In December 2012 students in German 212 answer the question, "Was the new method of my correcting your essays helpful?"

1. Getting corrections back immediately was very helpful. Instead of being unsure or even unaware of mistakes I was making, they were corrected right away. Working through them in class as a large group was also a great opportunity to clarify beyond much doubt that I had not misunderstood any of the corrections. The most helpful corrections that I received were those that identified the mistake, gave the correction, and then asked me why the original was incorrect.
2. It was helpful to receive more practice with advanced grammar. Especially with the responses to Siddhartha, it was great to be able to express more complex ideas. I thought that the way you gave the corrections back was very helpful in learning the grammar and other mechanics. My previous teacher never really gave corrections back, so I was never sure if I was even doing anything wrong. I also liked how we wrote the sentences out and showed them on the projector. It was helpful to see your own corrections, but it was also helpful to see the corrections of other people. I liked how you didn't directly give us the answer. We still had to work it out from the hints. I learned much more this way than if you would have corrected it for me. Doing the corrections has definitely made an improvement in my writing. Later in the semester my assignments typically had fewer corrections.
3. In class when I got my essays with back with errors on them I wanted to correct them and know what I did wrong. But the corrections were not written on there, there were just paths leading me to the correct sentence structure. This was SO helpful because it forced me to search for the answer myself or ask what the correct way was and WHY it was so. Your method of correcting, although tedious and sometimes frustrating because the correction may be difficult to find, forced me to learn a lot more than I otherwise would have. -- I enjoyed correcting the sentences in class. I got the opportunity to fix mine, but on top of that, I saw the mistakes that the other students were making as well. In a sense this is like double corrections because seeing corrections on other students' papers helps me not make the same mistakes. Some students, however, are not exactly comfortable doing this in front of the entire class. Luckily we had a welcoming group of students and a fun atmosphere in class, which made it much more bearable. -- For me specifically learning verb tenses and conjugations were most helpful. Reflecting on my paper, I found that I was fairly accurate in sentence structure and verb-last issues, but in many cases I would use the wrong tense of the verb or simply conjugate the verb wrong. An explanation why by either yourself or Martin was very helpful in fixing this problem. We also did a lot of that practice in class, so my sentences became better as we progressed through the semester. -- The formal grammar lessons were very helpful. For example, when you emailed a link to the pdf file on subjunctive and conjunctions and preposition grammar lessons. It is nice to have something to be able to read and refer back to as opposed to learning it one day in class, practicing on the chalkboard, then hoping you can remember over the weekend.
4. I would say by far the majority of my mistakes were in the adjective endings, subject verb (commas), and in figuring out the cases. I was interested in seeing how many mistakes I had made, especially if I had worked really hard to make my sentences error free, so I always looked at the email before class. -- I wish we would've been assigned to make the corrections on a separate piece of paper before class, and then just written them on the overheads once we got to class. Also, I think it would be helpful to write down the three most common mistakes after every assignment. Both of these things would have forced me to really examine my writing more throughout the semester. -- Subject verb and commas, word order, and verb last were the main things I improved on. --
5. The grammar taught in the course helped with my writing, but since I would have to say that it helped my speaking the most. Fortunately, I have the opportunity to chat auf Deutsch every day and put the concepts learned in the course to work. -- Improvements: I feel like I can never do enough in language courses. I am never satisfied with my work, because at the end of the day, there are always words I still don't know, grammar I haven't mastered, or regional idioms I am not familiar with. Overall, my goal for break is to master the chart and adjective endings as well as I can. I am also going to make a complete list of my most common mistakes from this semester's portfolio and add it to the worksheet you gave us about how to edit our own writing. -- The classroom experience you provide is truly incredible. I have taken courses in over fifteen departments, but none have been so well planned as German 212. The mosaic of videos, quizlets, individual, small and large group work, literature, poetry, history and culture was very in sync with the class's age group, level, and interests. Completely worth my (outrageously expensive) tuition dollars.
6. This class not only helped me understand grammar it made me love grammar. In high school, I was taught how to speak, not how to create a grammatically correct sentence. At first it was a lot to understand but then after practicing in class on the overhead I started picking up on mistakes.
7. This was the best way of correcting for me. Realizing mistakes that were repeated helped me fix them more rapidly and affectively. Many mistakes were abolished from my later work. Recognizing my own mistakes, and those of others in the class, helped me to notice where the biggest problems occurred. Being able to correct your own work is key in understanding the language; our ability to do this showed phenomenal progress. I liked the full sentence correction statements. This idea leads the student to the right answer without giving it away. It requires mental toughness. Working for your answer is rewarding and essential in understanding the language.
8. Our work with the conjunctions and word order was very helpful in my writing. As the semester went on, I became more aware of the articles of the words I was using and which case they needed to be. I made fewer mistakes with each assignment. I also benefited from our work with commas. I am now able to make more complex sentences correctly, which I was struggling with at the beginning of the semester. I really enjoyed doing in-class corrections so I could look at my classmates' sentences and be critical and try to find their mistakes and edit them, which helped me be more critical in my own writing. I also really benefited from our practice with the hypothetical/wishes.
9. I learned more than I probably realize in German class this semester. I loved the way in which our writing was corrected. I am the sort of student who learns when I see exactly where I erred and can make changes accordingly. It has always been frustrating to receive homework or an essay back from a professor with only a letter grade on it I always looked at my corrections before class, so I could determine which ones I needed to ask Father Mark or Martin about in class. I knew some of them I could correct myself because I was pointed in the right direction already, and as the semester wore on those types of corrections grew in number. The corrections that 'questioned' what I wrote, such as "don't you need a comma here?" taught me a lot. That is how my mind works, always asking questions of myself and of others, so reading corrections in this way helped immensely. The corrections themselves reflected our grammar lessons in class, which I liked because I was able to apply our lessons in my own writing and learn if I was doing it correctly. If not, I still left with a better idea of how to use it with the detailed corrections pointing me in the right direction. My very favorite practice we did this semester was the subjunctive sentences practice.
10. I really liked how you went about correcting my writing. You mixed in questions with imperative statements to point me in the right direction. You left it open enough so I still had to figure it out but gave me enough direction so I could learn how to write correctly on my own. -- When we reviewed our writing in class, it really helped clarify questions that we could not figure out ourselves. Martin helped add native speech and sometimes slang so we could learn how to speak like native speakers. -- Corrections really helped me solidify grammatical elements that would have otherwise been hazy for me. -- I really learned a lot about sentence syntax, clauses (relative clauses) and verb position. These were very new to me.
11. Corrections: I think that the corrections have really deepened my learning and comprehension of German. They made me actually think about what and how I was correcting. My teachers in the past just gave shorthand codes and only occasionally specifics and I felt that I didn't learn nearly as much. I believe that your way of correcting is very succinct, clear, and enhances our learning.