Edit Like a Falcon

Use editing marks to strengthen a science model passage.

8.W.3.B "Self-and peer-edit writing for capitalization, spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, paragraphing, and Standard English (See Language Usage for grade level expectations)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read the model passage. Circle each error you notice and label it C, Sp, P, SS, Pg, or SE for capitalization, spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, paragraphing, or Standard English; use a caret where a new paragraph should begin.

Peregrines in the City

(1) On a spring morning, a peregrine falcon may circle above a city bridge. The bird searches for pigeons, which are one of its common prey. Peregrines can dive at remarkable speeds, their streamlined bodies and pointed wings help them move through the air. A watcher near the bridge might whisper, “did you see that?” the falcon has already disappeared behind the buildings. Scientists have helped some peregrine populations recover after pesticide limits and nest-protection efforts.

(2) City nesting gives peregrines tall ledges that resemble cliff faces. Falcon watchers sometimes place a small camera near a nest, but they keep their distance so adults can care for chicks. Years ago, DDT caused peregrine eggshells to become thin and break more easily. The pesticide moved through food chains. Because DDT was restricted in the United States in 1972, many peregrine populations began to increase. Careful monitoring is still importent, researchers count nests and protect nesting areas.

(3) People can help by giving nesting birds space. If you notice a falcon on a ledge, do not approach the nest or try to feed it. instead report an injured bird to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator or a local animal-control agency. You shouldnt remove a young bird from the ground unless an expert tells you to act, fledglings often spend time on the ground while learning to fly. Watching from far away lets people enjoy these powerful hunters safely.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 1, rewrite the sentence that includes the watcher's words. Correct its capitalization and end punctuation.

2. Rewrite the sentence in paragraph 1 that begins “Peregrines can dive” as two complete sentences.

3. Paragraph 2 needs a new paragraph and a correction at the end. State where the new paragraph should begin, then rewrite the final two ideas correctly.

4. Rewrite the sentence in paragraph 3 that begins “You shouldnt” as two correct sentences.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence informational note about an animal. Self-edit for the six code categories, then exchange your note with a peer; have your peer label one possible correction with a code, and write your revised final version.

ANSWER KEY

Edit Like a Falcon

GRADE 8 · 8.W.3.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Read the model passage. Circle each error you notice and label it C, Sp, P, SS, Pg, or SE for capitalization, spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, paragraphing, or Standard English; use a caret where a new paragraph should begin. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, rewrite the sentence that includes the watcher's words. Correct its capitalization and end punctuation.	**A watcher near the bridge might whisper, "Did you see that?" The falcon has already disappeared behind the buildings.**
2	Rewrite the sentence in paragraph 1 that begins "Peregrines can dive" as two complete sentences.	**Peregrines can dive at remarkable speeds. Their streamlined bodies and pointed wings help them move through the air.**
3	Paragraph 2 needs a new paragraph and a correction at the end. State where the new paragraph should begin, then rewrite the final two ideas correctly.	**Begin a new paragraph before "Years ago." Careful monitoring is still important. Researchers count nests and protect nesting areas.**
4	Rewrite the sentence in paragraph 3 that begins "You shouldnt" as two correct sentences.	**You shouldn't remove a young bird from the ground unless an expert tells you to act. Fledglings often spend time on the ground while learning to fly.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Draft after self-edit: Sea otters live along rocky coasts in the North Pacific. They uses rocks to break open hard-shelled prey. Their thick fur traps air and helps keep them warm in cold water. Peer mark: SE, sentence 2, change "uses" to "use." Revised final version: Sea otters live along rocky coasts in the North Pacific. They use rocks to break open hard-shelled prey. Their thick fur traps air and helps keep them warm in cold water.

Accept equivalent corrections that create complete sentences and use correct conventions. For the peer-edit task, accept any factual three-sentence note, evidence of self-editing, one peer code and comment, and a revised final version.