

## Flubs2Fixes Game for March 28, 2024

How did you do?

Here's how I would edit the passage:

Ebony Kitten felt a big human hand around her. She gives her fiercest hiss, but the human didn't run away. The human slid its hand on her back. Head-tail. Head-tail. Opening her mouth to hiss, the human popped something inside. Something gooshy. Oooooooh! She just can't help it. She swallowed and licked her lips. Yummy! The human gave her brother some, too. And Mama. Mama hissed, but licked her lips, too. But what was going to happen next, Mama wondered.

**Commented [ES1]:** Perhaps, instead of telling the reader how Ebony felt, that could be shown. Perhaps something like A big human hand closed around Ebony Kitten's tummy. Something more active than simply Ebony felt. Something that lets us see what's happening.

**Commented [ES2]:** Verb tense often trips writers up. Past tense was used in the previous sentence, and reading further, it's the main tense used. Make this past. She gave her fiercest hiss

**Commented [ES3]:** This is a good description, but I wonder if it could be made even more vivid. Try out different ways of describing the motion of stroking a kitten, and think about what the kitten would be experiencing – especially one that wasn't used to humans.

**Commented [ES4]:** Perhaps instead of a hyphen, spell out the word. Head to tail. Head to tail.

**Commented [ES5]:** This is a dangling participle or dangling modifier. It sounds as though the human opened its mouth to hiss, and there's no other subject noun to indicate that it was the kitten instead. I like the way Mignon Fogarty explains dangling participles and I often cite her articles as examples for my editing client. <https://www.quickanddirtytips.com/articles/dangling-participles/>

Here, the sentence needs to be rearranged so it's clear that Ebony is opening her mouth to hiss.

**Commented [ES6]:** Less is more. Although I confess to using more than enough Os in a word like Ooh on Facebook and in informal writing, it's best to stick to regular spelling in a manuscript. At least until it's picked up by an agent or publisher, and they suggest you do otherwise. Ooh.

**Commented [ES7]:** Usually, a prop word like "just" doesn't add much and can be deleted.

**Commented [ES8]:** Verb tense again! Couldn't instead of can't.

**Commented [ES9]:** Pronouns are always considered to stand in for the "nearest antecedent" – in other words, the noun that immediately precedes it. But the writer doesn't mean that the human gave the human's brother some gooshy cat food. The human gave Ebony's brother some, too.

**Commented [ES10]:** Although sometimes incomplete sentences can be used to good effect, it would be a good idea to tuck this in after brother, instead. The human gave Ebony's brother and mama some, to... [1]

**Commented [ES11]:** In this case, but is a prop word that can be deleted.

**Commented [ES12]:** Make this active. What would happen next

**Commented [ES13]:** Up until now, the story has been told from Ebony's point of view. Now, without warning, we're being told what Mama is thinking. It would b... [2]

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Although sometimes incomplete sentences can be used to good effect, it would be a good idea to tuck this in after brother, instead. The human gave Ebony's brother and mama some, too. (Note that if mama isn't being used as a name, it doesn't get a capital.)

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Up until now, the story has been told from Ebony's point of view. Now, without warning, we're being told what Mama is thinking. It would be better to stick to one point of view in a simple story like this, that is, Ebony's point of view.

If we take all the suggested edits for this sentence into account, and consider that if we're still in Ebony's point of view, the sentence could be simplified to  
What would happen next? (Adding Ebony wondered is optional, but not necessary.)