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Nowadays, with self-publishing and especially online publishing, do you really need to know grammar stuff anymore? I mean, with texting and shortcuts and abbreviations—LOL—and emoticons, like :~) does it really matter anymore if you use “effect” when you mean “affect”? A capitalization error here, a misspelling there, a punctuation mistake now and then...what’s the big deal? Who cares anymore—right? **Wrong.** Those are just some of the many myths would-be writers *wish* were true. Watch out if you believe any of these other classics:

- ☐ Publishers have editors to catch and correct errors.
- ☐ Worrying about small details only gets in the way of the “creative process.”
- ☐ Built-in computer programs catch and correct errors today.
- ☐ A few mistakes here and there are okay; everybody does that.
- ☐ Grammar is way too complicated to know all there is to know.

Okay, there’s some room for modern usage: “Loan” is now acceptable as a verb like “lend.” “Anxious” is replacing “eager” when “happy excitement” is meant. Simplified spellings make a certain sense: “lite” and “nite” and “enuf” and “thru.”

But be careful about writing without editing, revision, and proofreading. No one wants to wade through endless repetitive prose full of uncommon expressions and too many errors. Mistakes an author makes, or shortcuts she takes, can lead a would-be fan/reader to just give up and look elsewhere for entertainment or information. None of us wants that reaction, so...

During the workshop I’ll have handouts on both editing and grammar errors, along with ways to make your writing stronger, more readable, and more saleable. We won’t spend much time going over them during the class as they are meant more for study and follow up afterward. If you’d like advance copies emailed to you before we get together at Mount Hermon, contact me at my email address: dank@danekline.com. I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at our session.