraction for "who is" . . . and whose is possessive.

★ You're is a contraction for "you are" and your is possessive.

★ They're is a contraction for "they are; there is a place; their is possessive.

★ There's is a contraction for "there is" and theirs is possessive.

★ Have you been paying attention?

You'll have noticed possessive pronouns never use apostrophes.

These are: its, whose, your, yours, their, theirs...

★ Let's is a contraction for "let us."

★ When making a word plural by adding an s, don't use an apostrophe.

(The cats are asleep.)

★ When making a word possessive by adding an s, use an apostrophe.

(The cat's bowl is empty.)

★ A bath is a noun, what you take. Bathe is a verb, it's the action you do when taking or giving a bath.

★ A breath is a noun, what you take. Breathe is a verb, the action of taking a breath.

★ You wear clothes. When you put them on, you clothe yourself. They are made of cloth.

★ Whenever you read a sentence with the word "that," delete that word if you still achieve clarity.

## Read!

The same can be said of all sentences. If you can delete a word without changing the meaning or sacrificing clarity, do it.

“And then” is a phrase worth using your word processor’s search feature to look for.

★ Keep an eye on verb tenses. “He pulled the pin and throws the grenade” is not a good sentence.

★ Keep an eye on making everything agree regarding singular and plural.

“My cat and my wife is sleeping.”

“My wife is a beautiful women.”

“My cat sleep on the sofa.”

None are good sentences.

(I have exaggerated here, but you know what I mean.)

★ I and me, he and him, etc.

I hope no editor is rejecting any novels for this one, because I suspect that most people get confused at times. In dialogue, do whatever the heck you want because it sounds more “natural.”

But for the sake of your narrative, I’ll try to explain the rule and the cheat.

The rule involves knowing whether your pronoun is the subject or object.

When Jim Morrison of The Doors sings, “til the stars fall from the sky for you and I,” he’s making a good rhyme but he’s using bad grammar.

According to the rule, “you and I” is the object of the preposition “for”, thus it should be “for you and me”.

The cheat involves pretending “you and” isn’t there, and just instinctively knowing “for I” just doesn’t sound right.

(I think only native English speakers can use my cheat. For the record, I have great admiration for authors writing in languages that aren’t their native tongues.)

★ Should of, would of, could of. This one can make me throw things. It’s wrong!

What you mean is should have, would have, could have. Or maybe you mean the contractions: should’ve, would’ve, could’ve. And maybe ‘ve sounds a bit like of. But it’s not!

Of is not a verb.

Not now, not ever.

★ More, shorter sentences are better. Always.

Don’t ask a single sentence to do too much work or advance the action too much, because then you’ve got lots of words scattered about like “that” and “however” and “because” and “or” and “as” and “and” and “while”, much like this rather pathetic excuse for a sentence right here.

★ On a similar, though somewhat exaggerated note:

“He laughed a wicked laugh as he kicked Ralphie in the face while he aimed the gun at Lerod and pulled the trigger and then laughed as Lerod twisted in agony because of the bullet that burned through his face and splattered his brains against the wall and made the wall look like an overcooked lasagne.”

[Hilarity continues over >>]



### Business Journalist, Key Media, Auckland

Produce insightful and thoroughly researched news and news analysis articles.

<http://www.seek.co.nz/job/26584425>

No closing date.

### Editorial/Personal Assistant, Analysis Publishing, Wellington

Assist the editorial development manager of a business report publisher.

<http://www.seek.co.nz/job/26580847>

Closes 3 June

### Public Relations Consultant / Print Journalist, Convergence Communications, Christchurch

You must have a passion for media pitching and be able to write quickly.

<http://www.seek.co.nz/job/26586012>

Closes 6 June.

### Careers Advisor, NZ Management Academies, Hamilton

Coach and support people looking to achieve their career goals and dreams.

<http://www.seek.co.nz/job/26584472>

No closing date.

### Technical Communicator, Sourced, Christchurch

Requires technical writing, editing and proofreading skills.

<http://www.trademe.co.nz/jobs/it/training/listing-729690121.htm>

No closing date.

### Portrait Photographer, Red Photography, Auckland

To be a Red Portrait Photographer it is the right attitude that matters most.

<http://www.seek.co.nz/job/26564130>

No closing date.

**Don't delay, apply today!**

### POI Editors, Ministry of Social Development, Wellington

Respond to requests for information made pursuant to the Privacy Act and Official Information Act.

[https://jobs.govt.nz/jobtools/jncustomsearch.viewFullSingle?in\\_organid=16563&in\\_jn-Counter=222494493&in\\_skills=editor](https://jobs.govt.nz/jobtools/jncustomsearch.viewFullSingle?in_organid=16563&in_jn-Counter=222494493&in_skills=editor)

Closes 6 June.

## Fixing the basics, continued:

Tell me that sentence (see previous page), wasn't trying to do too much.

★ Too means also; two is a number; to is a preposition.

★ He said/she said. Use those only when necessary to establish who's speaking.

They distract the reader, pulling him out of the story and saying, "Hey look, you're reading a book." Ideally, within the context of the dialogue, we know who's talking just by the style or the ideas. When a new speaker arrives on the scene, identify him or her immediately. Beyond that, keep it to a minimum.

Oh yeah, and give every speaker his own paragraph.

★ Billy-Bob smiled his most winning smile and said, "What's a nice girl like you doing in a place like this?"

I don't like that. Use two shorter sentences in the same paragraph.

Billy-Bob smiled his most winning smile. "What's a nice girl like you doing in a place like this?" Same effect, fewer words, no dialogue tag (he said).

In the previous example, I don't like "smiled his most winning smile," because it's redundant and also cliched. Please, if you find yourself writing something like that, try to find a better way to express it before you just give up and leave it like it is.

★ "The glow-in-the-dark poster of Jesus glowed in the dark." This editor won't let that one go. It's redundant. Amateurish. Awful.

★ Lie is what you do when you lie down on the bed, lay is when you take something and lay it on the table. Just to confuse matters, the past tense of lie is lay. Whenever I hit a lay/lie word in reading, I stop and think. Do that when you self-edit. (Note: Don't fix this one in dialogue unless your character is quite well-educated, because most people say it wrong. I do.)

★ Beware of the dangling modifier. "Rushing into the room, the exploding bombs dropped seven of the soldiers." Wait a minute! The bombs didn't rush into the room. The soldiers did. To get all technical about it, the first part is the "dependent clause," and it must have the same subject as the "independent clause" which follows.

Otherwise it's distracting, and a real pain for your poor overworked editor.

★ If you are able (many readers are not), keep an eye out for missing periods/ full stops, superfluous commas, missing closing quotes or opening quotes, etc. When I read a book, whether it's an ebook or a printed book, I can't help but spot every single mistake. They hit me in the eye, which makes me a great editor but a lousy reader. If you're like me, use that predisposition to your advantage. If you're not a naturally good speller, employ a proofreader and editor! They have the skills!

Michael LaRocca's website was chosen as one of The 101 Best Websites For Writers by Writer's Digest.

<http://www.chinarice.org/>

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## Have a go!

For details of all competitions, click the links and join in!

Winners' names are posted on the SDB after the competitions are judged at month's end.

See the competitions here:

<http://nzibs.org/forums/forumdisplay.php?f=11>

Photography competitions:

<http://nzibs.org/forums/forumdisplay.php?f=4>

### *Erby on Poe: The Challenge*

*See:*

<http://www.erbyonpoe.com/>

*The author defies anyone, literary expert, historian, or Poe scholar, to refute On Poe's Revenge Motif... historical context for "The Cask of Amontillado!"*

*Reward, \$1000.*

## Photography

When sending in assignment photos, or images as entries in a photography challenge, please give the aperture and shutter speed you used, including the reasons for your choices.

Tutor Robert V can help you better with more information!



Writer's Digest has been shining a spotlight on new writers in all genres through its Annual Writing Competition for over 80 years.

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## Photo Competitions

More than 200 competitions are listed here:

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Among them all, there must be at least ONE you'll like. Enter it. You never know . . .



### Copywriter, Overland Footwear, Auckland

Write clear, accurate product copy.  
<http://www.seek.co.nz/job/26541278>  
No closing date.

### Managing Editor, Weekend Gardener, Christchurch

Requires proven writing and editorial ability.  
<http://www.trademe.co.nz/jobs/market-ing-media-communications/journalism/listing-730096636.htm>  
Closes 6 June.

### Writer, New Idea, Auckland

The ability to write with flair and accuracy is a must.  
<http://www.seek.co.nz/job/26527140>  
No closing date.

### Photographer, Open2view, Hawke's Bay

Open2view Photographer Franchise.  
<http://www.trademe.co.nz/jobs/trades-services/other/listing-728398797.htm>  
No closing date.



### Magazine Editor, Key Media, Auckland

Seeking an accomplished journalist with an interest in business.  
<http://www.seek.co.nz/job/26508546>  
No closing date.

### Photographic Assistant, Metro, Auckland

Entry-level opportunity to gain work experience in advertising.  
<http://www.seek.co.nz/job/26500324>  
No closing date.



# Zombie March

by **Brynn MacNabb**

Amber Riley's husband had promised that he would come home to her no matter what, so after they reported him dead she began to keep the shotgun next to the front door.

The day he returned, ambling, shambling, reeking of decay, the dog barked once in warning and went to hide under the back porch. Amber dried her hands on a dish towel and went to look at her husband through the screen.

"Amber," he said. (Not "brains".)

She ran a finger down the barrel of the shotgun, propped beside her. "Thank you for coming."

"I promised." He smiled under the bullet hole they'd put through his forehead. Dried blood flaked off his eyelid when he blinked. "You know I've never played you false."

"I'm not coming with you," she told him. "Death has done its part. Keep on walking."

He moaned. "Some hero's welcome." But he must have remembered her too well to test her resolve. He shuffled himself around and went on his way.

The next day there was another fellow on her front walk, swaying side-to-side. "I'm lost," he said. (Not "brains".)

"Where are you trying to get to?" She held the gun across her front, in plain view.

The dead man groaned and lifted his shoulders. "I had a girl. She said she loved me."

"Well, she's not here. And if you want my opinion, I don't imagine she wants you like this." When he only lifted his shoulders again, she spoke clearly.

[An example of flash fiction, reproduced for students and graduates]

"You move along now. Rot elsewhere."

Muttering to himself, he went.

The next day there were two, and she spoke before they could. "It seems my man's started something of a mass migration."

"You'll forgive my friend," said one of them. "The language centers in his brain got blown clear away."

His compatriot, whose head accommodated a sizable crater, leaned stiffly over to try to pet the dog — who growled, flattened his ears, and ran to hide under the back porch.

"What do you want, then?"

"Money," he said. "Fulfillment. Immortality. Love."

"We don't have any of those things at this house anymore," she told him. "My husband headed north, I believe. You're free to follow him."

On the following morning, she went and sat on her front lawn with her shotgun across her lap. The dog lay beside her, and they watched the dead go past.

A young woman dragging a mutilated right leg dropped a pamphlet on the grass. It said, "CONGRESS OR BUST" in large, awkwardly-done letters.

"My," said Amber Riley. "I didn't know you folks were organised."

Behind the young woman, someone laughed. "They're calling you the Cause of the March," the young dead woman said.

"That's touching. But I didn't make him stubborn."

When the delegation came, back south against the tide, the dog

picked up his head and looked away without comment, as if refusing to be drawn. Two of the dead walked right up onto the front step, one of them carrying a small box wrapped in a tattered, blackened flag.

"Mrs. Riley," he said. "We'd like to come in."

"No," she said. "Thanks all the same, I can hear you from here." She stood back far enough so she could swing the shotgun up to shoot if she had to.

The zombie coughed politely. "Your husband self-immolated on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. They're calling it cremation, but you should know that it was protest."

He put the flag-wrapped box down on her welcome mat, and straightened with difficulty. "I'll leave that there for you."

When they staggered away, she put the shotgun to her shoulder. "He started a whole damn movement, huh?"

They stopped, turned, took the sight of her weapon without emotion.

"When he stood up, somebody else realised he could. And somebody else, and somebody else."

"He gave you hope?"

The second zombie, who had not spoken, laughed harshly.

The first said, "We thought we were finished, and right or wrong no one could ask more of us. But we saw that the world went on, without judgment or rest. He took our hope away."

She stood a long time after they had gone, looking at the evening down the long cool barrel.