

LOOKING AT YOURSELF AS A WRITER

Problems with -ed endings on verbs

If you have difficulty spotting missing *-ed* endings, consider possible sources of the problem.

CAUSE Like most people, you don't always pronounce *-ed* endings, so you tend not to hear them as you proofread.

CURE Try proofreading out loud in a formal-sounding voice. When speaking formally, most people enunciate word endings more clearly.

CAUSE When you proofread a final draft, you read for meaning, so you don't notice small surface features such as missing word endings.

CURE Again, reading out loud usually works. Read slowly, articulating the words just as they are written on the page. If you still have trouble, ask your instructor or a writing center tutor for help. Proofreading is a skill that can be learned.

CAUSE You don't proofread your final draft carefully enough or you try to proofread for too many problems at once.

CURE Take time to proofread. Until you become a skilled proofreader, you may need to go over your work several times.