

Sample Proofread

Editing is about more than grammar and punctuation because it ensures effective communication between author and reader. Done well, editing helps the reader grasp the author's message without interrupting the author's voice. The changes an editor recommends depends on the manuscript's stage in the writing process, the type of edit being performed—developmental, line editing, copyediting, and proofreading—and any specific areas where the author asks the editor to focus, such as character development, fact-checking, and sensitivity. Regardless of type, editing is a collaborative process—one that supports the writer's intent and serves the reader's needs.

Proofreading is typically performed late in the writing process, not long before a manuscript is published or distributed. It assumes that more detailed edits focusing on flow, readability, coherency, and so forth have already been completed. This type of edit looks for errors that were not corrected or were introduced during the previous edits. The sample in the sections below illustrates the types of changes a proofreader typically makes.

To protect the content and privacy of my clients, text used in the sample document below is AI-generated content that was created using ChatGPT. I prompted ChatGPT to insert common editorial issues for demonstration purposes. The following sections allow you to compare the original text, the revised text showing where changes were made, and a clean copy of the finished text.

Original Text

The Eastern Bluebird is a really beautiful bird that can be found in many parts of the eastern half of North America. It is a small bird, but it has bright, vivid blue feathers on its back and wings, while its chest and belly are a pretty reddish-orange color. Because of it's beautiful and very vibrant colors, it is often admired by many bird watchers, people who love nature, and just people who enjoy being outdoors in general. They are often seen perching on fenceposts, telephone wires, or low tree branches as they look around for food, which usually consist mostly of insects and berries and other small fruits they can find.

In the springtime, which is the season when most birds do a lot of their breeding and nesting activities, the Eastern Bluebird builds its nest inside tree cavities or man-made nest boxes. In fact, because of shortages of natural cavities due to changes in the enviroment, many conservationists put up nest boxes to help them. Female bluebirds do most of the nest construction, using grasses, pine needles, and sometimes even bits of

soft cloth or string that they find lying around. She lays a clutch of about three to seven pale blue eggs, and then she incubates them for almost two weeks while the male stays nearby and helps defend the nesting area from predators, intruders, and other threats that might try to hurt the eggs or steal the nest.

Although the Eastern Bluebird population declined significantly in the 20th century, mainly because of habitat loss, competition with non-native species like the House Sparrow and European Starling, and use of pesticides that harmed their food sources. Conservation efforts, including the wide use of bluebird trails and nestbox programs, have helped the species make a very strong comeback in many areas where they used to be common but had disappeared for awhile. Organizations and birding clubs have contributed to this effort by educating the public and encouraging people to put up boxes in proper locations and maintain them properly to maximize success.

Revision Tracking

The Eastern Bluebird is a ~~really~~ beautiful bird ~~that can be is~~ found in ~~the many parts of the~~ eastern half of North America. It is a small bird, ~~but it has~~ with bright, vivid blue feathers on its back and wings, while its chest and belly are a ~~pretty~~ reddish-orange color. Because of it's beautiful and very vibrant colors, it is often admired by ~~many~~ bird watchers, ~~people who love~~ nature lovers, and ~~just~~ people who enjoy being outdoors ~~in general~~. They are often seen perching on fenceposts, telephone wires, or low tree branches as they look ~~around~~ for food, which usually consists ~~mostly of~~ insects, and berries, and other small fruits ~~they can find~~.

In the springtime, ~~which is the season when most birds do a lot of their breeding and nesting activities~~, the Eastern Bluebird builds its nest inside tree cavities or man-made nest boxes. In fact, ~~because of~~ shortages of natural cavities due to changes in the environment, many conservationists ~~put up~~ install nest boxes in fields and yards to ~~help them provide nesting options~~. Female bluebirds do most of the nest construction, using grasses, pine needles, and ~~sometimes even~~ bits of soft cloth or string that they find lying around. She lays a clutch of ~~about~~ three to seven pale blue eggs, ~~and then~~ she incubates them for ~~almost~~ two weeks while the male stays nearby and helps defend the nesting area from predators, intruders, and other threats that might try to hurt the eggs or steal the nest.

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Revised Text

The Eastern Bluebird is a beautiful bird found in the eastern half of North America. It is a small bird with bright, vivid blue feathers on its back and wings, while its chest and belly are a reddish-orange color. Because of its beautiful and very vibrant colors, it is often admired by bird watchers, nature lovers, and people who enjoy being outdoors. They are often seen perching on fenceposts, telephone wires, or low tree branches as they look for food, which usually consists insects, berries, and other small fruits.

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