Sample Style Sheet Bennett's Edits bennettsedits.com

Manuscript Title Line Editor Style Sheet

References

Chicago Manual of Style, 17th ed. Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th ed.

Numbers

Spell out whole numbers from zero through one hundred. (CMS 9.2)

Spell out whole numbers one through one hundred followed by *hundred, thousand,* or *hundred thousand* unless referring to monetary amounts. (CMS 9.4)

Spell out numbers in dialogue.

Use numerals and spell out the word *percent* when writing percentages unless the percentage occurs within dialogue. If occurring in dialogue, spell out the number with the word *percent*. (CMS 9.18)

Capitalization

Lowercase abbreviations for time of day and include periods. Ex: **a.m.** not **AM**, **p.m.** not **PM** (CMS 10.41)

Spelling

Follow US spelling rules.

Use **blond** for males and females.

Abbreviate social titles to Mr. and Dr. unless they are used alone in place of a name. (CMS 10.16)

Punctuation

Use Oxford comma.

Use quotation marks for small phrases like "me time."

Use quotation marks for descriptive phrases to describe gestures. (Ex: an "off we go" gesture)

Do not use an em dash within or immediately following another element set off by an em dash or pair of em dashes. (CMS 6.85)

Do not add ending punctuation after oops on p. 154 and 155. The lack of periods is intentional.

Dialogue

Allow uncommon contractions in dialogue. (Ex: *John's* for *John is, something's* for *something is*) Preserve improper grammar in Jessica's dialogue.

Allow the abbreviation PA for Pennsylvania in dialogue. (p. 42)

Dialogue with extended quotation marks: **John** (p. 15-16), **Daniel** (p. 129), **John** (p. 186), **Jessica** (p. 200-201)

Use a hyphen for stuttered or stammered speech and lowercase the second letter if the stuttered word is at the beginning of a sentence unless the word is a proper noun. (Ex: T-Travis is m-my brother. M-my brother i-is Travis. Travis, I-I am your s-sister. I-is Travis your brother?)

Italics

Use italics for internal dialogue.

Use italics for chapter headings.

Use italics for onomatopoeia.

Use Bold for text messages.

Use italics for handwritten words.

Trademarks and brand names

Adirondack

Band-Aid

Claritin

CNN

Converse

Dodge Charger

Dodge Ram

Facebook

Fritos

iTunes

Jacuzzi

Jeep Wrangler

Mastercard

Pop Rocks

Pop-Tarts

Q-tip

Styrofoam

Tylenol

Weed eater

Windows (as in Microsoft)

Movies, TV shows, characters, songs, and books

"You Belong with Me" (song)

An Abundance of Katherines (book)

James Bond (character)

Master Yoda (character)

PAW Patrol (TV show)

The Lion King (movie)

the New York Times (newspaper)

Slang

'em

ass

asshole

aw

bullshit

come onnnn (p. 185)

crappy

damn it

damn

kiddo(s)

dang

e'rybody (p. 249)

eh

fuck

fucking

f-word

goddamn

gonna

gotcha

gotta

hell

helloooo (p. 100)

huh

im-fucking-possible

jeez

kinda

mm-hmm

outta

playin'

shhh

shiiiit (p.185)

shit

shitty

ugh

uh

uh-huh

wanna

ya

yeah

yup

<u>Places</u>

1 Alder Street

11 Hope Lane

13 Hope Lane

East Coast

General Hospital

Highway 15 East

Hope Lane

New York

New York, New York

Pennsylvania

Phoenix

Regency Apartment Complex also the Regency

Route 33

Saint Peter Catholic School also Saint Peter

Seaside, New Jersey

the Northeast

United States

Washington

Washinton Elementary

Word List

5 x 8

5G

911

à la

Achilles' heel

afterward not afterwards

amongst not among

ax not axe

backwards not backward

Cape Cod (as in cottage)

Catholic

chain saw

chainsawing

co-shared

COVID

COVID-19

crescendoed

déjà vu

dreamt not *dreamed*

Drive (capped when referring to the proper name of the gear position)

Edvard Munch (artist)

EKG

four-ways (as in flashers)

Global Studies

God

hiccuped

Houdini

ibuprofen

icebreaking

knelt not kneeled

leapt not leaped

lightsaber

lip-smack

Lord (capped when referring to God)

Maps app

Monopoly (board game)

Neutral (capped when referring to the proper name of the gear position)

New York State Fair

okay not OK

one-way (as in street)

Park (capped when referring to the proper name of a gear position)

Realtor

Reverse (capped when referring to the proper name of the gear position)

Roanoke

Scrabble (board game)

sirening

Stratego (board game)

The Scream (painting)

thwack

toward not towards

Twister (board game)

United Nations

Washington Central School District

Wi-Fi

ziplock

Name List

Annette Smith: female, Jessica's mother, gray hair, brown eyes, glasses, uses a cane when walking

Daniel Smith/Danny: male, Jessica's brother, buzzed haircut, brown eyes

Helen: female

Jan: female, curly brown hair, short

Jessica Smith/Jess: female, long blond hair, brown eyes, short, curvy, John's girlfriend

John Johnson: male, 42 years old, brown hair, green eyes, Jessica's boyfriend, scar on left hand

Kane Johnson: male, John's son, brown hair, gray eyes, 7 years old

Mike: male, waiter