

Only I only agree only with only you only.

WRITING SKILLS HANDOUT

WHERE YOU WRITE IT REALLY MATTERS

- A. *Only* I agree with you about that. MEANS I agree with you *but nobody else does*.
- B. I *only* agree with you about that. MEANS I agree with you *but expect nothing else from me*.
- C. I agree *only* with you about that. MEANS I agree with you *but not with anybody else*.
- D. I agree with *only* you about that. MEANS I agree with you *but not with anybody else*.
- E. I agree with you *only* about that. MEANS I agree with you about that *but nothing else*.
- F. I agree with you about *only* that. MEANS I agree with you about that *but nothing else*.
- G. I agree with you about that *only*. MEANS I agree with you about that *but nothing else*.

WHEN IT REALLY MATTERS

How many ways can an insurance company deny your claim if your policy has an “only” in a place you wish it didn’t? Consider this simple promise:

We will replace contents if your apartment is damaged by fire.

1. **Only** we will replace contents if your apartment is damaged by fire.
2. We will **only** replace contents if your apartment is damaged by fire.
3. We will replace **only** contents if your apartment is damaged by fire.
4. We will replace contents **only** if your apartment is damaged by fire.
5. We will replace contents if **only** your apartment is damaged by fire.
6. We will replace contents if your **only** apartment is damaged by fire.
7. We will replace contents if your apartment is **only** damaged by fire.
8. We will replace contents if your apartment is damaged **only** by fire.

IN CLASS EXERCISE: Match the deceptive promises above with their meanings below.

Use each meaning just once. Write the letters A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H on the blanks.

- _____ We’ll replace your contents if they’re damaged by fire but under no other circumstances.
- _____ We’ll replace your contents, but we won’t appraise their value, or deliver the replacements, install them, or do anything else with them.
- _____ We’ll replace your contents, but submit your claim quickly: that company we’re about to be bought out by won’t replace anything.
- _____ We’ll replace your contents, but not if both a bomb and a fire damage your apartment.
- _____ We’ll replace your contents if your apartment is damaged, but not if it’s completely destroyed.
- _____ We’ll replace your contents, but not if anybody else’s apartment is damaged.
- _____ We’ll replace your contents, but not the walls, ceilings, or floors, no matter how they’re damaged.
- _____ We’ll replace your contents, but not if you have more than one apartment