

EXERCISE 11-1 Mixed constructions: Guided practice

Edit the following paragraphs to eliminate problems with mixed constructions. The numbers in the margin refer to appropriate rules in section 11 of *Rules for Writers*, Fifth Edition. The first revision has been done for you, and a suggested revision of this exercise appears in the back of the book.

Sometimes it's hard to separate fact from fiction, to know what is history and what is folklore. Casey Jones, John Henry, Johnny Appleseed, Uncle Sam, Santa Claus—which of these ~~names~~ were real men? Although we've been told stories about them all of our lives, but are those stories true? 11b
11a

There really was a railroad engineer people called “Casey” Jones; the reason he got that nickname was because of his birthplace, Cayce, Kentucky. There really was a “Cannonball” too; it was the Illinois-Central's fast mail train. And there really was a train wreck: Engine Number 382 rammed into some freight cars. The accident was not Casey's fault, and Casey died trying to save his passengers. When workers found his body in the wreckage, his hand was still on the air-brake lever. (The use of air brakes had recently been installed on trains to increase their braking power.) 11c
11b

John Henry was an African American railroad worker of great strength. In legend and song, he died after a timed contest against a steam drill. By using a hammer in each hand made him win the contest. John Henry drilled two holes seven feet deep; the steam drill bored only one nine-foot hole. The real John Henry died on the job too, crushed by rocks that fell from the ceiling of a railroad tunnel. 11a

John Chapman, better known as Johnny Appleseed, was a wealthy and well-liked nurseryman who kept moving his place of business west as the frontier moved west. His boyhood friend Sam Wilson supplied meat to the U.S. troops during the War of 1812. A worker told a government inspector that the “U.S.” stamped on the meat stood for “Uncle Sam.” Although it was a joke, but it caught on, and Congress made the “Uncle Sam” identification official in the 1960s. 11a

That leaves Santa Claus. As far as historians know now, Santa was not real. But legends say that there was once a man who . . .