

EXERCISE 13-2 Distracting shifts Before working this exercise, read section 13 in *Rules for Writers*, Fifth Edition.

- A. Edit the following sentences to eliminate distracting pronoun shifts. If a sentence is correct, mark it "OK." Example:

Frederick Douglass was born a slave, but he was lucky because his owner's wife did not know that it was against the law for ^{her}you to teach a slave to read and write.
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1. A slave who learned to read and write gained self-confidence, so they were harder to oversee than illiterate slaves.
2. When he had learned enough to study on his own, the slave Frederick Douglass did so; he used what he had learned to escape from his owner.
3. The master had told his slaves that all escape routes were blocked and that you would have no chance whatever at success.
4. Douglass used a simple but dangerous method of escape; he sailed from Baltimore to New York as a working sailor.
5. A listener could not learn anything about escape routes from Douglass's stories because Douglass told them nothing that would endanger other fugitives.

- B. Edit the following sentences to eliminate distracting shifts in verb tense. If a sentence is correct, mark it "OK." Example:

Douglass's narrative tells about his own life as a child and ^{describes}described his torturous beatings by a professional "slave breaker."
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6. Douglass had few ties to his mother and never meets his father.
7. Even when Douglass worked "out" for his master, his master got his wages.
8. His master sometimes allowed him to keep one percent (six cents out of six dollars); the master thought the money would encourage Douglass to work harder.
9. Douglass escapes by pretending to be someone else; he borrowed the identification papers of a freed black sailor.
10. Frederick Douglass used several different names as he escaped slavery; an abolitionist friend suggests "Douglass" to him and Frederick uses it from that time on.