

The following symbols and abbreviations are from the Canadian Writer's Handbook (2015) and are a representative sample of the types of marking used in English essays.

## Marking Symbols and Abbreviations

*Numbers refer to sections within the handbook. See also appendix 2.*

|               |  |                |   |
|---------------|--|----------------|---|
| <b>abbr</b>   | incorrect or inappropriate abbreviation #57              | <b>lev</b>     | inappropriate level of diction #64                                  |
| <b>ack</b>    | acknowledgement of sources missing or incorrect #78–80   | <b>log</b>     | illogical #3e–h, #38, #41, #42                                      |
| <b>ad</b>     | misused adjective or adverb #19, #20                     | <b>mix</b>     | mixed construction #37  |
| <b>agr</b>    | faulty agreement #15, #18                                | <b>mm</b>      | misplaced modifier #35  |
| <b>al</b>     | illogical or incongruous alignment #38                   | <b>ms</b>      | improper manuscript form #56  |
| <b>ambig</b>  | ambiguous, clarity lacking #16b, app. 2                  | <b>nsw</b>     | no such word app. 2   |
| <b>apos</b>   | missing or misused apostrophe #62m–o                     | <b>num</b>     | numeral needed or misused #61                                       |
| <b>art</b>    | missing or misused article #19c                          | <b>org</b>     | weak or faulty organization #2g, #2i, #3d, #7a                      |
| <b>awk</b>    | awkward app. 2   | <b>p</b>       | error in punctuation ch. V  |
| <b>ca</b>     | incorrect case of pronoun #14e                           | <b>para, ¶</b> | paragraph needed, or weak paragraphing #5–9                         |
| <b>cap</b>    | missing or faulty capitalization #58                     | <b>pas</b>     | weak passive voice #17p, #29f                                       |
| <b>cl</b>     | clarity lacking #31–42, #64–72                           | <b>passim</b>  | an error occurs throughout app. 2                                   |
| <b>cliché</b> | cliché, trite #71e                                       | <b>pred</b>    | faulty predication (alignment) #38                                  |
| <b>coh</b>    | coherence lacking #1b, #7, #31                           | <b>pron</b>    | error in pronoun use #14–16   |
| <b>colloq</b> | colloquial, too informal #64b                            | <b>pv</b>      | inconsistent point of view #39, #40a                                |
| <b>comb</b>   | combine sentences app. 2                                 | <b>Q</b>       | mishandled quotation or quotation marks #54, #78                    |
| <b>comp</b>   | faulty or incomplete comparison #38, #42                 | <b>red</b>     | redundant #71c  |
| <b>conc</b>   | insufficient concreteness #66                            | <b>ref</b>     | weak or faulty pronoun reference #15, #16                           |
| <b>coord</b>  | coordination needed #23a, #41                            | <b>rep</b>     | weak or unnecessary repetition #71b                                 |
| <b>cs</b>     | comma splice #33, #44e–g                                 | <b>run-on</b>  | run-on (fused) sentence #34, #44i                                   |
| <b>d</b>      | weak or faulty diction ch. VII                           | <b>shift</b>   | unwanted shift in point of view or perspective #39, #40a            |
| <b>dev</b>    | development needed #2d, #7a.2, #9b, #66                  | <b>sp</b>      | spelling error #62  |
| <b>dm</b>     | dangling modifier #36                                    | <b>split</b>   | unnecessary split infinitive #21c                                   |
| <b>doc</b>    | faulty documentation #80                                 | <b>squint</b>  | squinting modifier #35b   |
| <b>emph</b>   | weak or unclear emphasis #1c, #8, #29, #41               | <b>ss</b>      | faulty sentence structure, or faulty sense #11, #12, ch. IV, app. 2 |
| <b>euph</b>   | weak euphemism #68                                       | <b>stet</b>    | let it stand as originally written app. 2                           |
| <b>fc</b>     | faulty coordination #41                                  | <b>sub</b>     | subordination needed #11n–o, #23c, #29i, #41                        |
| <b>fig</b>    | inappropriate or confusing figurative language #65, #71e | <b>t</b>       | error in verb tense #17g–k  |
| <b>fp, //</b> | faulty parallelism #40                                   | <b>title</b>   | incorrect format for title #59                                      |
| <b>frag</b>   | unacceptable fragment #12a–b, #32                        | <b>tr</b>      | weak or missing transition #1b, #7                                  |
| <b>fs</b>     | fused (run-on) sentence #34, #44i                        | <b>trite</b>   | trite, cliché #71e  |
| <b>gen</b>    | weak generalization #66b                                 | <b>u</b>       | weak unity #1a, #6, #41   |
| <b>id</b>     | unidiomatic usage #70                                    | <b>uc</b>      | uppercase letter needed #58   |
| <b>inc</b>    | incomplete comparison #38, #42                           | <b>us</b>      | incorrect usage #72   |
| <b>inf</b>    | too informal, colloquial #64b                            | <b>var</b>     | lack of variety #9c, #28  |
| <b>ital</b>   | italics needed or incorrect #59, #60                     | <b>vb</b>      | incorrect verb form #17b–g  |
| <b>jarg</b>   | inappropriate or unnecessary jargon #71h                 | <b>w</b>       | wordiness #71   |
| <b>lc</b>     | no caps; lowercase letter needed #58                     | <b>wo</b>      | awkward word order #11s–t, #19d–e, #20d, #22b, #35                  |
| <b>leg</b>    | illegible (handwritten work)                             | <b>ww</b>      | wrong word #62f–g, #69  |