

Strategies for Editing

Good writers have strategies for finding the mistakes in their writing.

1. Look for mistakes you repeat.

Examples: Check all verbs for the correct tense if you sometimes make verb tense mistakes.

2. Look for words that signal places where you sometimes make mistakes.

Example: Check each sentence that begins with *Because* if you sometimes write fragments beginning with this word.

3. Underline words you are not sure how to spell, and look them up in a dictionary. Examine carefully homophones that would not be picked up by your spell-checker.
4. Locate and check all commas and connecting words if you tend to write long sentences.

Remember that asking for help with editing is not “cheating.” Even professional writers have editors to help them correct their mistakes.