

DEALING WITH MANUSCRIPT ERRORS, CONTRACTIONS AND ACCENTS

There are always errors in a manuscript – always. Here is how I deal with manuscript errors during the audiobook production: When solutions are obvious and reasonable.

1. **Missing words in a sentence** - “*It was time for Smithers come home, he’d been out far too long.*” “**to**”

I will speak the missing word for the audio track and move on without interruption or consultation.

2. **Misused/Incorrect words in a sentence** – “*It was his own tuition that saved him.*” **intuition**

I will speak the correct word without interruption or consultation.

3. **Over used words in a sentence or paragraph:** *This is a common occurrence with new writers*

*Jon awoke that morning and **walked** to the window. It was raining hard, but I knew he had to go. He **walked** (went) to the kitchen, poured some cold coffee into a dirty mug and ran his hands through his greasy hair. As he stood there he slowly **walked** (pushed) through the images in his mind of how badly he had treated Rebekah.*

I will remove the over used word and replace them with similar words without changing the essence, mood, or message of the paragraph.

4. **Broken sentences, missing paragraphs, breaks in continuity or misplaced pages** - I will reach out for clarification.

5. **If there is something I do not recognize, cannot research or is puzzling to me** - I will reach out for clarification.

6. **Misused phrases** – “*He ran into the woods at neck break speed.*” **Or** “*It was the Ying and Yang of his existence*”

I will speak the standard - common phrase. “*Breakneck*” speed **and** “*Yin and Yang*” without interruption or consultation.

7. **Contractions in dialogue** - I will use common contractions where they fit and where they make the dialogue sound more natural and free flowing. (I am – I’m) (You will – You’ll) (We will – we’ll) etc... **Only where it sounds natural, fits the character and works well with the dialogue.**

Written: *Jon said, “I am going to go to the store, and I will buy you what you want.”*

Spoken: *Jon said, “I’m going to the store, and I’ll buy you what you want.*

Written: *King Themoclese declared, “I am your sovereign, and I will destroy all who dare to challenge my reign.*

Spoken: **No change – The formality of the character fits the formality of the script.**

8. **Accents** - Character accents present a particular issue in audiobooks. While it is ill-advised to write dialogue in a particular accent, speaking the text written with the accent intended may seem wrong and out of place. Example: The Russian language does not have in it “Articles” either Definite or Indefinite. In the English language articles are the words “the” “a” “an”.

I will speak the written text in the manuscript and stay as authentic to the accent as possible which may result in the dialogue sounding different than the written text.

Written text:

Ivan said, “Yuri, take a photograph of the building and put an emergency signal on the roof.”

Spoken text with Russian accent:

Ivan said, “Yuri, take photograph of building and put emergency signal on roof.”

I will generate an email to you outlining the editing issues, misused words, broken sentences, over-used words, and missing words which will include the manuscript chapter, page number, (*which might be different from the published book page*) the paragraph on the page and the line in the paragraph, example:

Chapter 14, page 212, paragraph 3 line 3

Charlie was so excited to see his son, he couldn't contain himself.
Suggest spelling of ***couldn't*** changed to couldn't.

Or

Chapter 10 Body Language: Theirs Page 223 Paragraph 2 Starting with line 3

*Doing so would invite failure. The polygraph instrument is nothing without the 'lie detector' who operates the instrument in their pursuit to determine truth or deception, using both the instrument and the **examiners** own **tuition**.*

Suggest the following changes: word **examiners** changed to **examiner's**
Word **tuition** changed to **intuition**

*Doing so would invite failure. The polygraph instrument is nothing without the 'lie detector' who operates the instrument in their pursuit to determine truth or deception, using both the instrument and the **examiner's** own **intuition**.*

This information should be considered as a reference and guideline into some of the ways WaywardSun Audio Productions records, narrates, and produces audiobooks. Since every manuscript is different and every author unique, it should be understood that not all solutions fit every scenario in the same manner. Communication between the author and WaywardSun Studios during the audiobook production is an absolute necessity.