

WRONG WORD: THE VIDEO

A credit sequence appears on silent-movie title cards.

Wrong Word: The Video

Or, How I Learned Not to Trust the Spell Checker

Starring

[A small wooden figure bows]

As “The Writer”

And

[A small robot waves its arms]

As “The Spell Checker”

The writer is typing these words:

Before drafting a research project, students should definatly talk with a reference librarian.

[“Definitely” is spelled D E F I N A T L Y]

A title card with robotic font appears:

Spell checker engaged

The spell checker waves its arms. A loud beeping alarm sounds.

Title cards with robotic font appear:

Misspelling! Misspelling!

You mean “defiantly”

The writer waves his arms in surprise.

I do?

Well, you’re the spell checker.

I guess you know best.

A title card reads "Autocorrect."

The writer's typed sentence changes:

Before drafting a research project, students should defiantly meet with a reference librarian.

The writer scratches his head. Title cards appear:

Hey, wait a minute.

That spell checker...

...is a robot!

The writer gasps. The spell checker waves its arms. A title card appears with robotic font:

Yes. I know everything.

The writer is outraged. Title cards appear:

No! No, I did not mean "defiantly"!

The writer types. The word "Undo" appears. The sentence changes back to include the misspelled word. The spell checker appears again, waving its arms as the alarm sounds. Title cards appear with robotic font:

Misspelling! Misspelling!

defiantly

The writer says, "No."

The spell checker suggests "definably."

The writer says, "No."

The spell checker suggests "definitely." Drums beat. The writer raises his arms in triumph. Title cards appear:

Definitely! Yes! "Definitely" is the word I want.

The typed sentence appears again with the correctly spelled word "definitely" flashing in green.

Before drafting a research project, students should definitely meet with a reference librarian.

The writer and the spell checker dance happily. A title card says, "The End."