

EXERCISE 39-1 Other Punctuation Marks

Edit the following sentences to correct errors in punctuation, focusing especially on appropriate use of the dash, parentheses, brackets, ellipsis mark, and slash. If a sentence is correct, write “correct” after it. Example:

Social insects/~~—~~ bees, for example/~~—~~ are able to communicate quite complicated messages to one another.

- a. A client has left his/her cell phone in our conference room.
 - b. The thousand dollars that we invested in the stock market—just ten years ago—has tripled in value.
 - c. Samantha selected the pass/fail option for Chemistry 101.
 - d. The child sang her way through the alphabet—A, B, C, . . . Z—and then waited for our applause.
 - e. Of the three basic schools of detective fiction, the tea-and-crumpet, the hardboiled detective, and the police procedural, I find the quaint, civilized quality of the tea-and-crumpet school the most appealing.
1. The old Valentine verse we used to chant says it all: “Sugar is sweet, /And so are you.”
 2. In studies in which mothers gazed down at their infants in their cribs but remained facially unresponsive, for example, not smiling, laughing, or showing any change of expression, the infants responded with intense weariness and eventual withdrawal.
 3. There are three points of etiquette in poker: 1. always allow someone to cut the cards, 2. don't forget to ante up, and 3. never stack your chips.
 4. In *Lifeboat*, Alfred Hitchcock appears [some say without his knowledge] in a newspaper advertisement for weight loss.
 5. When he was informed that fewer than 20 percent of the panelists scheduled for the 1986 PEN conference were women, Norman Mailer gave this explanation: “There are more men who are deeply interested in intellectual matters than women. . . . [If we put more women on the panel], all we'd be doing is lowering the level of discussion.”