

Re: syllepsis?

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2005-03/1574.html>

From: Ron Hardin (rhardin_at_mindspring.com)

Date: 03/10/05

Date: Thu, 10 Mar 2005 23:55:34 GMT

Peter T. Daniels wrote:

- > > *``Should, or intends to, regulate'' would pass my filter; but I think*
- > > *it's still syllepsis actually, with a disagreement whether ``regulate''*
- > > *is a to-infinitive or a bare infinitive. But it's sort of formal, suggesting*
- > > *a cut-and-paste alternative anyway.*
- >
- > > *On the internet, nobody knows you're a jerk.*
- >
- > *So all you're complaining about is the omission of commas? Jeez.*

Commas suggest that you read the sentences separately, in which case there's no interference between the two constructions.

The interference though is the point.

The way you untangle *``He should regulate his behavior,"* continuing past the *``should,"* is apparently not the way you untangle *``He intends to regulate his behaviour,"* continuing past *``intends to,"* with differences happening at the artificial boundaries introduced by the conjunction.

--

Ron Hardin

rhardin@mindspring.com

On the internet, nobody knows you're a jerk.