

# The Lazy Editor

## Fabulous— or Freaky?

THIS GUY IS  
COMPLETELY COVERED  
IN TATTOOS!

By Rosa Jurjevics

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the following article, which contains many dreadful mistakes. Then follow the prompts in the box on page 23.

- 1 Is he a statue? A painting? How about a character from the latest X-Men movie? No he's just a guy with A LOT of tattoos.
- 2 Gregory Paul McLaren, aka Lucky Diamond Rich, is a New Zealand-born circus performer who holds the Guinness World Record for the most-tattooed person. His entire body is covered with black ink. On top of the black tattoos, he has white tattoos. On top of the white tattoos he has colored tattoos. He has tattoos on his eyelids inside his ears and between his toes. He even has tattoos in his mouth.
- 3 Tattooing dates back thousands of years. And has served many purposes. For example, the ancient Egyptians. May have believed tattoos could protect women during childbirth. The ancient Greeks and Romans used tattoos as symbols of devotion to the gods and goddesses. In some cultures. Tattoos were



Lucky has silver teeth!  
(He also has a few tattoos.)

used to permanently mark criminals.

- 4 Tattoos serve many different purposes today. Tattoos are religious or status symbols in many parts of the world. Tattoos are thought to bring good luck in the Philippines and Laos. Tattoos are often given to Maori warriors as a rite of passage in New Zealand. Tattoos are mainly a form of self-expression in the U.S., where 45 million people have at least one. Some people commemorate a personal event, like the birth of a child or the death of a loved one, with a tattoo. Others have

## WE LOVE THIS STORY. TOO BAD WE COULDN'T BE BOTHERED TO EDIT IT! WILL YOU FIX IT FOR US?



tattoos in honor of their spouses, friends, or even pets.

**5** Getting a tattoo involves risk—and not just the risk that you might change your mind about it someday! A tattoo is a permanent design made with ink and a needle (or needles) that pierces the top layers of skin. Since blood and needles are involved, there is a risk of getting a disease, like hepatitis C or tetanus. Plus, tattoos can get infected if they are not cared for properly. There's also a chance that the skin will reject the tattoo, fighting against the ink as if it were a nasty splinter. This can cause serious pain, pus (think of the worst zit you've ever had), bleeding, and later, a scar. Because of these dangers, many countries have age requirements for getting a tattoo. In the U.S., many states don't allow you to get a tattoo until age 18.

**6** So what happens to people who get tattoos they later hate? It isn't pretty.

Removal is expensive and painful, and doesn't always work. Tattoos are taken off with a scalding-hot laser, which breaks up the ink under the skin. Sometimes the laser can't get all of the ink and leaves behind traces of the unwanted tattoo.

**7** If Lucky's tattoos were removed, he would probably end up looking like one big scar. That's because even the best laser removal might leave marks. The more ink the laser has to break up, the worse the results. Good thing Lucky has no plans to remove his tattoos! ●

### FIND IT/FIX IT

**DIRECTIONS:** Can you find and fix the following errors in the article? Write your answers on your own paper.

**PARAGRAPHS 1 & 2:** All of the commas have vanished! Please insert the four missing commas.

**PARAGRAPH 3:** There are four fragments—that is, phrases that fail to complete a thought. Turn these fragments into complete sentences by adding and changing words, or by joining them with another sentence.

**PARAGRAPH 4:** This paragraph is a little boring. This paragraph has a bunch of sentences that start the same way. This paragraph needs your help. Rewrite some of the sentences so that they vary in structure, won't you please?

**PARAGRAPH 5:** What sounds the same but isn't the same? Homophones, that's what. Find and fix four homophone errors.

**PARAGRAPHS 6 & 7:** The writer forgot about apostrophes! Five are missing. Please put them where they belong.

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