

Autobiography of Ben Franklin

Benjamin Franklin

What changes when Franklin calls something he once excused an 'erratum' of his life?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Franklin calls an unfair act an erratum
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Autobiography - Boston apprenticeship and break with James Franklin
START	It was not fair in me to take this advantage
END	perhaps I was too saucy and provoking.
PASSAGE ID	sec-bf-01

THE MOVE

Use retrospective naming to revise an earlier self-justification

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Franklin's word 'erratum' treats a moral mistake like a printing error that can be noticed, named, and corrected in a later edition of the self. The retrospective label changes the act from something he once justified into evidence of how his judgment has matured.

MARK

Underline Franklin's earlier justification for the act. Circle the later word 'erratum' and the judgment attached to it. Draw an arrow showing how the same event is renamed by the older narrator.

NOTICE

- What did Franklin believe about the act when he committed it?

- What does the word 'erratum' imply about whether a mistake can be revised without being erased?
- How does retrospective naming let the narrator show growth without pretending the mistake never happened?

THINK

Answer provisionally: What changes when Franklin calls something he once excused an 'erratum' of his life? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: What changes when Franklin calls something he once excused an 'erratum' of his life? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	Calling the act an 'erratum' changes it from something Franklin once excused into a mistake the older narrator can name and judge differently. The new label shows revision of self-judgment without pretending the event can be erased.
EVIDENCE	Use the earlier excuse or justification and the later retrospective word 'erratum.' Explain what the printing-error metaphor suggests about correction and memory.
WATCH FOR	Do not say Franklin simply regrets the act. The important change is how the older narrator renames and reinterprets his former reasoning.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

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What changes when Franklin calls something he once excused an 'erratum' of his life?

START ANCHOR	It was not fair in me to take this advantage
END ANCHOR	perhaps I was too saucy and provoking.

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OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. **MARK** - Underline Franklin's earlier justification for the act. Circle the later word 'erratum' and the judgment attached to it. Draw an arrow showing how the same event is renamed by the older narrator.
2. **NOTICE** - What did Franklin believe about the act when he committed it? What does the word 'erratum' imply about whether a mistake can be revised without being erased? How does retrospective naming let the narrator show growth without pretending the mistake never happened?
3. **THINK** - Answer provisionally: What changes when Franklin calls something he once excused an 'erratum' of his life?
4. **WRITE** - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.