When the Writer Knows What He/She Wants to Say – and the Reader Does Not

1. “The checks and challenges missed passed before & after; therefore there is no impact.” (Email message)

2. “The caller received a shipment of XXXXX and one of the boxes were crushed and the cap went off from them.” (Statement from a report)

3. Authorized Personal Only (Sign on a door in a manufacturing company)

4. We Do Home Contraction You Can Count On (Advertisement on a Truck)

When the Writer Does Not Know What He/She Really Means

Question: What is the difference between “currently” and “presently”? *

Answer: “currently and presently can be used in the same text when the situation favours presently, this is because currently can be used to talk about longer measures of time as compared to presently but however if one wants to be more specific presently should be selected where the text favours presently, for example ‘I am presently eating’ rather than ‘I am currently eating’. However they are both correct. and they ‘cannot’ be used in the same text when the situation favours currently, it is not that presently cannot be used but it is that currently has a far more advantage of being appropriate for certain texts, for example the example u gave; in this case ‘We currently live here’ is more appropriate because ‘living’ serves over a far more period than instantaneous moments where presently would be most appropriate. Currently can be used for farther ranges in terms of time than presently which was stated above that it is used for more instantaneous moments. However presently can also be used for longer periods of time when comparing large measures of time such as decades, millenniums etc.”

*Text is written exactly as it appeared.

A “Tongue-in-Check” (of course!) Writing Tip: “Always use as many words as possible when writing; inconsistently capitalize Common Nouns; avoid little words, such as “clear” and “concise,” in favor of big words, such as “obfuscation,” “ostentatious,” and “pedantically;” prove you know more than anyone else by using arcane and esoteric terms, especially in the original Greek, Latin, Aramaic, Gaelic, Incan or Sanskrit; always include Initials in Parentheses Immediately After (IPA) every name or term used, but especially, unfamiliar names such as Western Michigan University (WMU) and United States of America (USA); avoid subject-verb agreement; and, in addition to run-on and fragment sentences!!!*

*From WMU Today: http://www.wmich.edu/writing/