



Get Published Now!

Is Your Manuscript Ready for Prime Time?

Dear Writer,

Congratulations for making the decision to expend time and effort to self-edit your work and remove red-flag words that can label you as a “rookie.”

Yikes! No writer wants that!

This tutorial will help you:

- Identify overused “red-flag” weak words that lurk in your manuscript.
- Search—Mark—Revise and remove them.



What exactly are red-flag words?

These include overused weak verbs, trite adverbs, and non-descriptive adjectives. The most flagrant red-flag waver of them all is the deadly duo of “was” when paired with an “ing” verb.

BTW: During the process of identifying and removing red-flags from your work, you become a *smarter* and more *skillful* writer which increases your potential to become a *published* author.

About the business~

Despite what you may have heard, agents are not wart-covered ogres who crouch over their keyboards, muttering “Mwaaaahaha,” as they punch their delete keys over and over and over and . . .



Agents are pragmatic business people who use their best judgment to acquire well-written manuscripts that can be polished, printed, and sold for a profit. Publishing, just like *every* business, must generate profits to survive.

Therefore, when a submission is filled with writing mechanic errors, the question arises, “Will it be cost effective to correct the grammar? Will this make the manuscript worthy of publication? The probable answer? “No.”

Save yourself from the stress of rejection. Become your own first line of defense. Self-evaluate your work, locate the red flags, and *revise* them *before* submission.

Revision~

Uh oh! The dreaded “R” word. Revision! Most writers cringe at the thought of scouring every page of their manuscripts to find and revise red-flag words and phrases. However, my “Search-Mark-Revise” technique makes this task doable.

BTW: The process of revision usually involves re-writing a sentence or phrase, not just swapping one word for another.



Do these words proliferate in your manuscript?

that	the	which	when	then
just as	set	get	got	felt
feel	this	is	was	took
take	have	had	found	are
were	be	being	do	felt
thought	think	believe	place	put
could	would	should	try	like



Verbs that link “was” and “ing identify the writer as a “rookie.”

For example: The agent was scanning query letters. She was searching for a skillful writer with a saleable manuscript. Revised, it reads, “The agent scanned query letters as she searched for a skillful writer with a saleable manuscript.



Are you afflicted with comma karma which results in long involved sentences that ramble on and on without punctuation to separate sections or thoughts which forces the reader to go over the sentence several times to figure out what the writer is trying to say and causes the question to arise as to whether the entire manuscript might filled with long and rambling sentences like this one and if so would it be time and cost effective to attempt to make the manuscript publication worthy?

When your manuscript contains run-together sentences, agents run away.



BEFORE you launch Search—Mark—Revise

Do not begin a learning curve on an original document. *FIRST*, make a backup copy. Protect yourself from catastrophe in case you mistakenly delete an entire chapter, lose your document due to a power outage or hard-drive crash, buffalo stampede, or attack by internet trolls.

Never begin a learning curve on an original document.

Never, ever, ever . . . EVER!

The process:

- Open your back-up copy (not your original).
- Click on Control and “F” to open Word’s Search Engine.
- To familiarize yourself with this Search—Mark—Revise system, begin with a common word that is certain to be found throughout your document.
Type “was” in the Search Document box.
- Word will tell you how many times “was” appears in your entire document.
- Click on the “Replace” feature in Word’s Search engine.
- Word will ask, “Replace with what?” Type WAS (all capital letters) in the search box. Then click on “Replace All.”
- WAS now stands out on every page where it appears.
- Because “was” often is paired with an “ing” verb, search for “ing.”
Then click on the “Replace” feature in Word’s search engine.
- Word will ask, “Replace with what?” Type ING (all capital letters) in the search box. Then click on “Replace All.”
- ING and WAS now stand out on every page where they appear.

When you feel comfortable with the process, open your original document and repeat Search—Mark—Revise to improve your manuscript.

BTW: Some writers prefer to work on one chapter at a time. Others mark their *entire* document with all the words and phrases to be changed. Then, they revise one chapter at a time.

NIFTY TRICK #1:

When you edit and revise sentences, you make errors. We all do. So, after you've revised a sentence or paragraph, highlight it in yellow and move on. In a day or two, revisit these highlighted passages. Read them *out loud* to help your inner editor *hear* your revision and make you aware of any errors. Correct these, then remove the highlighting.

NIFTY TRICK #2:

When you search for a word like “the,” you’ll discover it’s part of many words. Therefore, when you type “the” into Word’s Search Box, place a space *before* and *after* “the.” This directs Word to locate only “the” and not all words (like them or theme or therefore) where “the” also appears.

What red-flag words do you chronically overuse? Write them here:

Set a Search-Mark-Revise daily goal. Two or three pages? One chapter? Decide how much you can handle in one day, or a single writing session. Then, word by word, sentence by sentence, paragraph by paragraph, page by page, chapter by chapter, revise away as you mature the quality of your writing.

Dear Writer,

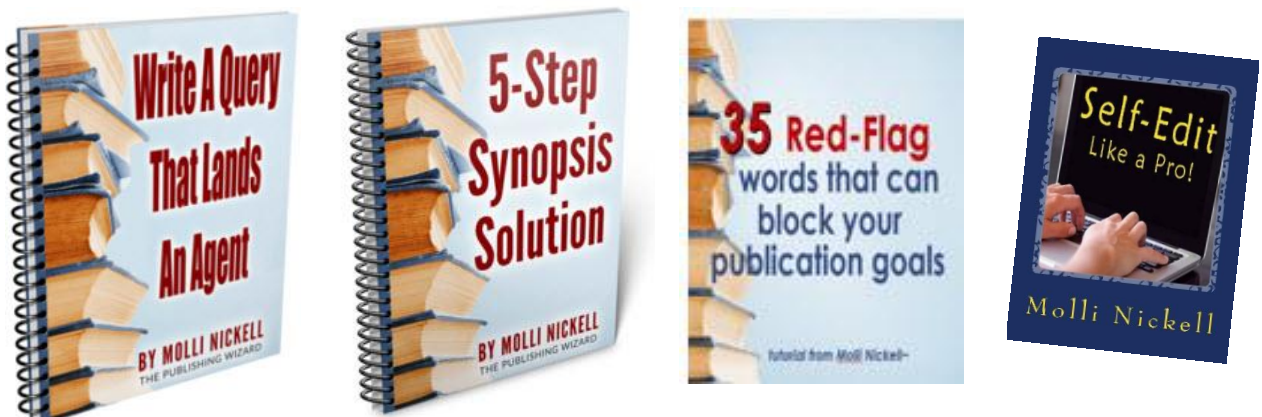
Be gentle with yourself. Acknowledge that you're going through a learning curve as you shift from *telling* your story to *selling* your story.

Is this stressful? Yes it is!

Can you do it! Of course!

You can learn to create a submission packet (query, synopsis, and sample pages) that will land an agent to guide you through the publishing maze.

Your next success step? Go shopping!



[MolliMart](#) offers an ever-expanding resource for low-cost tutorials, created to help you achieve the dreams of your heart: agent/contract/shelf space at Barnes and Noble.

During 30+ years in the biz, I've been associated with the big players including:

