

Editor Travels U.S. Fixing Errors on Signs



Have you ever seen a misspelled word on a sign? Or a sign with the wrong punctuation? Those kinds of mistakes really bother Jeff Deck. He decided last summer that he could make the world a better place by correcting mistakes, or *typos*, on signs.

Deck is now driving around the U.S. looking for mistakes in print. So far, he has traveled more than 5,000 miles. When Deck finds a mistake, he asks the store owner or shop manager if he can fix it. He carries a supply of markers, crayons, and Wite-Out® so he can correct almost any mistake he finds. Most of the people who own the signs are happy to let Deck correct errors of spelling, grammar, or punctuation.

“We want to help people out,” said Deck. It's not about making anybody feel bad or making somebody look stupid, he added. Everybody makes mistakes, and his goal is correcting those mistakes.

NEWS WORD BOX

misspelled editor
stationery punctuation
typo apostrophe

Deck said he finds a lot of little errors, like apostrophes in the wrong places. For example, he corrected a sign that said *Today's Special's* to read *Today's Specials*. In one town he saw a misspelled sign at a company selling paper “stationary” instead of stationery.

Deck thinks that printed errors can cause more mistakes. If people see a word misspelled in print or on a sign, they might think the sign is right, he says.

Deck is not sure why he sees so many typos these days. He thinks maybe people aren't being taught enough about spelling and punctuation.

FIND THE MISTAKES ON THESE SIGNS THAT DECK SPOTTED

- A sign in a no-parking zone warned “Cars Towed at Owners Expense”
- A grocery store sign advertised a sale on “Strawberry's”
- A sign at a company looking for workers said “Now Acepting Applications”

THINK ABOUT THE NEWS

Some people say misspelling a word is no big deal if people can figure out what you mean. Do you agree or disagree?