This writing practice is for high-beginning/low-intermediate ESL. I used examples from the students own writing (either a recent test or writing homework) that I would type up to use with students’ permission. They were already used to correction symbols (which are introduced at the start of the class with the first homework assignments).

I usually go over the first example with the class together, reading sentence by sentence and stopping to ask if it looks alright or what mistakes they/I see. I have it up on a document projector and write in the correction symbols as we go through, with students making notes on their own copies. While I only write the correction symbols we do talk through the mistake and how to fix it. After, students have time to re-write the example making the corrections; I usually move around class helping and answering questions as they do this. This tends to be time-consuming, so often the re-writing is assigned as homework instead of as in-class work.

The second example students read through in pairs, trying to find and label mistakes on their own (as part of scaffolding towards more independent editing). After they have had time to work on this, I will put it up on the projector and show what mistakes were marked and take time to talk through why they are mistakes and how to fix them (as with the first example but quicker usually). Then they rewrite the second example as homework.

While this usually takes a lot of time (most/all of a 2 hour class), the students appreciate the time to go in depth on writing examples and talk through mistakes, which are very relevant as they come from their own current work. A good sense of community is also important since, especially in small classes, students will recognize whose work it is. The practice editing and looking for mistakes also offers them practical experience recognizing common errors to better equip them to review their own work.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Writing Practice 1

**Example 1**

1. Highlight the past tense verbs. Underline the present progressive verbs. Circle the present tense verbs.

2. In class, read through the paper all together. Make corrections using the correction symbols.

3. Rewrite with corrections.

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Last Saturday I made breakfast for my family. the breakfast was very delicious. My family enjoyed last Saturday. Last Saturday I cleaned my appartemnt. I washed my car. I went to the bank of America. I deposited a cheak. I came my house. I played with my daughter. She was very happy. Afternoon I made lunch for my family. We ate lunch. Then i watched a movie. In the evening we went to park for one hour. Then we walked back home. Last Sunday we were very excited and happy because we were going to wallmart store. I bought body lotion, face wash and shampoo. My husband was looking a T shirt. I liked a T shirt for my husband. He was very happy. I bought many dresses for my daughter. She ate chocolate candies. I was a little hungry. That was last stop. I stopped at coffee shop and ordered some juice a cup of coffee and a donut.

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Example 1 Rewrite:

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**Example 2**

1. Highlight the past tense verbs. Underline the present progressive verbs. Circle the present tense verbs.

2. With a partner, read through the paper together. Make corrections using the correction symbols.

3. Rewrite with corrections

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*Prompt: What is your happiest memory? Why?*

My happiest memory

I have many happiest memoris. But I have one importent happiest memory when I was studied. When I was seventeen years old. I went at trip with my friends. My friends names was Manjit, Jagjit and Nimmi. We went City Ludheana. First we made a plan about trip. Then I asked to my mome. My mome said ok you can go with friends. So I brought new dress for trip, and new sandle. So a next week we choused March 15. 1998. First we arived US college. There we studied. Then we took a bus for Ludheana. We sat togather. We had very excited. We heard music. We Injoed music. When we arived that place. We saw beautifull place. I said oh my God, because first time I saw beautifull gardens and sliyds. Also we saw a little train. We was very hungry, so first we ate some food. There we liked food beacuse food was spicey. Then we took many sliyeds, and clecked many pictures. Then we sat in train. Train go not fast not slow. We were stand frount of train adn clecked a picture. There we ment one young landy. Her name was Beet. We talked with her. We asked where you from. She said I’m from Chandighar. We clecked two pictures with her. We exechanged phone no. There is one shopping senter. So after that we were some shopping for families. I brought banglles for my sisters, and I brought some show pices for decoration. Also I was shopping. We enjoyed to trip. Same day we were go back at homes before 6 o’clock. It’s my happiest memory.

Example 2 Rewrite:

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**Correction Symbols**

**1) sp** = spelling mistake/error

**2) /** = (a) make a lowercase/small letter OR (b) delete word(s)

**3) = under a letter** = make a letter uppercase/capital

**4) frag** = fragment/incomplete sentence

**5) ** = reverse word order

**6) ** = insert/add something

**7) art.** = insert/add article (a, an, or the)

**8) pl.** = plural (more than one)

**9) sing.** = singular (one)

**10) prep.** = preposition error (in, on, over, at, under, in front of, next to….)

**11) V** = verb is incorrect