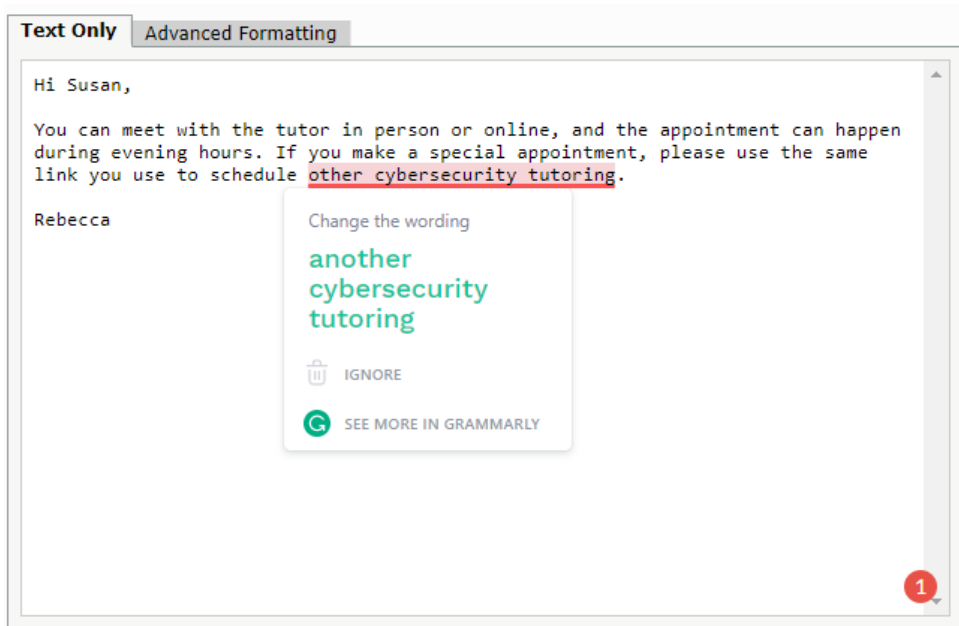


When Grammarly Gets It Wrong

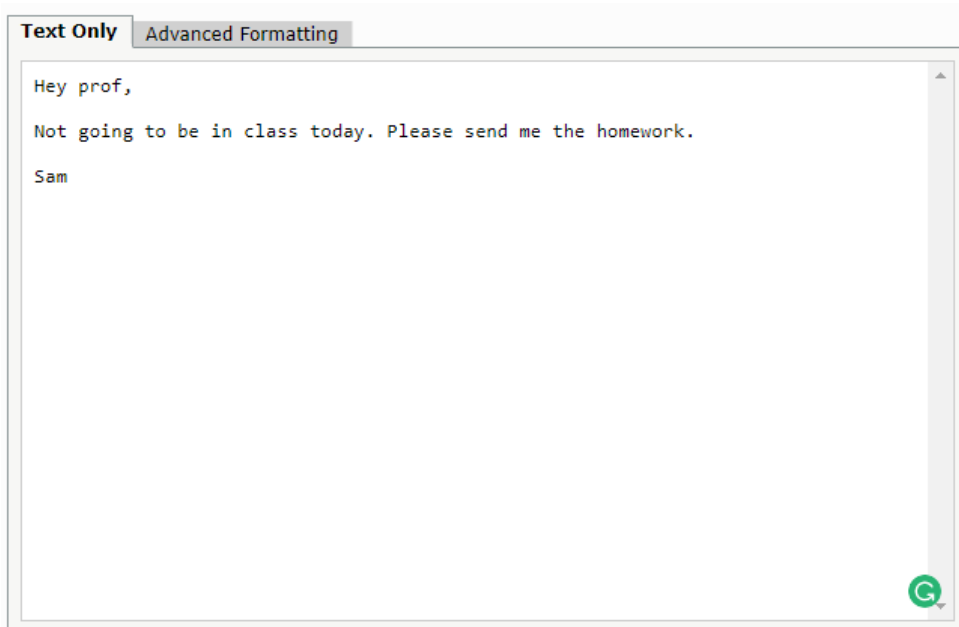
By Krista Sarraf

If you visit Grammarly's website, you will see this message, "Grammarly's free writing app makes sure your message, documents, and social media posts are clear, mistake-free, and effective." Is Grammarly as good as it claims? Consider the ways in which Grammarly -

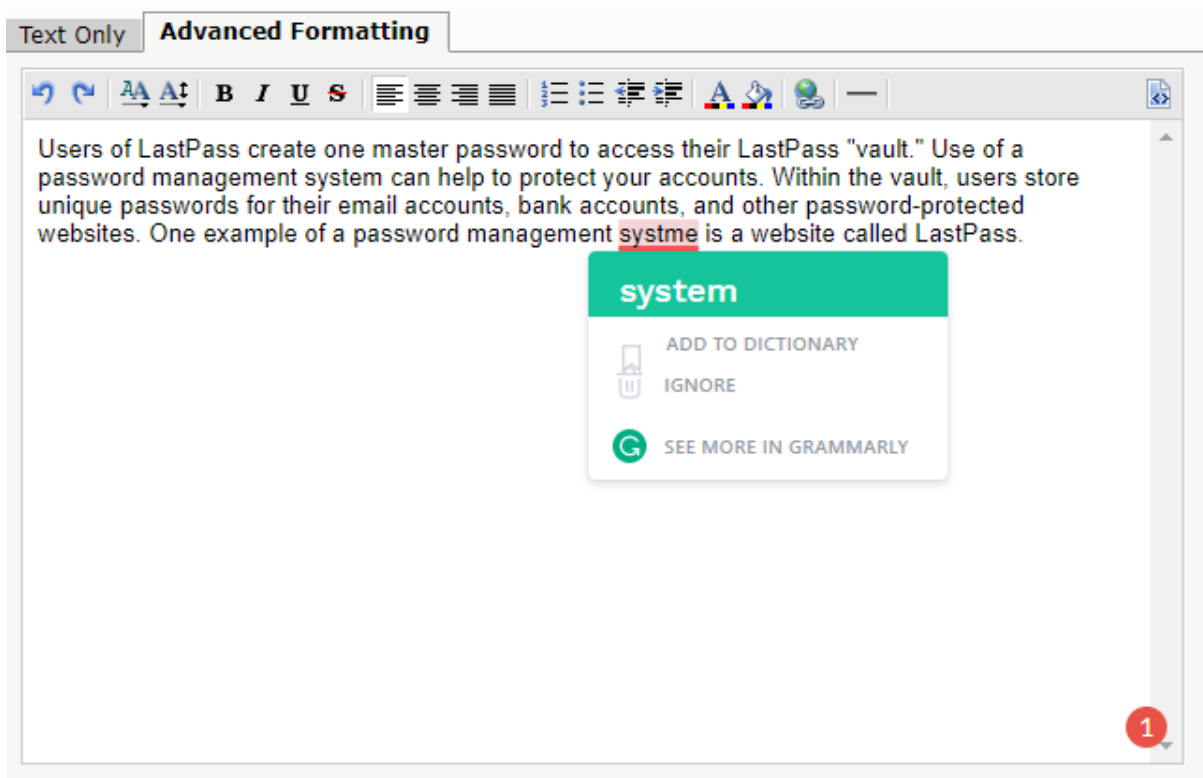
- **Misreads the sentence and makes a poor suggestion.** Grammarly's suggestion changes the meaning of the sentence. It takes a savvy reader to see that Grammarly has misinterpreted the sentence. A better correction would be to write, "schedule other cybersecurity tutoring appointments," but Grammarly does not offer this suggestion.



- **Fails to catch inappropriate language.** Grammarly claims to make your writing more effective, yet, Grammarly does not flag anything in the ineffective email below:



- **Fails to catch more serious writing problems, like disorganization.** While Grammarly does catch the typo in the paragraph below, it does not flag the organizational problems that make this paragraph unclear and ineffective.



While Grammarly caught the obvious typo, it takes a human reader to see that the paragraph is unclear. Consider how much clearer the paragraph becomes when the writer orders the sentences this way:

“Use of a password management system can help to protect your accounts. One example of a password management system is a website called LastPass. Users of LastPass create one master password to access their LastPass "vault." Within the vault, users store unique passwords for their email accounts, bank accounts, and other password-protected websites.”

The takeaway? Grammarly cannot ensure that your writing is clear, mistake-free, and effective.



Find helpful writing resources online at www.iup.edu/writingcenter