THE UNIVERSITY WRITING CENTER PRESENTS:

MASTER THE ART OF GRAMMAR

WHAT
Free 50 minute workshops open to all students (undergraduate and graduate). Each session will involve specialized grammar lessons and practice exercises and are designed for students with all levels of grammar and English fluency.

WHERE
Sessions will take place in the Goldfarb Library. See online scheduler for location information.

WHEN
See Schedule on back. All sessions are from 12-12:50p.

HOW
Sign up online for any (or all!) sessions:

SCAN

OR VISIT
www.brandeis.edu/writingprogram/writingcenter/workshops.html

QUESTIONS?
writingcenter@brandeis.edu
SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Introduction to Grammar: Parts of Speech and Terminology -- SEPTEMBER 18TH
Our first session will focus on the fundamentals of grammar: the language we use to talk about language. Knowing how to classify words helps us use them, so we'll be referring to this terminology all semester.

After classifying words in the first session, this week we'll classify parts of sentences. We'll talk about independent and dependent clauses, sentence patterns, and how to avoid fragments and run-ons.

General Punctuation 1: Commas and Apostrophes -- OCTOBER 2ND
Ever heard of a comma splice, shared possession, or the interrupter rule? In our first general punctuation workshop, we'll make these terms less frightening and look closely at how to use commas and apostrophes. Articles (a, an, and the) will also make an appearance!

General Punctuation 2: Semicolons, Colons, and Parentheses -- OCTOBER 9TH
Continuing our focus on general punctuation, in this session, we'll master semicolons, colons, and parentheses. We'll also go over more rarely used punctuation like hyphens, brackets, and ellipses. These two workshops will help you be comfortable and confident when punctuating your sentences.

Word Choice and Verbs -- OCTOBER 16TH
Verbs are a fundamental part of communicating, and knowing which tense will best convey your meaning can be tricky. In this workshop, we'll break down verb tenses. We'll also talk about how to declutter your writing by choosing "strong" words.

Active and Passive Voice -- OCTOBER 23RD
Many students have been taught to avoid using the passive voice at all costs, but following this rule doesn't always make an essay better. In this workshop, we'll learn when it's appropriate to use the active voice and when it's appropriate to use the passive. We'll also talk about overall tone and different levels of formality.

Transitions -- OCTOBER 30TH
Transitions are the joints that both hold an essay together and let it move. To learn how transitions work, we'll look at "signal" words and talk about how to structure your essay so one idea leads to the next. We'll also learn about and and but, the conjunctions we use for transitions within a sentence.

Increasing Sentence Variety: Compound and Complex Sentences -- NOVEMBER 13TH
Part of writing well is keeping the reader engaged – no one wants to read the same type of sentence over and over! In this session, we'll learn how you can take your writing to the next level by changing up the sentence structures in your essay.

Quoting Effectively -- NOVEMBER 27TH
This workshop will address everything related to quotations: from where to put quotation marks to block quotes to the "literary present." We'll also talk about paraphrasing and how to make sure we give credit where it's due.

Grammar for Presentations and Final Papers -- DECEMBER 4TH
For our final workshop of the semester, we'll talk about grammar in presentations: how to use your PowerPoint most effectively, levels of formality, and more. We'll learn how to make the most of final edits, then there will be a longer Q&A time than usual to address specific concerns with final papers.