

Flubs2Fixes Game for February 29 2024

How did you do?

Here's how I would edit the passage.

Ebony, the little black kitten, was sitting huddled at the back of the crate. The little black kitten was afraid of the big human who had caught her Mama and her two brothers and her. Mama was hissing. She knew that meant danger.

Commented [ES1]: This is passive. Wherever possible, you want to use active, vivid verbs. In this case, you could simply delete "was sitting" and it would be fine to say Ebony, the little black kitten, huddled at the back of the crate. Or if you wanted to give more of a sense of her fear, you could use a word like cowered. (Don't just take what I say, use your imagination. Think about how she's feeling and show us with your words.)

Commented [ES2]: You don't need to repeat the words "The little black kitten." Since we learn later in this sentence that the kitten is a female, simply say She

Commented [ES3]: There are two ways to go here. This is technically okay. Sometimes you need to use the passive verb was, and state what's happening and move on. OR could you make this more active, using words to show what the kitten's fear looks like? What does she feel inside?

Commented [ES4]: This is a sneaky little mistake. When you use the word "Mama" as a name, as in I told Mama I couldn't go to the store, you capitalize the word. When it's after a possessive pronoun, like her or my or your, it's not capitalized. So, ...had caught her mama

Commented [ES5]: Again, this is passive. Simply say Mama hissed. Or make it more vivid. Can you show us what the mama cat looked like when she hissed?.

NOTE: Up until now, the narrator has been describing what is viewable and understandable from a vantage point somewhere outside the kitten herself. In this sentence, we're looking at things from the kitten's point of view, since it is only the kitten or her siblings that would say Mama. If you want to stay with the outside narrator, you'll need to change to Her mama hissed.

Commented [ES6]: This pronoun is misleading. Pronouns always refer to the most recent person or thing named. The fancy grammarian words are "the nearest antecedent." So it sounds as though you mean Mama knew that meant danger. Clarify by using Ebony's name. Ebony knew that meant danger.

Commented [ES7]: Again, for the most part, the narrator has been describing what is viewable and understandable from a vantage point somewhere outside the kitten herself. In this sentence, we're looking at things from the kitten's point of view, because who other than the kitten would know what she knew about the meaning of Mama's hissing? Decide the point of view you want to use, and be consistent. Either is fine, consistency is key. If you want to pull it back a notch to the outside narrator, you could say something like "Like any kitten, she would know that a hiss like that meant danger." (That wording is off the top of my head, meant as an example, only. Come up with your own wording.)