

## Spell-Check Unreliability

Most word processing programs and apps include editing tools such as a standard spell-check that searches a document for misspelled words and typos. The program detects unintentional errors that can happen when typing quickly or when unsure of the spelling. Spell-check then suggests corrections, which may not always be accurate.

Spell-check serves as a valuable screening tool for writers during the editing stage to use for checking accuracy. Many email, discussion board, and word-processing programs have spell-check enabled as an automatic feature. However, as with any safeguard, spell-check has its limitations and must be utilized with caution. Gleaned from actual student papers, the following examples illustrate spell-check's imperfections and shortcomings.

### **1. Rating an employee's satisfaction with his job seems straight forward.**

"Straightforward" should be one word, but Microsoft Word will not catch the error unless the grammar checking feature is enabled.

### **2. I will analyze the three activities of leaders and compare them to peer reviewed articles.**

The term "peer-reviewed" requires a hyphen because it comes before the noun it modifies.

### **3. Therefore, educators of this age group should be facilitating instruction that challenges their students' appropriately.**

While "students" is not spelled incorrectly, the inclusion of the apostrophe is erroneous. Apostrophes are never used to indicate plural nouns, except in very special cases. (See Writing Aid on "[Uses of Apostrophes.](#)")

### **4. The results of this project validate that I am and extravert.**

The indefinite article "an" should take the place of the conjunction "and."

### **5. ENTJ represents the four dominate preferences in my personality.**

The adjective "dominant" is required to modify "preferences" rather than the verb "dominate."

### **6. The authors state in their internationally bestseller that the most important aspect of leading is simply knowing oneself.**

This sentence is using the adverb "internationally" to modify the noun "bestseller"; it would, instead, be correct to write either "internationally bestselling book" (an adverb can modify an adjective such as "bestselling") or "international bestseller" (an adjective modifying a noun).

### **7. By listening and getting involved in blogs and online communities, as well as being sensitive to consumers, business will see longevity and endue the storm.**

The meaning of "endue" is different from that of "endure," which is the word the student meant to write in this context and usage.

**As with any editing tool, spell-check is not a substitute for careful proofreading of your writing!**