

THE
ELEMENTS
OF
Style

BY
WILLIAM STRUNK Jr.

*With Revisions, an Introduction,
and a Chapter on Writing*

BY
E. B. WHITE

F O U R T H E D I T I O N

PEARSON

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If the antecedent consists of a group of words, the relative comes at the end of the group, unless this would cause ambiguity.

The Superintendent of the Chicago Division, who
No ambiguity results from the above. But

A proposal to amend the Sherman Act, which has been
variously judged

leaves the reader wondering whether it is the proposal or
the Act that has been variously judged. The relative clause
must be moved forward, to read, "A proposal, which has
been variously judged, to amend the Sherman Act. . . ."
Similarly

The grandson of William
Henry Harrison, who

William Henry Harri-
son's grandson, Benjamin
Harrison, who

A noun in apposition may come between antecedent and
relative, because in such a combination no real ambiguity
can arise.

The Duke of York, his brother, who was regarded with
hostility by the Whigs

Modifiers should come, if possible, next to the words they
modify. If several expressions modify the same word, they
should be arranged so that no wrong relation is suggested.

All the members were
not present.

Not all the members
were present.

She only found two
mistakes.

She found only two
mistakes.

The director said he
hoped all members would
give generously to the
Fund at a meeting of the
committee yesterday.

At a meeting of the
committee yesterday, the
director said he hoped all
members would give gen-
erously to the Fund.