

# Syntax



**So you've come to the writing  
center, and you're like:**

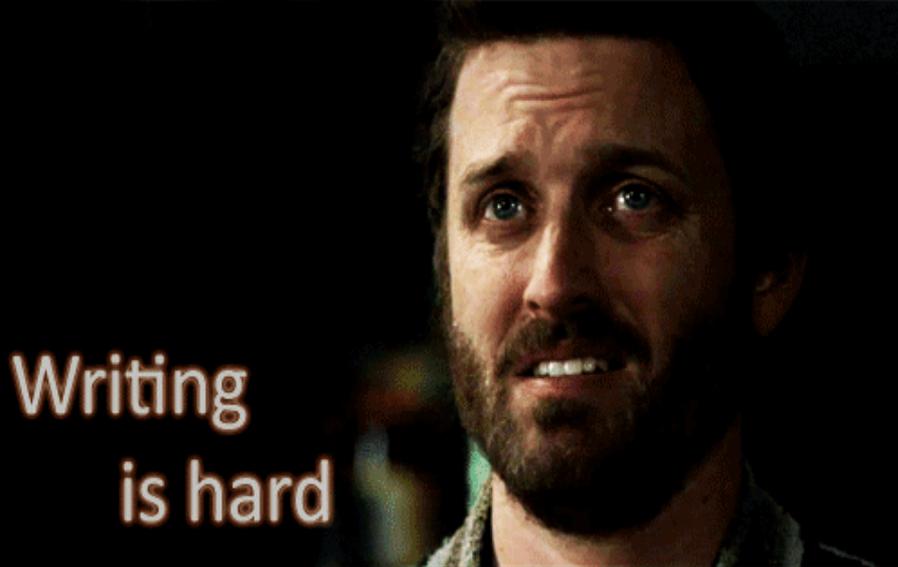


A woman with long, straight blonde hair is shown from the chest up. She is wearing a gold and blue patterned top with a high collar. The background is a dimly lit room with a large dark vase and a white bowl visible.

***I didn't come here to argue grammar.***

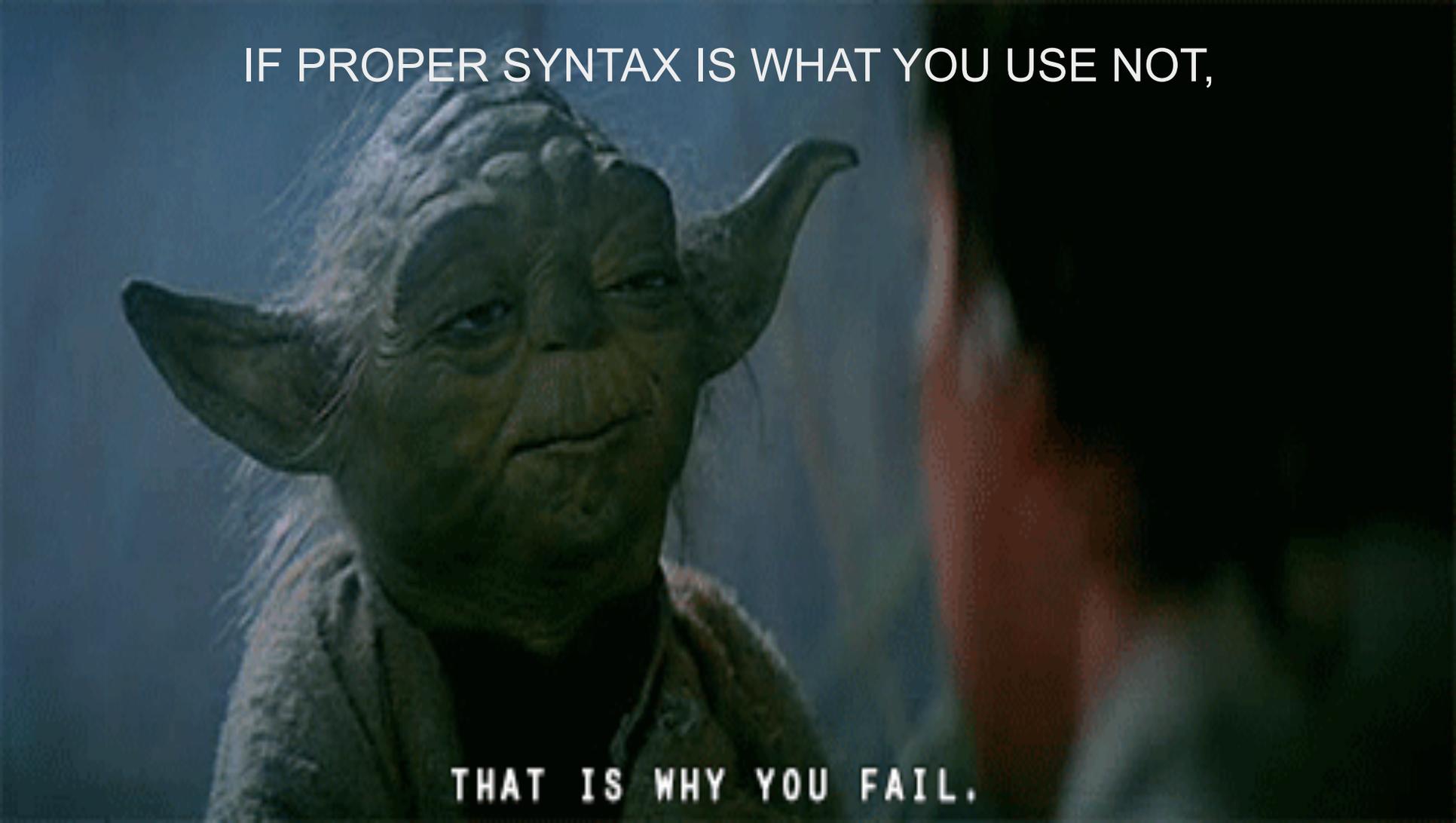
**BUT GUESS  
WHAT?**





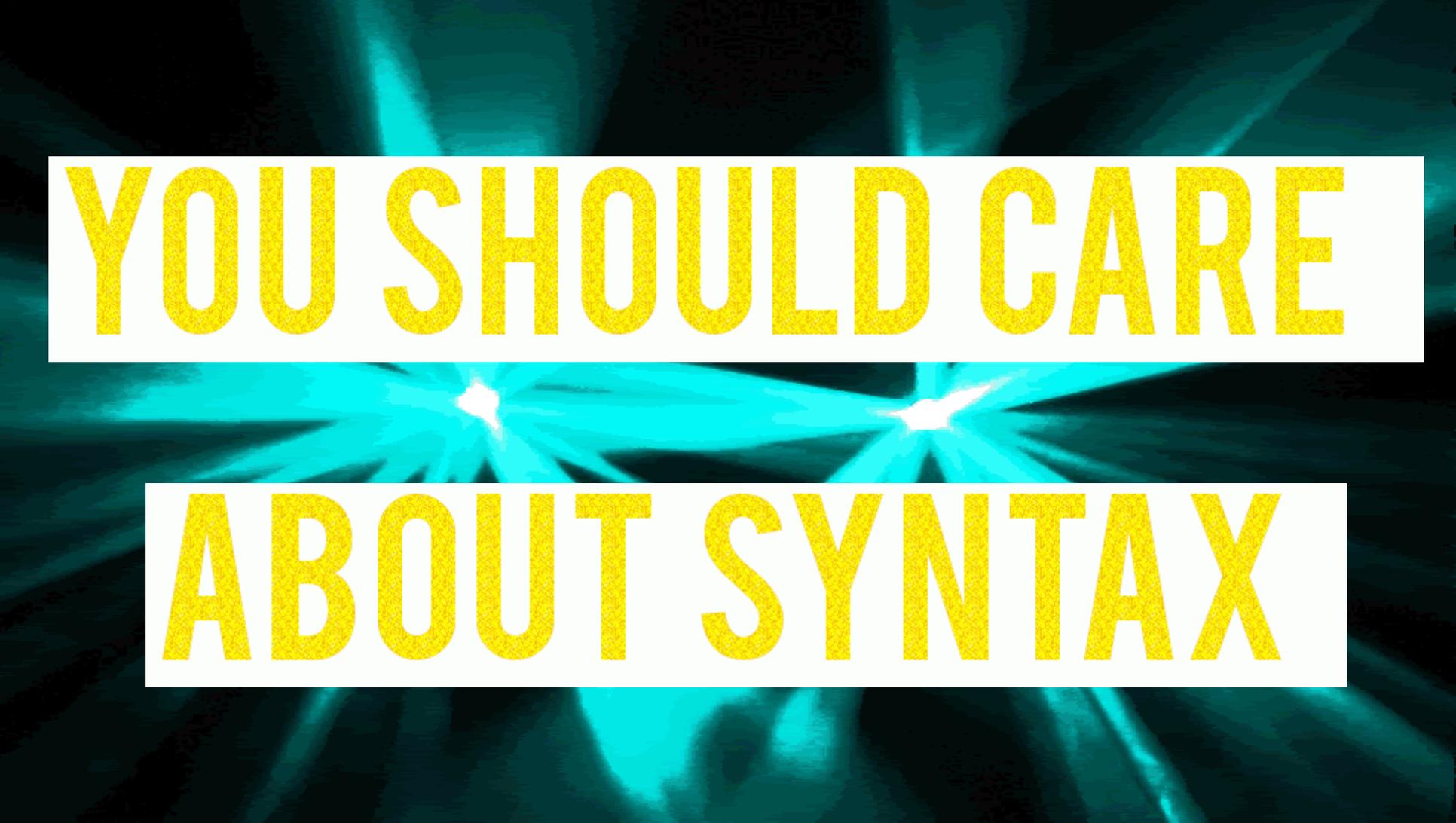
# And





IF PROPER SYNTAX IS WHAT YOU USE NOT,

THAT IS WHY YOU FAIL.



**YOU SHOULD CARE**

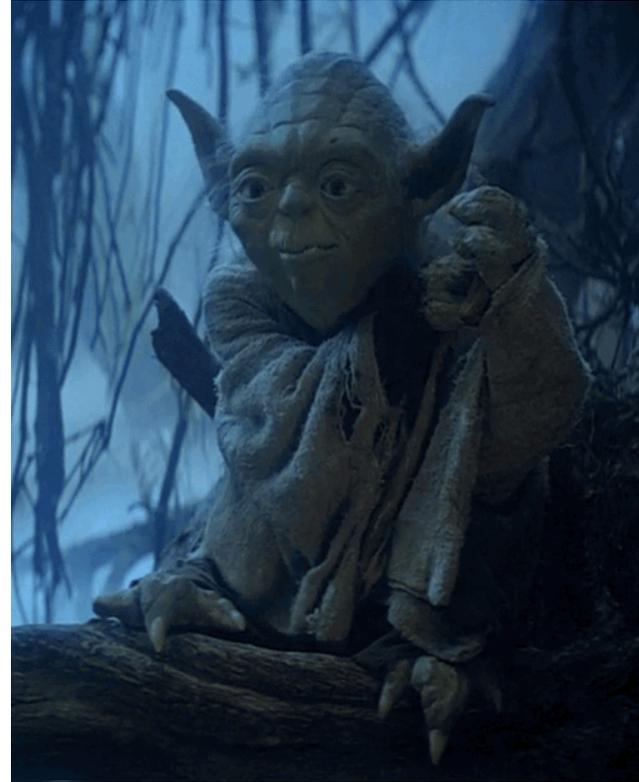
**ABOUT SYNTAX**

## Syntax: What is?

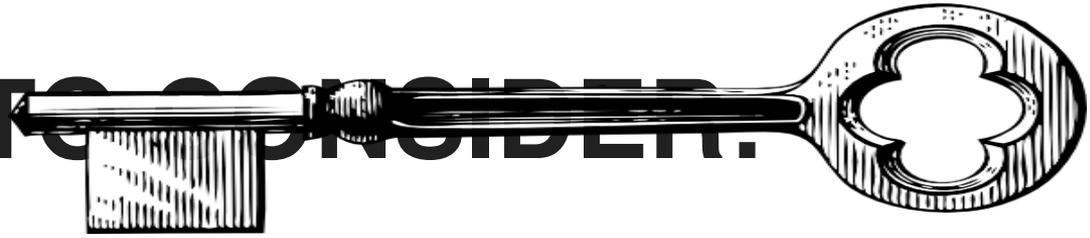
- According to (your bff) The Oxford English Dictionary, syntax is:

The set of rules and principles in a language according to which words, phrases, and clauses are arranged to create well-formed sentences.

Or in other words, the reason why we don't go around talking like Yoda.



# KEY THINGS TO CONSIDER.



- **Subject Verb Agreement**
- **Having a Clearly Defined Subject**
- **Subordinate Clause Placement**
-

# SUBJECT VERB AGREEMENT

- SO, basically subject verb agreement means that you need to end a sentence the way you started it. For example, if you start with three dragons, you'd better finish that sentence with a plural verb.

If your dragons go missing, you would say:

**WHERE ARE MY DRAGONS?!**  
Instead of: "Where is my dragons"

**And now we have an excerpt  
from “My Immortal”- which is  
widely considered the worst  
fanfiction ever written.**

# Subject-Verb Agreement Example:

“Hi my name is Ebony Dark’ness  
Dementia Raven Way and I have  
long ebony black hair (that’s how I  
got my name) with purple streaks  
and red tips that reaches my mid-  
back and icy blue eyes like limpid  
tears and a lot of people tell me I

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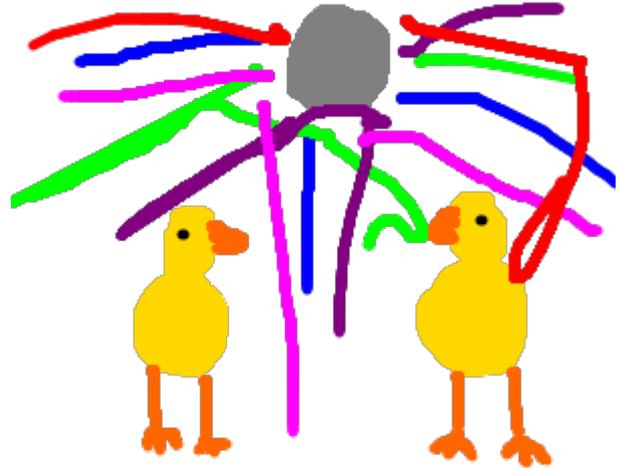
# Have a Clearly Defined Subject

- This part kind of goes hand-in-hand with passive voice and active voice, but isn't necessarily the same. Basically, you want to make sure that it's easy to tell the subject of your sentence.
- "The ducks attended the rave".

What is this sentence about?

What did the ducks do?

- Ducks
- They attended the rave.



# Clearly Defined Subject Example

“I was really scared about Voldemort all day. I was even upset went to rehearsals with my gothic metal band Bloody Gothic Rose 666. I am the lead singer of it and I play guitar. People say that we sound like a cross between GC, Slipknot and MCR. The other people in the band are B’loody Mary, Vampire, Draco, Ron (although we call him Diabolo now. He has black hair now with blue streaks in it.) and Hagrid. Only today Draco and Vampire were depressed so they weren’t coming and we wrote songs instead.”-- Tara Gilesbie, My Immortal

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# Clearly Defined Subject Example

“Ron (although we call him Diabolo now. He has black hair now with blue streaks in it.)”

- What is the subject here?
  - Is it “we”? Or Ron (now known as Diabolo)? Or his hair with blue streaks?
- What is the subject doing?
  - Are we calling Ron something, describing ron, or Describing Ron’s Hair?

# Clearly Defined Subject Example

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## Subordinate Clause Placement

- Sometimes the placement of a subordinate clause can confuse the meaning of a sentence and make the whole thing come out awkward.
- Typically, you want the subordinate clause to be directly next to whatever it's modifying.
- “Even though I tried my best to make Johnny love me, he always avoided my affections.”

A subordinate clause is an umbrella term for anything in a sentence that gives any extra information.

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# Subordinate Clause Placement Example

While it's usually at this part of the powerpoint that I would put another passage from *My Immortal* for us to correct, none of the sentences are complex enough to contain subordinate clauses.

## Subordinate Clause Placement Example

For this reason , we will be analyzing *A game of thrones* fanfiction by yours truly. It's called: "This Dragon Hoards True Love".

# Subordinate Clause Placement Example

If you like what you read you can follow me on fanfiction.com my username is

“M@n1cP1x13Dr3@mGURL1998”

# Subordinate Clause Placement Example

Hi my name is Seraphina Dra'coness Khaleesi Stark and I have dirty blonde hair that goes just past my shoulder, bangs, and a pair of aviator goggles that I wear all the time (AN: I actually used to do this IRL- crazy rite???) . A lot of people tell me that I look like Kirsten Dunst (AN: if u don't know who she is get da hell out of here!). I'm not related to Virginia Woolf but I wish I were because she's such a good riter. Which is good because I'm soooo hot, I'm a descendant of dragons, so fire can't hurt me. A lot of Greyjoys stared at me. I sicked my dragons at them". -- This Dragon Hoards True Love by Lily Jurskis

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**Annnnnnd that's pretty  
much all you need to  
know about syntax.**

# YAY YOU!!



**But Remember: Syntax is a case-to- case thing. Sometimes There will be sentences that break these rules but otherwise work in the context of the paper.**

**Just ask yourself: “Do I understand the meaning of the sentence in the best way possible?”**

**Now, go out into the world  
as the grammatically  
brilliant star you**





\*Mic Drop\*