

Expecting a decent mark? Take note of **Blank's Really Annoying Quirk List** or face the consequences.

The Deadly Sins:

DS1) comma splice
DS2) *its/it's* confusion

DS3) sentence fragment
DS4) verb agreement errors

The Quirks:

- Q1) Avoid "there is/are/was/were" or "it is/was" or "that is/are/were" or "which is/are."
Q2) Never use "itself" or similar forms in the context of, for example, "the poem itself" or "the king himself."
Q3) Avoid "one" as a pronoun, as in the context "One knows this . . .". (Too fruity.)
Q4) Never use "as" when you mean "because" or "since."
Q5) Use an active voice. Write *Foucault states* not *Foucault is stating*. (Get rid of "—ing" everywhere.)
Q6) Always introduce, integrate, and contextualize quotations.
Q7) Do not confuse subject with theme (e.g., subject = cheese; theme = cheese is hell).
Q8) Never use a complex word when a simple one will do.
Q9) Watch out for overuse of *therefore*, *however*, *hence*, *furthermore*, *consequently*, *thus*, and *indeed*.
Q10) Avoid beginning sentences with "It." (What does the "It" refer to?)
Q11) Avoid waffle (waffling/fuzzy) words: *actually*, *aspects*, *basically*, *certainly*, *essentially*, *generally*, *overall*, *quite*, *really*, *simply*, *situation*, *truly*, *ultimately*, *virtually*, and *very*. *Could*, *should*, and *would* are also conspicuous wazzlers.
Q12) **WORDINESS**: when possible and prudent, purge or prune the following—and ALL clichés:

aforementioned = DELETE
a considerable amount of = DELETE OR be specific
a lot of = many, much
a majority of = most, much of, many
added bonus = bonus
advance warning = warning
advance planning = planning
after all is said and done = DELETE
all of a sudden = suddenly
all of these = these
along the lines of = like
amongst = among
are/was/were able to = can OR DELETE
as a matter of fact = in fact OR DELETE
as a means to = to
as a whole = DELETE
as being a = as OR DELETE
as it truly is = DELETE
as of the moment = DELETE
as the case may be = DELETE
at all times = always OR DELETE
at first glance = DELETE
at the present time = currently, now
at the same time that = while
at this point in time = now OR DELETE
basic necessity = necessity
basic fundamentals = basics OR fundamentals
because of the fact of = because of
being = DELETE
both of these/them/the = both
brings to mind = recalls/suggests
by and large = DELETE
by definition = DELETE
by leaps and bounds = DELETE
by means of = by
by the use of = using
by virtue of [the fact that] = by
came to a realization = realized/recognized
came to an abrupt end = end[ed] abruptly
can be seen as = is OR DELETE
clearly articulate = articulate
close scrutiny = scrutiny
common similarities = similarities
compare and contrast = compare
complete stranger = stranger
completely eliminate = eliminate
concerning the matter of = about/regarding

core essence = DELETE
correctional facility = jail
despite the fact that = although
did not succeed = failed
due to the effects = because
due to the fact that = because
during the course of = during
each and every one = each, every
each individual = DELETE OR everyone
each of = each
early on in the = early in the
economically deprived = poor
enter into = enter OR DELETE
erode away = erode
every single one = each one, all, each
final demise/destination/outcome = DELETE FINAL
first and foremost = first
for all intents and purposes = DELETE or actually
for that which is = for the
for the purpose of = to, for
foreseeable future = [when exactly?]
free gift = gift
future plans/prospects = plans OR prospects
general consensus = consensus
general public = public
grave crisis = crisis
hand-in-hand = together
has/had/have a tendency to = often OR DELETE
has/had/have been found to be = is/was/are
has/had/have the ability to/capacity for = can/could
has/had/have the effect of = DELETE
has/had/have the opportunity to = can/could
I myself = I
in a situation in which = in
in a very real sense = DELETE
in actuality = DELETE
in all likelihood/probability = likely/probably
in close proximity = near
in connection with = about
in essence = DELETE
in light of the fact that = because
in nature = DELETE
in order to = to
in reality = DELETE
in reference to = about/regarding
in the neighborhood of = about
in spite of = despite

in spite of the fact that = although
 in terms of = DELETE
 in the area of = in
 in the course of = during, while
 in the event that = if
 in the final analysis = finally OR DELETE
 in the light of = considering OR DELETE
 in the majority of instances = usually
 in the midst of = during, amid
 in the nature of = DELETE
 in the near future = soon OR DELETE
 in the not too distant future = soon OR DELETE
 in this day and age = currently, now, today
 in today's society = today
 in view of the fact that = because
 in which = DELETE
 inner feelings = feelings
 interestingly enough = DELETE
 irregardless = DELETE
 is able to = can
 is aware of the fact that = knows
 is found to be = is
 is going to = will
 is in conflict with = conflicts with/is against
 is in contrast to = contrasts with
 is of significant importance = is significant OR is important
 is scared of = fears
 is seen as = is
 is when = is OR DELETE
 is where = DELETE
 is/was more or less = is/was
 it can be seen that = DELETE
 it could happen that = could/may/might
 it goes to show that = DELETE
 it is clear/evident/apparent that = DELETE
 it is crucial/important that = must/should OR DELETE
 it is interesting to not e= DELETE
 it is necessary that = must/should
 it is possible that = DELETE
 itself = DELETE
 join/gather together = join/gather
 last but not least = finally
 later on = later
 make a decision = decide
 make an assumption = assume
 make contact with = contact
 make reference to = refer to
 manner in which = way
 mental attitude = attitude
 mix together = mix
 more or less = DELETE [OR be specific]
 more preferable = preferable
 mutual agreement = agreement
 natural instinct = instinct
 necessary prerequisite = prerequisite
 of great importance = DELETE OR is important
 off of = off OR from
 on a daily basis = daily
 on account of the fact that = because
 on the basis of = because, based on
 on the grounds that = because
 on the occasion of = on
 on the situation of = about
 on the whole = DELETE
 on top of all this = moreover OR DELETE
 one of the more = DELETE
 one of the most interesting = DELETE
 only serves to = DELETE
 overall goal = goal
 overall structure = structure

owing to the fact that = because
 particular type of = DELETE
 past experience = experience
 past history = history
 past memories = memories
 period of time = period, time
 plan ahead = plan
 previous/prior to = before
 providing that = provided
 quite clearly = DELETE
 real truth/life = truth/life
 reconsider again = reconsider
 regardless of the fact that = although
 respective/respectively = DELETE
 right up to the = up to the OR to the
 serve the purpose of = DELETE
 serves to explain/show = explain/show
 some kind of = DELETE
 somewhere in the neighborhood of = about
 sort of = DELETE
 study in depth = study
 symbolically represents = represents, symbolizes
 take action = act
 take the time = DELETE
 terrible/horrible tragedy = tragedy
 that/this being said = DELETE
 that exists = DELETE
 that exists between/with/among = between/with/among
 that is/are = DELETE when possible
 that is to say = DELETE
 the colour green = green
 the end/final result = the result
 the fact that = that OR DELETE
 the final conclusion = the conclusion
 the majority of = most/many
 the month of September = September
 the overall plan = the plan
 the possibility exists for = may/might/could
 the reason is because = the reason/because
 the reason why = the reason, why, because
 the type/use of = DELETE
 the way [manner] in which = the way OR DELETE
 the whole [any noun] = DELETE "whole"
 the world we live in = the world/life OR DELETE
 there is a chance that = may/might/could
 there is a need = DELETE
 to a further extent = further
 throughout the course of = throughout the
 through the use of = through
 total abstinence = abstinence
 total annihilation = annihilation
 totally obvious = obvious
 true facts = facts
 united as one = united
 until such time as = until
 utmost perfection = perfection
 valuable asset = asset
 various different = various
 we are of the opinion that = we believe
 well aware of = aware
 what is important is = DELETE
 when all is said and done = DELETE
 whether or not = whether/if OR DELETE
 which have been found to be = are OR DELETE
 which is = DELETE (when possible)
 who are/was/were = DELETE
 with regard to = about/regarding
 with the exception of = except for
 witnessed first hand = witnessed