

### EXERCISE THREE: EDITING

The following paragraph contains examples of some common errors in grammar. There are nine in total. Read the passage aloud to help you identify them all. Then, edit the passage to correct its grammar and to make stylistic and syntactic (sentence structure) improvements.

The motive of the fictional autobiographers of Charlotte Bronte's novels must of been to "sum" an existence, "bound" a life, and find safety in the "strait limits" of an enclosed mind. Because all three autobiographers, William Crimsworth, Jane Eyre, and Lucy Snowe, seem to need to oversimplify both their own natures and the worlds in which they live in. They are all different, however, they go and do it in basically the same way! Repressing what her more instinctual impulses tell her about the complex truths of experience; this is how they generate personal mythologies by which to rationalize their lives.

Answer Key on next page

The first passage identifies the errors. Did you find all nine of them?

The motive of the fictional autobiographers of Charlotte Bronte's novels must of been (incorrect verb form) to "sum" an existence, "bound" a life, and find safety in the "strait limits" of an enclosed mind. Because all three autobiographers, William Crimsworth, Jane Eyre, and Lucy Snowe, seem to need to oversimplify both their own natures and the worlds in which they live in (unnecessary repetition of preposition 'in' and sentence fragment) They are all different, however, they go and do it in basically the same way! (run-on sentence and unclear, informal wording in latter part of sentence) Repressing what her (singular pronoun 'her' doesn't agree with plural antecedent 'autobiographers') more instinctual impulses tell her (same pronoun error as preceding one) about the complex truths of experience; (incorrect use of semi-colon) this is how (unnecessary words) they generate personal mythologies by which to rationalize their lives.

Here is the passage with all the errors corrected.

The motive of the fictional autobiographers of Charlotte Bronte's novels must have been to "sum" an existence, "bound" a life, and find safety in the "strait limits" of an enclosed mind. All three autobiographers, William Crimsworth, Jane Eyre, and Lucy Snowe, seem to need to oversimplify both their own natures and the worlds in which they live. They are all different; however, their methods are basically the same. Repressing what their more instinctual impulses tell them about the complex truths of experience, they generate personal mythologies by which to rationalize their lives.