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Addleson, Jennifer H. and Ricci, Digby J. *Writing Wrongs. A Communication Skills Handbook*, Pretoria: Academica, 1989.

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The pun in the title tends to make one wonder what this book is about - incorrect writing? Once one pages through the book, however, one realizes that the aim of the book is to correct (make 'right') the writing errors ('wrongs') frequently made by students.

The book is structured around a list of **Correction symbols** such as: *bc* (broken concord); *prep* (prepositions); *sp* (spelling); *id* (idiomatic expression) and *exp/awk* (faulty expression and/or awkward phrasing). These correction symbols identify the most common errors made by students.

This book has been written for the teacher as well as for the student. Once students are familiar with the correction symbols, teachers can use these symbols when assessing their students' written work. The students can look up the meaning of the relevant correction symbol in *Writing Wrongs* and then study the notes on that particular error. Each note discusses the error in detail, gives examples of typical mistakes and then explains how the error can be corrected.

*Writing Wrongs* is particularly useful for Afrikaans-speaking students who are studying English as a second language. Where necessary, the English and Afrikaans structures are compared and the differences explained.

For example:

- \* *Sometimes there is a preposition in English where there is not one in Afrikaans:*  
*Ek sal jou Maandag bel.*  
*I shall phone you **on** Monday.*
- \* *Prepositions cannot be translated from Afrikaans into English:*

*Ek is bang vir spinnekoppe.*  
*I am afraid of spiders.*

*Frequent errors*

X X  
*I stay by my parents. (live with)*  
X X  
*He went with the car. (by car)*

This approach highlights some of the preposition errors often made by Afrikaans-speaking students and also explains why the error has been made.

Not only are the most common grammatical mistakes dealt with, but the student is also given excellent guidance on paragraph writing, the development of ideas when writing essays, coherence and relevance in one's work, and the correct way to quote from a primary or secondary source in a literary essay.

I think this should prove to be a very helpful book and should be on the bookshelf of every student who is serious about not Writing Wrong English!

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Bosewitz, R. *Penguin Students' Grammar of English*. Harmondsworth: Penguin. 1987.

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The *Penguin Students' Grammar of English* is written for students who, although they have a basic knowledge of English, do not understand its structures completely. In the introduction, René Bosewitz explain that 'this book (1) gives an overview of the main