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Newbie Series: Stretch and Grow!

Editors never stop learning. Whether it's discovering a new rule or finally grasping a familiar one, chances to grow your knowledge are endless. One fun way to stretch your understanding of editing and proofreading rules is through *The Chicago Manual of Style's* "Style Workouts." These ten-question quizzes test your knowledge of Chicago style and give you instant feedback on pertinent style rules—an enjoyable means of becoming more familiar with various sections of *CMOS*.

Explore editing guides such as Kathy Ide's *Proofreading Secrets of Best-Selling Authors* and writing craft books like *5 Editors Tackle the 12 Fatal Flaws of Fiction Writing*, written by CEC Director Christy Distler and four other editors. When you don't know something, or even when you think you do, look it up. If you have the time, allow yourself to fall down editorial rabbit holes. You may find yourself blithely informing your family members of the historical context of using like as a conjunction, but that's a small price to pay for the insights you'll gain.

Tackle a project that's a little bit out of your comfort zone and watch your editing knowledge expand. Be willing to learn and have a teachable spirit when someone points out an area for improvement. Attend conferences. Talk to other editors. If you're a Silver or Gold member, ask questions on the email loop. As we start this new year, look back with satisfaction for how far you've come—and look ahead with excitement for how far you'll go!

Thank you for being a member of The Christian PEN. We hope you continue to enjoy the networking and community we offer.