

Exercises

Grammarly

We have compiled these exercises and classroom activities to encourage students to become more self-reflective, confident, and critical writers when using grammar- and style-checking tools.

Some exercises have been designed with a specific tool in mind, while others are more generic. Most can be adapted for use with any other writing tool, as long as the two tools fulfil similar functions. Some activities may work better as individual student tasks; others as small group exercises, or even class-wide discussions. Again, feel free to adapt the format to match your needs.

Testing Grammarly's contextual editing (Version 1)

individual  classroom 

Ask your students to feed a piece of text through Grammarly three times, each time setting slightly different goals for writing (i.e., changing the intent, audience, style, emotion and domain in the settings). Ask them to compare the different (if at all) corrections that the grammar and style checker suggests in each instance.

Trying out Grammarly's contextual editing (Version 2)

individual  group  classroom 

The students should choose three different types of text (e.g., a poem, a blog post and a technical writing piece) and run a sample of each through Grammarly. Remember that before they do so, they have to set the writing goals for each text.

When choosing these goals, they can opt for the context that matches the chosen sample well, or they can deliberately apply the wrong criteria to each sample (e.g., choosing a highly opinionated journalistic piece as one with mild emotion, formal style, technical domain, expert audience, and intent of telling a story).

After receiving feedback, the students can work in pairs or in small groups to compare and discuss their findings. Aside from evaluating the tool's capacity for contextual editing, encourage the students to think about how the context of writing changes what is seen as a grammatical or stylistic mistake.

Blinding following Grammarly's suggestions

group  classroom 

Choose or produce a text sample with many grammatical, spelling and stylistic issues (but make sure it is still coherent). Instruct the students to run it through Grammarly, accepting every suggested correction. Working in pairs or small groups, the students should evaluate the edited text and identify any false

positives, false negatives, and/or correctly noted errors that have been inappropriately corrected. The results could be shared with the rest of the class.