

EXERCISE 13-1 Distracting shifts: Guided practice

Edit the following paragraphs to eliminate distracting shifts. The numbers in the margin refer to appropriate rules in section 13 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.

Do you know how slavery began in America or how ^{it ended?}~~did it end?~~ When the *Mayflower* 13d
landed in September 1620, slaves were already in America. A Dutch ship had unloaded and
sold twenty Africans in Jamestown, Virginia, the year before.

Actually, slavery in America began long before that. Many early explorers brought
slaves with them to the new land, and some historians claim that one of the men in
Christopher Columbus's crew was a slave. From the 1500s to the 1800s, slave ships brought
ten million African slaves across the ocean.

Most of the slaves stayed in Latin America and the West Indies, but the southern part
of the United States receives about six percent of them. Few northerners owned slaves, and 13b
opposition to slavery was evident by the time of the American Revolution. Rhode Island
prohibited the importation of slaves even before the Revolutionary War. After the war, six
northern states abolished slavery at once. Others passed laws to phase out slavery, and even
Virginia enacted legislation encouraging you to emancipate your slaves. 13a

But it took a war, a tricky political situation, and a very clever former slave to free all
slaves. History gives Lincoln the credit for liberating the slaves during the Civil War, and he
deserves some credit, but emancipation was not his idea. Originally, no one in government
seriously considered emancipation because they were so focused on winning the war to 13a
save the Union. Then an important black man talks to Lincoln and gives him the idea and 13b
the reason. This man said that freeing slaves would be good for the war effort and would 13d
Lincoln agree to do it? Who was this man? He was Frederick Douglass, fugitive slave and
newspaper editor.