

Common Misuses Quiz Answers

These and other misuses from A- Z are covered in *Acting on Words*, pages 565–569. See those pages for explanations of the various errors. For further examples and explanations, see “50 Small but Generally Irritating Errors” at this website, Handbook.

1. Incorrect: Alot of us believe that the world needs more emphasis on critical thinking and social justice.

Correct: *A lot* of us believe that the world needs more emphasis on critical thinking and social justice.

or [for less informal, more scholarly tone]

Many of us believe that the world needs more emphasis on critical thinking and social justice.

2. Incorrect: My teacher said that making three common errors was alright for my first essay but that I should correct them in the next one

Correct: My teacher said that making three common errors was *all right* for my first essay but that I should correct them in the next one.

3. Incorrect: There were so many outstanding essay entries that the first-prize money was divided between six writers.

Correct: There were so many outstanding essay entries that the first-prize money was divided *among* six writers.

4. Incorrect: A large amount of people demanding change has troubled the reactionary regime.

Correct: A large *number* of people demanding change has troubled the reactionary regime.

5. Incorrect: Please bring your books on the camp-over, so that you can continue to read for the test.

Correct: Please *take* your books on the camp-over, so that you can continue to read for the test.

6. Incorrect: My instructor warned me not to site Wikipedia or other resources that lack standard ethos.

Correct: My instructor warned me not to *cite* Wikipedia or other resources that lack standard ethos.

7. Incorrect: Yesterday, a strange man come by my place and asked about you.

Correct: Yesterday, a strange man *came* by my place and asked about you.

8. Incorrect: *Crimson Axe* is the scariest of the two horror movies that you recommended.

Correct: *Crimson Axe* is the *scarier* of the two horror movies that you recommended

9. Incorrect: Refusing to take no for an answer, he has been besieging her with continuous telephone calls.

Correct: Refusing to take no for an answer, he has been besieging her with *continual* telephone calls.

10. Incorrect: Improving my grammar is a challenge, but I plan to continue *on* with my efforts.

Correct: Improving my grammar is a challenge, but I plan to continue [*delete “on”*] with my efforts.

11. Incorrect: This website is different than the one we had for the first edition of the book.

Correct: This website is different *from* the one we had for the first edition of the book.

12. Incorrect: I try to understand grammar, but my biggest challenge right now is that I’m disinterested in it.

Correct: I try to understand grammar, but my biggest challenge right now is that I’m *uninterested* in it.

13. Incorrect: My essay was marked down due to several common errors.

Correct: My essay was marked down *because of* several common errors.

14. Incorrect: The affects of carbon emissions and other environmental hazards simply must be acknowledged.

Correct: The *effects* of carbon emissions and other environmental hazards simply must be acknowledged.

15. Incorrect: I hope to make less grammar errors in my next paper.

Correct: I hope to make *fewer* grammar errors in my next paper.

16. Incorrect: Writing a good story is important. Its also important to send it out to publishers.

Correct: Writing a good story is important. *It's* also important to send it out to publishers.

17. Incorrect: These kind of ideas are in too short supply.

Correct: These *kinds* of ideas are in too short supply.

18. Incorrect: Hopefully, we will see an increased depth of critical thinking and public-mindedness in the next generation.

Correct: *Let us hope* we will see an increased depth of critical thinking and public-mindedness in the next generation.

19. Incorrect: My teacher said that my essay had some *problems in terms of* wordiness.

Correct: My teacher said that my essay had some [delete “problems in terms of”] wordiness

20. Incorrect: My dog finally stopped barking and laid down.

Correct: My dog finally stopped barking and *lay* down

21. Incorrect: Much of these discoveries resulted from persistence.

Correct: *Many* of these discoveries resulted from persistence.

22. Incorrect: Not many players in this tournament can shoot the puck harder then Hayley Wickenheiser.

Correct: Not many players in this tournament can shoot the puck harder *than* Hayley Wickenheiser.

23. Incorrect: I have to many good ideas for this essay, so I am finding it difficult to focus on the length assigned.

Correct: I have *too* many good ideas for this essay, so I am finding it difficult to focus on the length assigned.

24. Incorrect: I expect the teacher to say that my essay is *very* unique.

Incorrect: I expect the teacher to say that my essay is very unique.

25. Incorrect: He should of warned her that the bus was leaving half an hour early.

Correct: He should *have* warned her that the bus was leaving half an hour early

26. Incorrect: A women from the library called you yesterday.

Correct: A *woman* from the library called you yesterday.