This year we recognize students from schools in Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Idaho, and Texas. Here are their submissions:

**Porter Davis**  
8th grade  
Canfield Middle School  
Coeur d’Alene, Idaho

Hi, my name is Porter Davis. I am an 8th grade student at Canfield Middle School. My biggest pet peeve in class is reading other students’ dazzling work and they have misplaced a comma. Misplacing a comma can eradicate the entire plot of a marvelous story. Doing such a thing makes a character say something that they didn’t mean, for example, “Let’s eat grandma” is not the same as “Let’s eat, grandma”. One is eating grandma and the other is eating with grandma. Overlooking multiple commas is where I get down to business. Doing such an inconceivable action will not only make readers furious, but it will absolutely demolish your bewildering story. This action not only changes the fabulous plot but it can change the eye-opening meaning. If this is for a school assessment, not only will you get an unthinkable grade but a confusing story that no one wants to read. Another reason misplacing commas makes me fuming because people are taught how to use unerring punctuation from the time they are 8 years old. Another reason this gets on my nerves is because too many times people are just flat out too lazy to use punctuation correctly. I know for a fact, that when I use good grammar, I am more confident in my mind-blowing piece.

**Aiden Good**  
8th grade  
Christ the King School  
Rutland, Vermont

The fact that they forgot to put a comma in this caution sign is very disturbing to me. It makes the sign sound like the hunters are hunting pedestrians, which is not good at all for the pedestrians. I really feel bad for pedestrians that it may be their last day on earth. I really hope that hunters are smart enough to look at this sign and notice the punctuation error, and that they don’t harm any pedestrians. It just goes to show how important punctuation really is, and that it saves lives every day. Although it might not save lives wherever this sign might be. R.I.P. 😢زار
This bothers me, so much because I feel as if they are gonna hunt poor pedestrians. I mean I don’t even think they are in season yet so it’s not right that they just put poor punctuation on that sign which could result in the harm of pedestrians. I’m am offended by this and they need to fix it because pedestrians live matter. #pedestrianslivematter

Benjamin Quinones
Lincoln High School
Shinnston, West Virginia
There are many reasons why these instructions make me mad. The word pump’s should be spelled pumps, card’s should be spelled cards, in side should be inside, you’re should be your, and inconvenius, should be inconvenience. There are many mistakes and it is for a public gas station where many people can see it. This doesn’t look good for the business or the employees. Mistakes like these can hurt the amount of people that show up there to get gas.
This is wrong because of the lack of commas. It should read “toilet only for disabled, elderly, pregnant, and children.” This is very annoying because it is confusing for some people. There are many other instances of these kind of grammar mistakes. This happens very often, and many people have been confused. Also, think about how many people have not gone to this bathroom. It would be because of this mistake.

It really bothers me to see memes with incorrect punctuation. This one bothers me in particular, and I think it bothers me so much because the person who made this sign had one job. However, they still messed up. All they had to do was put a comma behind DISABLED, ELDERLY, PREGNANT, and CHILDREN. Then it would have made sense. Now all that’s left is a sign that’s going to confuse a lot of people. I get why it would be funny, and it would be funny enough to make me laugh if it didn’t irritate me so much. This is the only meme I have read that has bothered me, and I don’t think it will be the last.
I hate it when people don't know the difference between "your" and "you're". There so stupid.

Keely Goelden
9th grade
Elysian Fields High School
Elysian Fields, Texas

Is there any particular punctuation error that drives you insane, a mistake that makes you want to scream and yell? There is one thing that bothers me above all, and it's the misuse of the apostrophe in different situations. For example, the situation that gets on my every last nerve is when a person uses "your" instead of "you're" or the other way around. Also, I see the same situation but with "there", "their", and "they're". These errors drive me absolutely crazy! These are simple mistakes that aren't that hard to understand, so why can't people just use the correct words? I've come to somewhat of a conclusion that not only this punctuation error but many errors are because of texting. I often find myself correcting my friends' texts because they used the apostrophe incorrectly or completely left it out of a word. This ends to get on their nerves, but I'm only trying to help them! They may not realize it now, but my tendency to correct them will help in the future when they have to write an application and need to use correct punctuation. Perhaps I get the urge to correct them from my mother, a retired English teacher, who would always correct my writing when I was younger. I think that everyone should have a little punctuation supervision from time to time for their own benefit and to keep me from going crazy on them.
Eva Nichols  
12th grade  
Washington-Liberty High School  
Arlington, Virginia

Whoo boy. Where does one even start with this ghastly...misprint? I’d like to think it was just that, but then again my faith in humanity wavers just a bit more for every “your amazing” or “its really fun” I have ever had the displeasure of observing. Therefore, I must resort to poking a bit of fun at this son or daughter whose mother is currently doing cartwheels in her grave. If you aren’t going to omit the unnecessary apostrophe, why not just leave it at your dead mother being the best mother? Happier mother; embarrassing gaffe avoided. Instead, your family name is besmirched by an easily preventable punctuation error. Every time you wish to visit your mother’s grave -- notice the proper use of “mother’s” -- you are practically required to feel ashamed of yourself for condoning this slip-up. Each instance that someone passes by the gravestone and happens to glance over, instead of expressing a resounding “aww,” they will likely cringe and turn away as quickly as possible. Your poor lovely mother’s character is thrown out of the window and replaced by the same frustration I am currently experiencing. Perhaps I am being too quick with my judgment -- maybe the fault lies instead solely in the hands of the engraver. Either way, this person deserves to be fired, or at the very least be demoted. Here’s another suggestion: maybe they should stick to writing on cakes with icing or other professions with easily-reversible actions.
My problem with apostrophes in the days of the week

I have problems with a lot of punctuation errors, but there is one that stands out to me as the worst. One of the punctuation errors that angers me the most is using an apostrophe wrong in the days of the week. Every time I have to read a tweet from my (fully educated) cousin complaining about how “Monday’s are the worst,” I consider deleting my account and throwing my phone directly into the nearest river. This mistake is one that annoys me so much because it’s such a simple one to fix. Not only is “Monday’s” technically wrong, it just looks wrong. You wouldn’t write “week’s” to make “week” plural because it looks wrong, so you shouldn’t ever write “Wednesday’s.” Adding an apostrophe to a word like “Wednesdays” makes the word possessive (which is definitely not the intention of most people). I’ve thought long and hard about when it would be appropriate to use the word spelled “Wednesday’s,” and the only ways to use it are in contexts such as these:

“Wednesday’s schedule is stressing me out!” (This is where the apostrophe indicates a possessive)

“Wednesday’s the best day” (This is where the apostrophe replaces “is”)

Can I understand what people are trying to say when they make this error? Yes. But is it correct? No.
Every time you use “your” for “you’re”

You make Batman cry

The deciding factor in any relationship, whether it be romantic or platonic, comes down to one simple grammatical rule. Your versus you’re. A mistake that tells more about a person than any personality test ever could.

Imagine if you will, you are texting back and forth with supposedly the coolest person to ever walk this earth. Midway through the conversation, they mix up your and you’re. The conversation has just taken a drastic turn for the worst. Now you know that person is careless, anyone who doesn’t take the minuscule amount of time to check a text before they send it must be. You know this person doesn’t understand that actions have consequences. By casually mixing up your and you’re they could have seriously endangered someone. All it takes is an apostrophe to distinguish between “your dinner” and “you’re dinner”, a lifesaving clarification. You know this person must be incredibly self-absorbed. Leaving you to decipher what the intended meaning of the text was while struggling through a grammatical blunder is something I wouldn’t wish on my worst enemy.

Your versus you’re is an easily avoidable mistake. While it’s grating and irritating when people continue to mix up the two, I must say I’m thankful for it. It’s the surest test of character I have yet to find.
Martha Hays
12th grade
Washington-Liberty High School
Arlington, Virginia

With the Oxford Comma:
We invited the rhinoceri, Washington, and Lincoln.

Without the Oxford Comma:
We invited the rhinoceri, Washington and Lincoln.

Not using the Oxford comma is one of the punctuation errors that makes me the maddest. I know that in some situations it is correct to not use the comma, but come on! It’s a list, it should be divided by commas! I have always learned to put commas to separate a list and I just don’t understand why someone wouldn’t use a comma there. It clarifies any confusion that could arise and helps everybody if it is used. Whenever I am editing someone else’s paper I always add the Oxford comma if they haven’t. Sometimes I add it to printed worksheets too. I like this meme because it illustrates a situation where the Oxford comma is needed to make the sentence correct. It is also really funny to imagine George Washington and Abraham Lincoln as rhinoceri.
The clock hits 11:50 and there you are, sitting at your desk, polishing off the essay you have been procrastinating for a month. With the word count reached, a title created, and the page numbers inserted, all seems to have worked out. Then, you see it. Your knees go weak, hands clammy, face white as a ghost. You had been writing so fast you had forgotten to put hyphenate “under secretary”. Disgusting. While this situation may not seem relatable, I find that the failure to hyphenate ruins the look of a piece of writing. This pet peeve is based more on the aesthetic aspect of writing than my commitment to grammar rules. Looking at two words that have been stuck together, or kept apart, rather than hyphenated bothers me and breaks my flow of reading. The moment of discovery involves confusion and internal debate, as I know the words look wrong but I am not sure whether they are actually wrong. Similar to when something is slightly off center, a case of “non-hyphenation” hurts somewhere just below the surface. No matter the situation, I have to sit there and consider how to quell the mounting feelings of unease. I cannot continue reading while this little error messes up a whole sentence, paragraph, or essay. Solely due to that terrible moment of aesthetic displeasure, the failure to hyphenate is one of my least favorite forms of punctuation error.