

Table of Contents

About This Book	v
Extension Activities	vi
Capitalisation	
Uluru	1
Jack and Jill	2
Across the Desert	3
Chocolate Town	4
Pocahontas and John Rolfe	5
Popular by Design	6
The Ultimate Cycling Challenge	7
A Very Special Park	8
Capitalisation Celebration	9
Commas and Semicolons	
Tropical Rainforests	10
Tropical Cyclones in Australia	11
Bustling Singapore	12
Student Publishing	13
The Unsinkable <i>Titanic</i>	14
The Channel Tunnel	15
Quotation Marks	
The Talking Tree	16
The Runaway Rubbish Bin	17
The Beautiful Misfit	18
A Friendly Discussion	19
Apostrophes: Omission and Possession	
A Titanic Investigation	20
Two Islands, One Country	21
To the Sea	22
Hang-gliding	23
The Great Southern	24
Run-on Sentences and Fragments	
Bobo, the Clown	25
The Car of the Future	26
Damming the Snowy River	27
Pocahontas Saves John Smith	28
The Electric Impact	29

Verb Usage

Troublesome Verbs

Let's Sit or Set	30
Cory's Day	31
A Day at School	32
Tigers and Devils	33

Agreement and Principal Parts

A Stone Miracle	34
The Library Assignment	35
A Glass Palace	36
Royal Coinage	37

Pronoun Usage: Agreement with Antecedent

Bits and Pieces	38
More Bits and Pieces	39
Who is 'They'?	40
Jamie's New School	41

Homonyms

The Big River	42
The Unwelcome Buffalo	43
Aaron and the Sheikh: Chapter 1	44
Aaron and the Sheikh: Chapter 2	45
Aaron and the Sheikh: Chapter 3	46

Spelling

The Bermuda Triangle	47
The Unsolved Mystery of the Triangle	48
The Adventurous Poet	49
The Olympic Games	50
Victory Over Smallpox	51

Editing Finale

The Wolf	52
The Koala	53
The Alaska Highway	54
The Jumping Marsupial	55
Picture Time	56
Pocahontas Meets the English	57
The Summer of Life	58
Taiwan Earthquakes	59
High-Priced Speed	60
Howard Florey	61
Mount Kosciuszko	62
Bloopers	63
Editor's Checklist	67
Grammar Handbook	68
Answers	79

About This Book

Look through any kind of written material such as newspaper articles, magazines, posters, signs and even books, and you will probably find errors, especially in spelling and usage. Writers of these examples obviously do a poor job of editing their own writing. What is editing? It is merely reading over written copy and checking for errors in spelling, punctuation and usage as well as content. Young people need to be taught the importance of editing all their written material to avoid such careless mistakes. Hopefully if this practice is stressed early, it will become a habit – a good habit.

Probably the most effective way to use this book is to go over the various elements discussed in the ‘Grammar Handbook’ in the back of the book, duplicate copies for students to refer to as needed, and then let them edit the articles by identifying the errors, correcting them and rewriting the articles correctly. In most cases students will need to write draft copies first.

Remember, this activity book is not intended to cover all elements of grammar and usage, only some of those which commonly cause problems.

The ‘Table of Contents’ shows at a glance the areas covered, so it will be simple to choose the activities you wish to review. The last section, the ‘Editing Finale’, includes all of the types of errors covered in this book. Answers are also included, with the corrected errors underlined.

Activities in *The Student Editor* can also be used as assignments for those students who function best working independently.

Capitalisation

In the paragraphs below, there are 11 errors in capitalisation. Some words may be capitalised that should not be; some may not be capitalised that should be. Underline the ones that you think are incorrect. Then rewrite the paragraph on a separate sheet of paper, showing your corrections.

Uluru

uluru is located in the Northern territory. it is a giant outcrop of Rock that rises 335 metres above the sand dune plain. Aboriginal Australians have decorated the caves in the rock with paintings. uluru is an aboriginal name, meaning 'great pebble'. Uluru is very popular with Tourists, as it looks Spectacular at sunset – a brilliant, glowing Red.

In 1980, Azaria Chamberlain, when she was only nine weeks old, went missing at Uluru. Her mother, lindy Chamberlain, clamed that a dingo had taken Azaria, but the body was never Found.



Commas

The story below needs nine commas. Review the rules for using commas. Then insert commas where you think they are needed in the printed copy.

Tropical Cyclones in Australia

1. Most cyclones that hit Australia come in from the Indian Ocean or
2. the Coral Sea off the Queensland coast. Some cyclones also come in
3. from the Arafura Sea off the Northern Territory. Cyclone Tracy
4. Australia's most famous cyclone came in from the Arafura Sea.

5. Queensland Western Australia the Northern Territory and New South
6. Wales are all affected by tropical cyclones. The entire Queensland
7. coastline experiences tropical cyclones particularly between
8. Townsville and Mackay. In 1989 Cyclone Aivu reached 200
9. kilometres per hour. A small town near Homehill suffered severe
10. damage mainly to empty holiday cottages.

11. The strongest Australian cyclones have hit the northwest coast of
12. Western Australia. In 1975 Cyclone Joan crossed the West Australian
13. coast near Port Hedland. The damage was worth \$20 million.

14. Cyclone Tracy hit Darwin on Christmas Day in 1974. The winds
15. reached 217 kilometres per hour and 65 people were killed. About
16. 650 people were treated for injuries and another 35 000 were
17. evacuated in the days that followed.

18. New South Wales is the only other Australian State that experiences
19. cyclones but by the time they hit they have usually weakened. The
20. people of New South Wales have a different type of natural element
21. to worry about: heavy rain, which causes flooding.



Pronoun Usage

Agreement with Antecedent

The following sentences are confusing because the antecedents of the italicised pronouns are not clear. Rewrite each sentence, making certain that each pronoun refers to a specific word.

Example: *Mexico* is an interesting country. *They* make very fine pottery.

Correction: *Mexico* is an interesting country. *The Mexicans* make very fine pottery.

Who is 'They'?

1. Holden needs more electronic engineers. *They* will be accepting applications this week.

2. I went for my football physical last week. The first thing *they* did was take a sample of blood.

3. The manager of the motel and Dad were arguing over *his* key.

4. The apartment was a mess. *They* must have left hurriedly during the night.

5. There were huge tracks around our tents. *It* must have been made by a bunyip.

6. Stephanie called Angie about *her* flat tyre.

7. The referee stepped between the two players and started the game. *It* was tipped into the hands of a nearby guard.

8. When my parents and I visited the Tower of London, *they* told us about some famous prisoners.

