

100

**English
grammar**

ANNABELLE JENKINS

mistakes
non
natives
make

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English grammar - 100 mistakes non natives make
by Annabelle Jenkins

About the booklet

This little booklet deals with an assortment of the most frequent errors made in the ESL classroom around the world, ranging from missing pronouns, wrong tense, wrong prepositions, wrong word order, omission of auxiliary verb among others.

Specifically compiled for students studying English as a foreign language.

Suitable for levels A1, A2 and B1

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MISTAKE NUMBER ONE

He my brother is in London.

Mistake: double subject

Correction: My brother is in London.

We can also say 'he is in London', if we have previously spoken about him in the conversation or if someone asks a question.

Example: Where is your brother? He's in London.

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MISTAKE NUMBER TWO

Goodbye. Now I go to work.

Mistake: Use of the present simple instead of the present progressive.

Correction: Now I am going to work.

Use the present progressive for an action in progress at the moment of speaking.

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MISTAKE NUMBER THREE

You live here?

Mistake: Omission of auxiliary verb in the question.

Correction: Do you live here?

Use 'do' in the question in the present tense for subjects 'I, you, we, they.'
Use 'does' for 'he, she, it' for subjects in third person singular.

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MISTAKE NUMBER FOUR

She speak English.

Mistake: Omission of 's' on the verb in third person singular.

Correction: She speaks English.

Remember the importance of 's' on the verb in third person singular in the affirmative. This is one of the most common errors English language learners make.

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MISTAKE NUMBER FIVE

He don't want to come.

Mistake: Use of 'don't' instead of 'doesn't', which is required in the negative in third person singular.

Correction: He doesn't (does not) want to come.

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MISTAKE NUMBER SIX

I can to play the piano.

Mistake: Use of 'to' after 'can'.

Correction: I can play the piano.

After all modal auxiliary verbs, and 'can' is one of them, use the base form of the verb without the 'to'.

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MISTAKE NUMBER SEVEN

We no can go.

Mistake: Wrong negative.

Correction: We can't go (cannot).

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MISTAKE NUMBER EIGHT

You must to arrive early tomorrow.

Mistake: Use of 'to' after 'must'.

Correction: You must arrive early tomorrow.

'Must' is also one of the modal auxiliary verbs so the base form of the verb is required without the 'to'.

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MISTAKE NUMBER NINE

I'm cooking. My brother will come for lunch.

Mistake: Wrong future tense.

Correction: My brother is coming. (The fact that you are cooking lunch for your brother means that you already know he's coming. Use the present progressive for something already arranged in the future)

Remember the present progressive is formed by using the subject (My brother) + the verb 'be' (is) + the gerund form of the main verb (coming)

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MISTAKE NUMBER TEN

We go to sea every Sunday.

Mistake: Omission of the definite article 'the' before the noun 'sea'.

Correction: We go to the sea every Sunday.

Without ‘the’, the listener would think the speaker said, ‘we go to see – what?’ as in ‘see’ with one’s eyes.

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MISTAKE NUMBER ELEVEN

He is a person very kind.

Mistake: The adjective and the noun are in the wrong position. Remember, adjectives come before the noun in English. In some languages they come after.

Correction: He is a very kind person . ‘Very’ modifies ‘kind’ and adds intensity to adjectives.

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MISTAKE NUMBER TWELVE

When I finish my homework, in an hour or so, I go out.

Mistake: Omission of future on the second clause.

Correction: When I finish my homework, in an hour or so, I will go out .

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MISTAKE NUMBER THIRTEEN

I read the book yesterday. I will bring you next Friday.

Mistake: Omission of object after the verb 'bring'.

Correction: I read the book. I will bring you it next Friday.

The object pronoun 'it' replaces the noun 'book'.

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MISTAKE NUMBER FOURTEEN

Is possible to change our lesson from Monday to Tuesday?

Mistake: Omission of the subject.

Correction: Is it possible to change our lesson, or more natural English would be 'can we change our lesson'?

The subject 'it' is required. 'It' refers to the possibility.

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MISTAKE NUMBER FIFTEEN

I heard the audio book you lent me.

Mistake: Use of the wrong verb.

Correction: I listened to the audio book you lent me.

‘Listen’ is something you do intentionally. ‘Hear’ is unintentional. You can hear without listening.

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MISTAKE NUMBER SIXTEEN

I have the breakfast early in the morning.

Mistake: Use of ‘the’ when it is not needed.

Correction: I have breakfast early in the morning.

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MISTAKE NUMBER SEVENTEEN

I watched a film at the cinema yesterday.

Mistake: Use of the wrong verb.

Correction: I saw a film at the cinema.

You watch a film on TV or on the pc, but at the cinema you ‘see’ a film.

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MISTAKE NUMBER EIGHTEEN

Sorry for the late.

Mistake: 'late' is not a noun.

Correction: Sorry I'm late .

To be + late

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MISTAKE NUMBER NINETEEN

Can we see tomorrow for lunch?

Mistake: Wrong verb

Correction: Can we meet tomorrow for lunch.

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MISTAKE NUMBER TWENTY

Next Saturday I do a party.

Mistake: Two mistakes in one - wrong verb and wrong tense.

Correction: Next Saturday I'm having a party.

Remember that if something is already organised the use of the present progressive for the future is needed. Remember to use a future time expression such as 'tomorrow'.

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MISTAKE NUMBER TWENTY ONE

If the situation will change I will phone you.

Mistake: Double future.

Correction: If the situation changes , I will phone you.

First conditional – use the present simple after the 'if' clause, and the future on the result of the condition clause.

AFFIRMATIVE : IF I SEE JOHN --> I WILL TELL HIM TO PHONE YOU.

NEGATIVE : IF I DON'T SEE JOHN --> I WON'T TELL HIM TO PHONE YOU.

INTERROGATIVE : IF I SEE JOHN--> WILL I TELL HIM TO PHONE YOU?

NOTE: When forming the interrogative, remember to invert the auxiliary verb 'will' with the subject.

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MISTAKE NUMBER TWENTY TWO

I would like finding a job.

Mistake: Use the infinitive after 'would like', and not the gerund.

Correction: I would like to find a job.

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MISTAKE NUMBER TWENTY THREE

We arrived to London yesterday. We stay here for a week.

Mistake: Wrong preposition in the first sentence and wrong tense on the second sentence.

Correction: We arrived in London yesterday. We are staying for a week.

You arrive in a place , such as a country, a city or a town.

Use the present progressive for something that is ongoing. 'Staying for a week' is an action in progress.

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MISTAKE NUMBER TWENTY FOUR

I want we go now.

Mistake: Use of subject after the verb instead of the object pronoun. Use of the base form of the verb without the 'to'.

Correction: I want us to go now.

Always use an object pronoun after the verb. Never use a subject. Subjects come before the verb and not after.

See table below

Subject pronoun	I	YOU	HE	SHE	IT	WE	YOU	THEY
Object pronoun	ME	YOU	HIM	HER	IT	US	YOU	THEM

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MISTAKE NUMBER TWENTY FIVE

Thanks for to help me.

Mistake: After prepositions use the gerund.

Correction: Thanks for helping me.

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MISTAKE NUMBER TWENTY SIX

Do you like wine? Yes I like

Mistake: Use of the verb instead of the auxiliary verb when answering a short question that begins with an auxiliary verb.

Correction: Do you like wine? Yes I do .

‘Do not repeat the verb when answering a short question, that is, a question which begins with an auxiliary verb as opposed to a question word (interrogative pronoun)

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MISTAKE NUMBER TWENTY SEVEN

Mum bought new shoes. She likes it a lot.

Mistake: ‘Shoes’ is plural so the use of the plural object pronoun is needed.

Correction: Mum bought new shoes. She likes them a lot.

The object pronoun ‘them’ replaces the plural noun ‘shoes’ and is used to avoid repetition of the noun.

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MISTAKE NUMBER TWENTY EIGHT

There was an accident on the main road today and it was really impressive to see a man being thrown off his motorcycle.

Mistake: Wrong adjective. ‘Impressive’. In English ‘impressive’, does not have the same use as it does in many Latin derived languages. It does not

mean it shocked you in any way, rather, it means that it created a feeling of admiration or inspiration in you.

Correction: There was an accident on the main road today and it was really horrific /horrifying /shocking to see a man being thrown off his motorcycle.

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MISTAKE NUMBER TWENTY NINE

It is three weeks that I don't see John.

Mistake: Wrong tense.

Correction: I haven't seen John for three weeks.

English does not use the present simple to refer to any time before now – use the present perfect ('have' + past participle + for or since) when expressing past to present.

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MISTAKE NUMBER THIRTY

My grandfather grows up tomatoes.

Mistake: 'grow up' can only be used for people. Children grow up to become adults.

Correction: My grandfather grows tomatoes.

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MISTAKE NUMBER THIRTY ONE

I bought a new jeans today.

Mistake: The noun ‘jeans’ is a plural noun so it cannot be used with the indefinite article ‘a’.

Correction: I bought new jeans today or I bought a new pair of jeans today.

In some languages ‘jeans’ takes the plural form but not in English. If you want to use a singular noun then you need to say, ‘a pair of jeans.’

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MISTAKE NUMBER THIRTY TWO

I’m afraid from spiders.

Mistake: Wrong preposition.

Correction: I’m afraid of spiders.

To be afraid of something or someone.

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MISTAKE NUMBER THIRTY THREE

Bye! I going to the bank.

Mistake: Omission of the verb 'be'.

Correction: I am going to the bank.

Many non natives forget to use the verb 'be' with the present progressive. A sentence constructed with a subject + gerund' does not exist in the English language.

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MISTAKE NUMBER THIRTY FOUR

I am born in 1978.

Mistake: Tense error

Correction: I was born in 1978.

Use the past tense; people are born in the past. 'To be born'.

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MISTAKE NUMBER THIRTY FIVE

I am 18 years.

Mistake: Unnatural English.

Correction: I am 18 years old , or, I am 18.

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MISTAKE NUMBER THIRTY SIX

While I was to the bank this morning, I saw your sister.

Mistake: Wrong preposition.

Correction: When I was at the bank this morning, I saw your sister.

Verb 'be' is 'static' so cannot be used with preposition of movement 'to'.

'To' can only be used with 'action verbs', that is, verbs of movement.

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MISTAKE NUMBER THIRTY SEVEN

I am very interested to photography.

Mistake: Wrong preposition.

Correction: I am very interested in photography.

To be interested in (something or someone)

Remember if you use a verb after 'to be interested in', use the gerund. 'In' is a preposition and all prepositions require that the verb which follows, is in its gerund form.

E.g. I'm interested in buying that old house.

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MISTAKE NUMBER THIRTY EIGHT

She said me her name.

Mistake: There is no object pronoun after the verb 'say', 'said' in its past tense.

Correction: She told me her name, or, she said her name was

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MISTAKE NUMBER THIRTY NINE

I am not used to live in the country.

Mistake: The student has failed to use the gerund after the preposition 'to' -

Correction: I am not used to living in the country.

'To be used to' + gerund = you are not accustomed to life in the country.

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MISTAKE NUMBER FORTY

Please be quiet! I'm trying to concentrate myself on this assignment.

Mistake: Erroneous use of the reflexive pronoun 'myself' which is not needed.

Correction: Please be quiet! I'm trying to concentrate on this assignment .

Concentrate on something or someone

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MISTAKE NUMBER FORTY ONE

I've been to England last year.

Mistake: Use of the present perfect instead of the past simple. 'Last year' is an indicator of 'finished past'.

Correction: I went to England last year.

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MISTAKE NUMBER FORTY TWO

If I would win the lottery I would buy a house for my mother.

Mistake: the double use of 'would'. When using the second conditional, after the 'if' clause, do not use 'would'. If + past simple + would + infinitive without 'to')

Correction: If I won the lottery, I would buy a house for my mother.

AFFIRMATIVE : IF I **WON** THE LOTTERY --> I **WOULD BUY** A HOUSE FOR MY MOTHER.

NEGATIVE : IF I **DIDN'T WIN** THE LOTTERY --> I **WOULDN'T BUY** A HOUSE FOR MY.

INTERROGATIVE : IF I WON THE LOTTERY--> WOULD I BUY A HOUSE FOR MY MOTHER?

NOTE: When forming the interrogative, remember to invert the auxiliary verb 'would' with the subject.

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MISTAKE NUMBER FORTY THREE

I phoned to my friend this morning.

Mistake: The use of the preposition 'to' after the verb 'phone'. It may be used in other languages, but not in English.

Correction: I phoned my friend this morning.

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MISTAKE NUMBER FORTY FOUR

I am calling you from yesterday. Why didn't you answer to your phone?

Mistake: triple mistake. Wrong tense error, use of the wrong preposition.

1. The use of 'from' instead of 'since.'
2. Use of the preposition 'to' when it is not required.
3. 'I am calling you' does not refer to anytime in the past. When referring to actions in progress from the past until the present, use the present perfect

progressive. Have + been + gerund form of the main verb.

Correction: I've been calling you since yesterday. Why didn't you answer your phone?

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MISTAKE NUMBER FORTY FIVE

Martha is so intelligent girl.

Mistake: Use 'so' before an adjective to intensify it, but not with an adjective-noun phrase.

Correction: Martha is so intelligent .

If you want to include the noun after the adjective, in this case 'girl', then you need to say, 'Martha is such an intelligent girl .

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MISTAKE NUMBER FORTY SIX

Excuse me! Do you know where is the nearest bus stop?

Mistake: 'Do you know?' is the question. This is polite indirect speech and so the verb 'be' changes position and moves to the end.

Correction: Do you know where the nearest bus stop is ?

With other verbs: Do you know where ~~does Mary live~~ ? **Wrong**

Do you know where Mary lives ? **Right**

Remove the auxiliary verb because the clause ‘where Mary lives’ is not the question. ‘Do you know’ is the question.

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MISTAKE NUMBER FORTY SEVEN

I met Jill in the bus this morning.

Mistake: Wrong preposition.

Correction: I met Jill on the bus.

Say; on the bus, on the train, on the plane, on the boat, on the bike, but in the car.

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MISTAKE NUMBER FORTY EIGHT

Did you went to the party last week?

Mistake: Use of the verb in the past tense when the auxiliary verb ‘do’ takes the past tense in questions and negatives and becomes ‘did’.

Only use the past tense ‘went’ in affirmative statements, e.g. I went to the party last week.

Correction: Did you go to the party last week?

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MISTAKE NUMBER FORTY NINE

She lives near John. She lives near he.

Mistake: Use of a subject pronoun after the verb.

Correction: She lives near John. She lives near him .

The object pronoun ‘him’ takes the place of the noun John. Used to avoid repetition.

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MISTAKE NUMBER FIFTY

Look at my new bag I bought today. Do you like?

Mistake: You need to add an object pronoun, that is, ‘what’.

Correction: Do you like it ?

‘It’ refers to the bag and is used to avoid repetition of the noun ‘bag’.

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MISTAKE NUMBER FIFTY ONE

Everyday I go to work.

Mistake: 'Everyday' when written as one word, is an adjective which goes before a noun. It is used to describe a noun, as all adjectives are, and it means, ordinary normal and refers to something done routinely.

E.g. He's just your average everyday guy. (He is an ordinary person)

Correction: Every day I go to work.

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MISTAKE NUMBER FIFTY TWO

Everybody laughed when Jim told a really fun joke.

Mistake: Wrong adjective. 'Fun' means 'enjoyable'.

Correction: Everybody laughed when John told a really funny joke.

Example with 'fun'. The birthday party was a lot of fun.

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MISTAKE NUMBER FIFTY TWO

An eighteen years old boy was arrested yesterday.

Mistake: Adjective forms are never made plural.

Correction: An eighteen-year old boy was arrested yesterday.

‘An eighteen year old’ is an adjective form which describes the boy. The boy is eighteen years old – this is correct.

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MISTAKE NUMBER FIFTY THREE

I am agree with you.

Mistake: ‘Agree’ is a verb and does not need the verb ‘be’

Correction: I agree with you – (Present tense – subject + verb)

In formal written English we can say, ‘I’m in agreement with you.’

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MISTAKE NUMBER FIFTY FOUR

They no have a dog.

Mistake: Wrong negative

Correction: They don’t have a dog. In the present tense, use the auxiliary verb ‘do’ + ‘not’, contracted from ‘do not’ to ‘don’t.

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MISTAKE NUMBER FIFTY FIVE

He don't have a lot of money.

Mistake: In third person singular 'do' becomes 'does' and in the negative, 'does not', contracted in spoken English, doesn't.

Correction: He doesn't have a lot of money.

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MISTAKE NUMBER FIFTY SIX

I always write in my agenda at the end of each day.

Mistake: 'Agenda' is not the right word. Use 'agenda' for a business schedule.

Correction: I always write in my diary at the end of each day.

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MISTAKE NUMBER FIFTY SEVEN

We spent our holiday on a camping in the North of Scotland.

Mistake: 'Camping' is the wrong noun.

Correction: We spent our holiday on a campsite in the North of Scotland.

When to use ‘camping’. We go camping every year. ‘Camping’ can also be used as an adjective. E.g. We take our camping equipment with us when we go camping.

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MISTAKE NUMBER FIFTY EIGHT

My father works like a teacher.

Mistake: ‘like a teacher’ means that he works in the same way as a teacher but he is not a teacher.

Correction: ‘My father works as a teacher’ means that my father IS a teacher.

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MISTAKE NUMBER FIFTY NINE

I made a job interview yesterday.

Mistake: Wrong verb.

Correction: I had a job interview yesterday.

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MISTAKE NUMBER SIXTY

I ate lunch late today.

Mistake: Although the use of 'eat' is not entirely wrong, it is not natural English. Use the verb 'have' to conjugate with breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Correction: I had lunch late today.

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MISTAKE NUMBER SIXTY ONE

Last night I had a dinner at my girlfriend's house.

Mistake: Don't use articles before, 'breakfast', 'lunch', or 'dinner'.

Correction: I had dinner at my girlfriend's house.

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MISTAKE NUMBER SIXTY TWO

My sister is more tall than me.

Mistake: Use 'adjective + 'er' when the adjective has one syllable.

Correction: My sister is taller than me.

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MISTAKE NUMBER SIXTY THREE

My father's car was expensiver than mine.

Mistake: Use 'more' before adjectives with two syllables or more.

Correction: My father's car was more expensive than mine.

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MISTAKE NUMBER SIXTY FOUR

The city is noisyer than the country.

Mistake: Adjectives that end in 'y', lose the 'y' and are replaced with 'i' + 'er'.

Correction: The city is noisier than the country.

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MISTAKE NUMBER SIXTY FIVE

My mother gave me a new receipt for a delicious chocolate cake.

Mistake: Wrong noun 'receipt'. When you pay for something, the cashier gives you a receipt.

Correction: My mother gave me a new recipe for a delicious chocolate cake.

‘Recipe’ means ‘instructions’ to follow when you cook.

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MISTAKE NUMBER SIXTY SIX

My doctor gave me a recipe for antibiotics but the chemist is closed. I’ll get them tomorrow morning.

Mistake: Wrong word, ‘recipe’.

Correction: My doctor gave me a prescription for antibiotics but the chemist is closed. I’ll get them tomorrow morning.

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MISTAKE NUMBER SIXTY SEVEN

I travel with the train every morning.

Mistake: Wrong preposition and definite article where it is not needed.

Correction: I travel by train every morning.

Use ‘by’ for means of transport. By car, by bus, by boat but ‘on foot’.

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MISTAKE NUMBER SIXTY EIGHT

It doesn't depend from me. You need to ask my boss.

Mistake: Wrong preposition.

Correction: It doesn't depend on me. You need to ask my boss.

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MISTAKE NUMBER SIXTY NINE

The weather is different than what is was yesterday.

Mistake: Use of 'than' after 'different'. Use 'than' only with comparative adjectives.

Correction: The weather is different from what it was yesterday.

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MISTAKE NUMBER SEVENTY

Jane is married with Paul.

Mistake: Wrong preposition.

Correction: Jane is married to Paul.

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MISTAKE NUMBER SEVENTY ONE

I spent the money I got for my birthday for a new bicycle.

Mistake: Wrong preposition.

Correction: I spent the money I got for my birthday on a new bicycle.

You spend money on something or someone.

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MISTAKE NUMBER SEVENTY TWO

I'm thinking to go to London to perfect my English.

Mistake: Use of infinitive after the verb 'think' instead of preposition + gerund.

Correction: I'm thinking of going to London to perfect my English.

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MISTAKE NUMBER SEVENTY THREE

My grandfather always gave me very good advices.

Mistake: 'Advice' is an uncountable noun so cannot be made plural.

Correction: My grandfather always gave me useful advice .

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MISTAKE NUMBER SEVENTY FOUR

Henry and Hannah phone themselves several times a day.

Mistake: Use of reflexive pronoun instead of 'each other'. The above erroneous sentence means that Henry phones Henry and Hannah phones Hannah. (Illogical)

Correction: Henry and Hannah phone each other several times a day.

Henry phones Hannah and Hannah phone Henry = they phone each other.

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MISTAKE NUMBER SEVENTY FIVE

Geoffrey is more intelligent compared to his brother.

Mistake: After the comparative adjectives use 'than'.

Correction: Geoffrey is more intelligent than his brother.

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MISTAKE NUMBER SEVENTY SIX

We go to cinema twice a week.

Mistake: Definite article 'the' is required before 'cinema'.

Correction: We go to the cinema twice a week.

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MISTAKE NUMBER SEVENTY SEVEN

Either Bob or John are going to mend mum's washing machine.

Mistake: 'Either' means or one, or the other, so a singular verb must follow.

Correction: Either Bob or John is going to mend mum's washing machine.

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MISTAKE NUMBER SEVENTY EIGHT

Dad is of a bad mood today so it's better to avoid him.

Mistake: Wrong preposition.

Correction: Dad is in a bad mood today so it's better to avoid him.

To be in a good mood/to be in a bad mood

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MISTAKE NUMBER SEVENTY NINE

Where do you are from?

Mistake: 'Do' and 'be' are not used together. They are both auxiliary verbs and only one of the two can be used to form a question.

Correction: Where do you come from? Where are you from?

Use 'do' to help the verb 'come', use the verb 'be', in the above example 'are', when there is no verb to help.

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MISTAKE NUMBER EIGHTY

He likes a lot English.

Mistake: Wrong word order.

Correction: He likes English a lot.

Use 'subject + verb + object + extra information'

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MISTAKE NUMBER EIGHTY ONE

Help me move these furnitures please. They are really heavy.

Mistake: 'Furniture' is an uncountable noun so it cannot be made plural.

Correction: Help me move the furniture please. It's really heavy.

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MISTAKE NUMBER EIGHTY TWO

You eat too many bread.

Mistake: 'Bread' is an uncountable noun so cannot be used with 'too many'.

Correction: You eat too much bread. 'Too much' is used before uncountable nouns and refers to a large quantity.

MISTAKE NUMBER EIGHTY THREE

Is there milk enough for breakfast tomorrow morning?

Mistake: Use 'enough' before the noun.

Correction: Is there enough milk for breakfast tomorrow morning?

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MISTAKE NUMBER EIGHTY FOUR

Our new house is enough big for the whole family.

Mistake: Use 'enough' after adjectives.

Correction: Our house is big enough for the whole family. (This means the size of the house is sufficient for all the family)

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MISTAKE NUMBER EIGHTY FIVE

Our last house was too much small for four people.

Mistake: Use 'too much' before countable nouns only. Use 'too' before adjectives to indicate excessively.

Correction: Our last house was too small for four people.

Remember 'too' + adjective' – 'too much' + uncountable noun, 'too many' + countable noun.

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MISTAKE NUMBER EIGHTY SIX

My best friend talks English and Spanish.

Mistake: You cannot 'talk' a language. Use 'speak' for languages.

Correction: My best friend speaks English and Spanish.

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MISTAKE NUMBER EIGHTY SEVEN

He speaks a good English.

Mistake: No need for 'a'.

Correction: He speaks good English.

The noun 'English' is not quantifiable and therefore cannot take the article 'a'.

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MISTAKE NUMBER EIGHTY EIGHT

He speaks Spanish truly well.

Mistake: Use of 'truly' instead of 'really'.

Correction: He speaks Spanish really well.

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MISTAKE NUMBER EIGHTY NINE

I go never to the theatre.

Mistake: Wrong position of frequency adverb.

Correction: I never go to the theatre.

Place adverbs of frequency between the subject and the verb, but always place it before the verb 'be', which is an exception to the general rule) E.g. I am never late for work.

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MISTAKE NUMBER NINETY

I don't never go to the beach in the summer.

Mistake: Two negatives make a positive. The above statement means that you go to the beach.

Correction: I don't go to the beach in the summer/I never go to the beach in the summer/I don't ever go to the beach in the summer. 'Ever' gives more strength.

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MISTAKE NUMBER NINETY ONE

I have been in London three times in my life.

Mistake: Wrong preposition.

Correction: I have been to London three times in my life.

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MISTAKE NUMBER NINETY TWO

Mum has gone to the supermarket at 9 o'clock this morning.

Mistake: Use of the present perfect instead of the past simple.

Correction: Mum went to the shops this morning at 9 o'clock. (Use the past simple with past time expressions/for finished pasts)

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MISTAKE NUMBER NINETY THREE

I am writing since lunch time.

Mistake: Use the present perfect progressive for a time that started in the past and continued up to the present. Be aware that the present perfect progressive can only be used with action verbs. The same applies to the present progressive.

Correction: I have been writing since lunch time. (I began to write at lunch time (in the past) and I am writing now)

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MISTAKE NUMBER NINETY FOUR

We should to go home now. It's really late.

Mistake: Use of 'to' after 'should'.

Correction: We should go home now. It's really late.

Remember, all modal auxiliary verbs are followed by the base form of the verb without the 'to'.

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MISTAKE NUMBER NINETY FIVE

When I phoned him his mother said he slept.

Mistake: Use the past progressive for anything in progress.

Correction: When I phoned him his mother said he was sleeping .

The sleeping was in progress at that moment in the past, that is, when I phoned him.

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MISTAKE NUMBER NINETY SIX

Good bye. Now I go.

Mistake: Use the present progressive for anything in progress now.

Correction: Good bye. Now I am going . (The action is in progress)

Remember, present simple is never used for actions in progress. It is used for things that you do habitually or for present facts.

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MISTAKE NUMBER NINETY SEVEN

My sister is having a shower every day.

Mistake: Use the present simple for recurring actions.

Correction: My sister has a shower every day.

We can say, ‘my sister is having a shower now’. The action of having a shower is in progress now.

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MISTAKE NUMBER NINETY EIGHT

If he not go, he will let you know.

Mistake: Wrong negative. Use the present tense after ‘if’, in its negative form.

Correction: If he doesn’t go, he will let you know.

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MISTAKE NUMBER NINETY NINE

The dog of my sister is very nice. She loves him.

Mistake: This construction is not entirely ‘ungrammatical’ but it is not natural. It is better to use the genitive case, for possession when referring to

people.

Correction: My sister's dog (= the dog of my sister), is very nice and she loves him.

When referring to **things** and **not people** , then the above sentence is not wrong.

E.g. The legs of the table. **Right**

The table's legs. **Wrong** .

The legs of my mother. **Wrong**

My mother's legs. **Right**

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MISTAKE NUMBER ONE HUNDRED

As soon as I will go home, I will cook.

Mistake: Double use of will. After 'as soon as' use the present simple and use 'will' + base form of verb for the second clause.

Correction: As soon as I go home, I will cook. This is constructed in the same way as the first conditional.

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MISTAKE NUMBER ONE HUNDRED AND ONE

Every night I go to the bed after midnight.

Mistake: Use of the definite article ‘the’.

Correction: Every night I go to bed after midnight.

Author’s note: Do not use ‘the’ before the phrase, ‘I go to bed’. Use ‘the’ if you want to define a particular bed. E.g. The bed I saw in the furniture store was very nice. (Here we define a specific bed).

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MISTAKE NUMBER ONE HUNDRED AND TWO

I get up at the 8 o’clock.

Mistake: Use of the definite article ‘the’ before clock time.

Correction: I get up at 8 o’clock .

Do not use ‘the’ before ‘clock times’.

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MISTAKE NUMBER ONE HUNDRED AND THREE

Every morning I listen the music on the radio.

Mistake: Omission of ‘to’ after the verb ‘listen’.

Correction: Every morning I listen to the music on the radio. (Listen to someone or something)

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MISTAKE NUMBER ONE HUNDRED AND FOUR

I go to the school from Monday to Friday.

Mistake: Use of the definite article ‘the’ before ‘school’.

Correction: I go to school from Monday to Friday.

Author’s note: ‘Go to school’ is general. Use ‘the’ if you want to talk about a specific school. E.g The school near the park.

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MISTAKE NUMBER ONE HUNDRED AND FIVE

I play the basketball every Saturday.

Mistake: Use of the definite article ‘the’ before ‘basketball’.

Correction: I play basketball every Saturday.

Author’s note: Do not use ‘the’ before the names of games or sports.

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A closing note from the author

This is the end of the booklet. I hope it has helped you in some way or another and I sincerely thank you for purchasing it or borrowing it from the Kindle library.

I wish you the best of luck on your English language learning journey.

kindest regards,

Annabelle Jenkins
