

NOWA FIELD NOTES

APRIL 2023



CRAFT IMPROVEMENT – BETTER GRAMMAR (PART ONE) – ESTABLISH YOUR HOURLY RATE – NOWA MEMBERS FISH PYRAMID LAKE AND THE CLEARWATER RIVER – BREAK INTO THE OUTDOORS INDUSTRY IN PORTLAND THIS MONTH – EIC JUDGING IS UNDERWAY

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The NOWA newsletter is published six times a year by the Northwest Outdoor Writers Association, a registered nonprofit, tax-exempt, public supported organization under IRS 501 c3 Code. Newsletter contributions in the form of craft improvement articles, photos, member photo portfolios, news items, letters to the editor and more are welcome but cannot be compensated. Send submissions by email in Microsoft WORD format. Photos can be sent in JPEG Format. The Deadline for submissions is the 15th day of the month prior to the next edition being published. Send them to:

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The NOWA Facebook Page can be found at www.facebook.com/NorthwestOutdoorWritersAssociation/



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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE – WINTER INTO SPRING



Well, here I sit looking out my window at another dump of snow. There is about a foot of the horrid stuff. Some of you, I am sure, don't consider the end of February to be close to the end of winter, but here on the southern tip of Vancouver Island my daffodils and tulips are already over an inch high, that is, before this latest crappy pile of white stuff hit. Needless to say, I am not out and about in the bush or on the river. It is sunny now though, which makes the whole situation more acceptable, and knowing Spring is around the corner and trout fishing with it helps too.

I still, as I mentioned before, would like to figure out how to get us together face to face. I think it is very important to the health of our organization to see and greet and speak to one another. The Zoom thing is nice in a pinch, but nothing takes

the place of face to face chats and laughs, as well as business discussions. Our organization is one of communication; face to face conversation is still a form of that, last I looked, although it seems to be a dying art in this age of cell phones, Messenger, Facetime, Zoom, Skype, etc.. Maybe 2023 will be the year we actually meet again. We'll see.

On another note, I just returned two weeks ago from Los Cabos. Day after day the Dorado were jumping off shore. I hadn't planned on fishing and it drove me nuts to watch them. That would have been a hoot to try fly-fishing for them. They were definitely close enough to the surface that it would have been worth the try. And boy oh boy, Mahi Mahi (Dorado) is delicious.

I hope you are all well and have managed to get your submissions in to the Excellence in Craft Competition.

Blessings to you all, my friends.

Bill Luscombe

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FROM THE EDITOR – OLD FRIENDS

As we journey through our lives friends come and go but if you are lucky, you'll have a few lifelong friends and if you are really lucky, one of them turns out to be your best friend and fishing partner!

That's the case with my best friend, Rusty Johnson. We met in 1976 when I first moved to Redmond, Washington from Milwaukie, Oregon. I was casting for trout at Idylwood Park on Lake Sammamish and so was he.

Rusty was one of my first friends in Redmond and soon became my best one. We spent countless days as kids fishing, hunting, canoeing, snorkeling and shooting bb guns. It helped that we were in the same grade in school and that we only lived a 1/3 of a mile away from each other.

Nearly 50 years later, Rusty works as a supervisor at Lowes Hardware Store in Moses Lake and lives next to Potholes State Park. We still fish and hunt together on a regular basis, primarily in and around Potholes Reservoir but we have also fished the Columbia River together for shad, Neah Bay for bottom fish, out of Port Hardy, British Columbia for salmon and this summer, we'll be heading to Prince of Wales Island in Alaska for a three day/ four night fishing adventure at Sportsman's Cove Lodge.

The two of us are so connected at the hip that we bought a bass boat together a year and a half ago and we have certainly been putting it to good use! Now that I am selling my home and starting a new life as a divorcee, I'll be doing my best to live in the small community of homes around Potholes State Park. If I do it will be coming back full circle in our relationship, with the two of us living within walking distance of each other. I'm keeping my fingers crossed and praying this plan comes together. Lifelong best friends and fishing buddies are hard to come by!

John Kruse

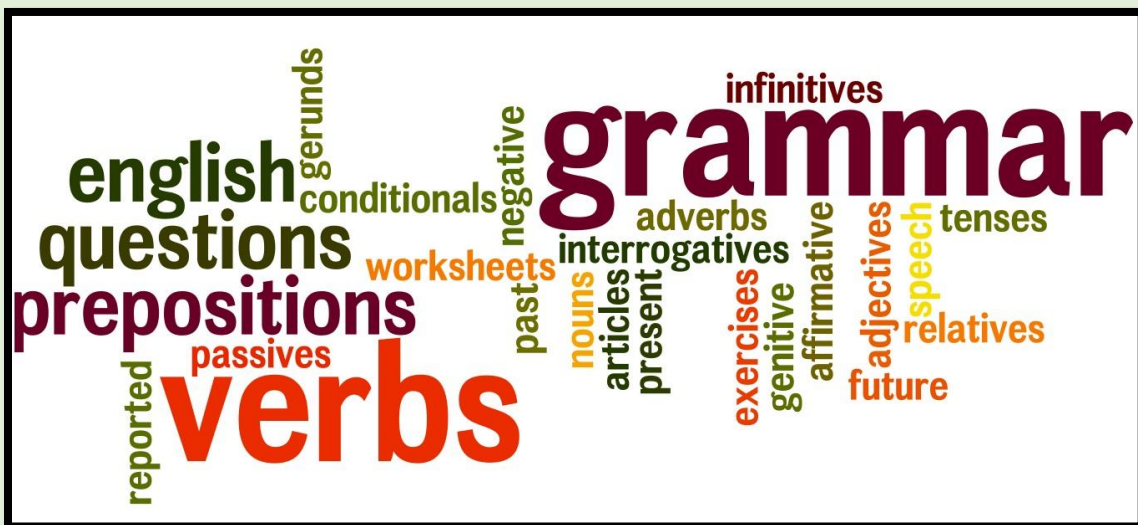


CRAFT IMPROVEMENT

BETTER GRAMMAR – PART ONE

This is the first of five articles that will share with you some of the secrets that many professional writers and editors use to avoid falling into embarrassing grammatical traps. Author Bob Mottram spent more than 40 years as a writer and editor in daily print journalism, including eight years working at warp speed for The Associated Press. What follows are some of the secrets that he and his colleagues used to stay out of trouble.

By Bob Mottram



Stop and think about it. When we speak, we make dozens of decisions a minute. We select vocabulary, word order, gender, number, voice, mood and so forth. And it doesn't matter whether we are speaking English, Mandarin Chinese or Swahili. If we are a native speaker – or as fluent as a native speaker – we all make our decisions the same way, and not by referring to grammatical rules. We do it by deciding WHETHER IT SOUNDS RIGHT. And that, in a modified form, is one of the major tricks we're going to use to stay out of trouble.

CRAFT IMPROVEMENT – BETTER GRAMMAR

An important thing to remember is that language always comes first, and then its rules follow. That's why language rules tend to contain so many exceptions, more in some languages, such as English, than in others, such as Spanish, for example. And this is why the way language sounds to us is a particularly valuable tool.

It's nice to have rules to fall back on, and we'll use them in a pinch. But one's ear for language is faster than a rule book and, when used correctly, is 100 percent reliable in getting us through tricky situations.

So, let's start by jumping right into an area that's loaded with potential traps. It involves one of the most problematic categories of words -- pronouns. Open virtually any newspaper, any magazine or any website and you'll often see myriad mistakes involving them.

What are pronouns? They're generic words we use to substitute for specific identifiers of people, animals or things, so that we don't have to use words like "Fred" or "Fredricka" over and over. Using them should be simple, right? Most of the time it is. But, for some reason, English speakers often become confused when using a pronoun in a series. Let's take a look at a few examples. Here's one from a popular outdoors magazine:

"As quests go, it didn't rank with seeing a snow leopard, slaying a dragon or finding that golden chalice. It did, however, offer a couple of fine reasons for my buddy Johnny and I to be hiking into Colorado's Hunter-Fryingpan Wilderness early one September morning."

Here's another, same magazine but a different edition and a different author:

"So the top priority for Joe and I on this cow hunt was helping Bobby close the deal on his first elk."

Here's another real-life example, this one from a Northwestern newspaper:

"The boy said people were holding he and others hostage, pointing guns at his head . . ."

Forgive me for lapsing here into use of grammatical rules, but I want to set out the problem in an academic sort of way, and then we'll see how to use a SOUNDS RIGHT shortcut to avoid this nonsense. The rule is that we have two kinds of pronouns in English, subjective pronouns and objective pronouns. Subjective pronouns are used when the party described by the pronoun is the subject of the sentence – the party that takes action and MAKES things happen. Those pronouns are I, you, he, she and it in the singular, and we, you (y'all) and they in the plural.

CRAFT IMPROVEMENT – BETTER GRAMMAR

Objective pronouns are used when the party described is the entity TO WHICH things happen, the object of a verb or a preposition in the sentence. They are me, you, him, her and it in the singular, and us, you (y'all) and them in the plural. In some cases, as you can see, subjective and objective pronouns are identical. But where they are not, they are not interchangeable, and that's where writers often go wrong.

So, leaving the grammar rules behind us now, let's see how we can sort this out through the SOUNDS RIGHT shortcut. The mistakes occur when people lump pronouns or pronouns and nouns together in a sentence, but rarely happen when they use only one such word. So, the shortcut is to consider each pronoun or noun in the series one at a time.

“As quests go, it didn't rank with seeing a snow leopard, slaying a dragon or finding that golden chalice. It did, however, offer a couple of fine reasons for my buddy Johnny and I to be hiking . . .”

(. . . fine reasons for my buddy Johnny to be hiking) – This sounds good, so save it.

(. . . fine reasons for I to be hiking) – This doesn't sound right, agreed? So, toss it.

(. . . fine reasons for me to be hiking) – This sounds better. Save it.

And, the solution is, (. . . fine reasons for my buddy Johnny and me to be hiking)

Let's do the next one.

“So the top priority for Joe and I on this cow hunt was helping Bobby . . .”

(the top priority for Joe) – Save it.

(the top priority for I) – Toss it.

(the top priority for me) – Save it.

(So the top priority for Joe and me on this cow hunt . . .)

CRAFT IMPROVEMENT – BETTER GRAMMAR

And, the newspaper story:

“The boy said people were holding he and others hostage, pointing guns at his head . . .

(The boy said people were holding he hostage) – Are you kidding? Toss it.

(The boy said people were holding him hostage) – Save it.

(The boy said people were holding others hostage) – Save it.

(The boy said people were holding him and others hostage)

- Let’s take a look at another example and see how errors with pronouns evolve. The writer is recounting an event that occurred recently.
- “He told her and me to get off his property.” Somebody might think this sounds rather pedestrian, so let’s give it a little class. “He told her and I to get off his property.” Hey, that looks better, so let’s make it REALLY classy. “He told she and I to get off his property.”
- If you get caught in this trap, you know how to get out of it. Simply consider the pronouns one at a time. (He told her.) (He told me.) (He told her and me.)

Your takeaway:

The correct pronoun choice NEVER CHANGES because you use the pronoun in a series with other pronouns or nouns. So, consider them one at a time, and the correct form of the pronoun will be obvious. Then, go ahead and string the words together unchanged.

Coming next:

What do you do when more than one type of pronoun sounds right?

CRAFT IMPROVEMENT

WRITING IN THE MARGINS

By Gary Lewis



Today is March 1, which is great, because I have a tradition. Every year that has a March 1 in it is a year I go fishing in Alaska. I'm looking forward to that again. This time we're going to Soldotna that third week when the silvers should be well up the Kenai and steelhead in a few of the streams.

In February, I wrote and turned in 19 articles for newspapers and magazines, a mix of flyfishing, gear fishing and hunting stories. As I thought about it, I realized that none of these were for web sites or blogs, although some will show up on the web. Nope, they are going to print. Real print. The print they told us was dead.

Back in 2010, the fear-mongering was real. Print is dead! The e-Book is the future! Everyone reads on Kindle and Nook. No one reads books anymore! You will read your favorite magazines on your iPad. Or your iPhone. Or your iToilet.

But no, it turns out print is not dead. One person who used to trump the "print is dead" trope recently published a physical book with words printed in ink on a printed page. Today I went to my mailbox and picked up, gasp, a real newsletter, in real print, as well as several pieces of junk mail, in real print, not digital.

Methinks the death knell for print was rung prematurely.

It is still hard for an outdoor writer to make a good living, not going to argue about that. We outdoor types exist in the lowest paying of all the writing genres, writing in the margins, as it were. But therein lies the freedom. The key is in knowing your hourly rate.

CRAFT IMPROVEMENT – WRITING IN THE MARGINS

KNOW WHEN TO HOLD EM, KNOW WHEN TO FOLD EM

If a writer can establish an hourly rate and stick to it, they can survive and succeed. Let's say the number is \$50 per hour. If the story pays \$200, that gives the writer three hours to write and edit the story and another hour to gather the images and write the captions. Can you make a living writing \$200 articles? You can if you stick to your hourly rate. That might mean writing and submitting two or more articles a day some days. It usually works like this: short stories might pay \$50 for 300 words while feature articles of 1,500 to 2,500 words can bring in \$400 to \$750. Frankly, we should be making more money than this, but the reality is we don't. If the article pays \$400, we can afford to spend six hours writing and editing and another hour or so pulling the illustrations, captions and sidebars together.

But where do we get the assignments to write that many articles? A strategy that works for a number of writers is to get weekly, monthly and bi-monthly columns. I believe in the weekly column. They are hard to get, but a weekly teaches a person how to write fast. And fast writing begets more fast writing.

Another way to keep the hourly rate up and the wolf away from the door is to take speaking engagements. This month I will speak to two fly-fishing clubs. They are paying \$300 each for an hour of my time. Yes, I have to travel to their locations. They are paying my travel expenses and taking care of the hotel. To maximize the income from the event, I hope to sell books in the back of the room. If I'm smart, I will do some writing on both of those days. But then again, I might go fishing.

People, Jack London was making the same kind of money in his day we are. It was common for him to get \$750 for a magazine feature. And eggs cost \$0.34 per dozen. But it is easier to do the work now than it was in his day. So we got that going for us.

This year for whatever reason, I have more magazine assignments on my assignment board than ever. And as I look at the deadlines looming, I am struck by the fact I am still writing for newspapers and magazines lo these many years after print was said to be deceased. Long live print!

Gary Lewis is a recovering twice past president of NOWA

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NOWA NEWS

EIC CONTEST JUDGING IS UNDER WAY!

Dennis Dauble would like to thank everyone who volunteered to be a judge for this year's Excellence in Craft Contest. Seventeen NOWA members volunteered for this task. That means there is more than one judge for every category and a formal ranking system for entries has also been rolled out, both of which improve the quality of the judging process. We'll publish the winning entries on the NOWA website in the coming weeks and also in the next edition of NOWA Field Notes!

LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT JOB IN THE OUTDOORS INDUSTRY?



[GATHER PNW](#) is back! That's Basecamp's highly popular networking + hiring fair at University of Oregon's Portland, OR, campus. We had 150+ attendees at last year's event so we're coming back again and expecting double.

Mark your calendar for April 20, 2023, from 5:30 - 8:30 pm.
free!

Join us & [University of Oregon](#) for free appetizers, access to hiring brands, and connections with new colleagues and friends. Also: How I Broke In live, a panel with folks who have successfully broken into the outdoor industry who can offer career-search advice.

This event is for you if:

- You are in the outdoor industry OR want to break in 😊
- You are job seeking and want face to face contact with brands who are looking to hire!

Space is limited - you MUST [register!](#) You can do so at <https://basecampoutdoor.typeform.com/GatherPNW23>

NOWA MEMBER NEWS

DENNIS DAUBLE – CLEARWATER STEELHEAD



Dennis Dauble reports he received a generous offer from Michelle Peters, President/CEO of Visit Lewis and Clark Valley, for a free night’s lodging at the Hells Canyon Grand Hotel followed by a guided trip for steelhead on the Clearwater River.

An excerpt from his later column reads: “Sage members of my outdoor writing group often bragged about back in the day all-expense paid trips to upscale lodges in Alaska, the Adirondacks, and Canada where they fished for trophy muskie, salmon, and lake trout, ate five-star meals, and wrote articles for Outdoor Life and Field and Stream. I did not expect a magazine contract for a day on the river, but every fishing trip does lead to a story.

Dauble met up with a guide, Brian Blimka (steeldreamsfishing.com), at the Pink House Recreational Site on February 2. Air temperature was 28 F. Ice chunks periodically broke off the shoreline and floated down the river. Gray skies hinted of rain, snow or sleet. Steelhead fishing was not as successful as imagined. Two hatchery and one wild steelhead were landed by 4 anglers and the guide over 8 hours of mostly side-drifting corkies near the bottom. A subsequent newspaper article that focused on the Lewis & Clark trail covered the cost of gas for the 400-mile round trip, and proved that outdoor writers take whatever compensation they get when in pursuit of adventure.

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PHOTO GALLERY – PYRAMID LAKE



Joe Warren and Dave Kilhefner went on a road trip this winter to Nevada's Pyramid Lake, known for its trophy Lahontan cutthroat trout. The two had a great time and shared these photos in a blog at

www.flyfishpursuit.com/blog/pyramid-lake-nv1508553



FINAL SHOT



Doug Wilson shared this 40-year-old photo of his son Michael holding the first trout he ever got. Doug says all three of his kids caught their first trout from the same small creek near Falls City, Washington. They say photos make memories and that is certainly true in this case.