



PHILIPPINE REVIEW CENTER

**FOR SUB-PROFESSIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXAM
(2018)**

COMMON GRAMMAR MISTAKES

Misuse of the definite article:

Abstract nouns do not normally take the definite article when used in generalisations:

Right	Wrong
'The gang cannot distinguish Good from Evil'	'The gang cannot distinguish the Good from the Evil'
'She is afraid to enter/of entering the house to face reality'	'She is afraid to enter the house, to face the reality'
'He prefers to live close to nature because he is afraid of death'	'He prefers to live close to the nature because he is afraid of the death'

Prepositions:

'at' after 'come':

'They come home'	'They come at home'
'We can follow the evolution of her state of mind through the description of the house'	'We can follow the evolution of her state of mind by the description of the house'

'with' instead of 'to':

'Daisy is married to Tom'	'Daisy is married with Tom'
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'to' instead of 'with'

'The problem I am confronted with '	'The problem I am confronted to '
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'during' instead of 'for':

'She has not seen her son for eight years'	'She has not seen her son during eight years'
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'since' instead of 'for':

'They have known each other for eight years'	'They have known each other since eight years'
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'in the whole of' instead of 'throughout':

' throughout the story...'	' In the whole story...'
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'in' instead of 'inside' :

'She is unaware of the conflict happening inside her'	'She is unaware of the conflict happening in her'
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'in' instead of 'into':

'She only wants to get into her son's room'	'She only wants to get in her son's room'
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'as' instead of 'like':

'She felt like a stranger'	'She felt as a stranger'
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'of' instead of 'with':

'They cause Mrs Carnavon to be disgusted with herself'	'They cause Mrs Carnavon to be disgusted of herself'
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'of' instead of 'by':

'In this story by Doris Lessing...'	'In this story of Doris Lessing...'
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'of' instead of 'for':

'I think there are two reasons for the fact that she decides to clear the room'	'I think there are two reasons of the fact that she decides to clear the room'
'She feels confused, and the reason for this is to be found in...'	'She feels confused, and the reason of this is to be found in...'

'that' instead of 'as':

'The second waiter feels the same as the old man'	'The second waiter feels the same that the old man'
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'to' instead of 'with' after 'confront':

'They are confronted with an inextricable situation'	'They are confronted to an inextricable situation'
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'to' instead of 'at' after 'arrive':

'She must arrive at a decision'	'She must arrive to a decision'
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'explain' without 'to':

‘This story **explains to** us how we must look beyond the appearance of things’

‘This story **explains us** how we must look beyond the appearance of things’

‘say’ without ‘to’:

‘He **said to him/told him** that he liked the house’

‘He **said him** that he liked the house’

‘present’ without ‘with’:

‘John O’Hara **presents us with** the evolution of a mother’s state of mind’

‘John O’Hara **presents us** the evolution of a mother’s state of mind’

Pronouns:

‘**him/her**’ instead of ‘**himself/herself**’ (when the object and the subject are the same person):

‘She sees **herself** from a certain distance’

‘She sees **her** from a certain distance’

‘**who**’ (personal pronoun) instead of ‘**which**’ (impersonal pronoun):

‘The wolf, **which** is a wild animal...’

‘The wolf, **who** is a wild animal...’

‘the one of’ instead of ‘that of’:

‘Mrs Carnavon’s behaviour is **that of** a depressed person’

‘Mrs Carnavon’s behaviour is **the one** of a depressed person’

‘The third image is **that of** the magazine’

‘The third image is **the one of** the magazine’

Negation:

‘also not’ instead of ‘nor’:

‘He felt no qualm of conscience, **nor** any regret’

‘He felt no qualm of conscience, and **also not** any regret’

'not anymore' instead of 'no longer':

'She must go back home because it is no longer possible to stay in France'	'She must go back home because it is not possible anymore to stay in France'
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Verb forms

Inconsistent tenses:

'Her stepfather often comes to see her. One day he asks her..'	'Her stepfather often comes to see her. One day he asked her...'
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Use of the present continuous instead of the present simple:

'The atmosphere is tense and the author intensifies it further with words like...'	'The atmosphere is tense and the author is still intensifying it with words like...'
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Use of the infinitive instead of the present participle:

'This is a way to protect herself and to avoid showing what she really feels'	'This is a way to protect herself and to avoid to show what she really feels'
'This shows that she is not used to going into her son's room'	'This shows that she is not used to go into her son's room'

Use of the present participle instead of the infinitive:

'This scene explains her decision to get rid of Harry's belongings'	'This scene explains her decision of getting rid of Harry's belongings'
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Use of a 'that' subclause instead of the infinitive:

'He would like the old man to leave '	'He would like that the old man leaves '
'She wants them to know '	'She wants that they know '

'can' instead of 'may':

'When we watch movies we may or may not identify with the characters'	'When we watch movies we can or cannot identify with the characters'
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Use of the present tense instead of the present perfect:

'Jim and Crystal Styan have lived/have been living in a log cabin by a river for five years'	'Jim and Crystal Styan live in a log cabin by a river for five years'
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Possessive forms

'who's' instead of 'whose':

'The story is about a woman whose son has died'	'The story is about a woman who's son has died'
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'it's' instead of 'its':

'This is an intriguing story, its setting is significant'	'This is an intriguing story, it's setting is significant'
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use of the definite article in possessive forms:

' The Spielberg film / Spielberg's film'	' The Spielberg's film'
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Countable and uncountable nouns

'informations' instead of 'information':

We are given much information about the characters' thoughts'	'We are given many informations about the characters' thoughts'
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'evidences' instead of 'evidence':

'We have little evidence that the author is being ironic'	'We have few evidences that the author is being ironic'
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Vocabulary

'admit' instead of 'accept':

'Her son is dead and she can't accept it'	'Her son is dead and she can't admit it'
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'accept' instead of 'agree':

'He agreed to come to the cinema'	'He accepted to come to the cinema'
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'actual' instead of 'current':

'The article is in the current edition of <i>Le Monde Diplomatique</i> '	'The article is in the actual edition of <i>Le Monde Diplomatique</i> '
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'current' instead of 'common':

'The story offers a metaphor for a common misunderstanding between generations'	'The story offers a metaphor for a current misunderstanding between generations'
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'good' instead of 'right/correct':

'Mrs Carnavon tries to take the right/correct decision'	'Mrs Carnavon tries to take the good decision'
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'good' instead of 'well':

'They knew each other really well '	'They knew each other really good '
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'good' instead of 'effective':

'The description of the place is most effective '	'The description of the place is most good '
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'loose' instead of 'lose':

'She does not want to lose her memories of him'	'She does not want to loose her memories of him'
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'remember' instead of 'remind':

'She decides to remove all the things which could remind her of her son'	'She decides to remove all the things which could remember her of her son'
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'support' instead of 'bear' or 'stand':

'She does this because she can't bear/stand seeing the door locked'	'She does this because she can't support seeing the door locked'
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'this' instead of 'it is' (as a translation of 'c'est') at the beginning of sentences:

' It is here that the story really begins'	' This is here that the story really begins'
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'according to me' instead of 'in my opinion' ('in my view', 'as I see it', etc.):

'In my opinion , the title of the story reflects Mrs Carnavon's state of mind'	' According to me , the title of the story reflects Mrs Carnavon's state of mind'
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'tell' instead of 'speak':

'In this story Kate Chopin speaks about social class'	'In this story Kate Chopin tells about social class'
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'make' instead of 'do':

'But we don't know what her husband does to her'	'But we don't know what her husband makes her'
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'develop' instead of 'analyse':

'I will now analyse the symbolism of the house'	'I will now develop the house's symbolism'
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'remark' instead of 'notice':

'He wants to talk to her but then notices that...'	'He wants to talk to her but then remarks that...'
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'find again' instead of 'rediscover':

'She want to rediscover the traces of his existence'	'She wants to find again the traces of his existence'
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'project' instead of 'plan':

'She has to do what she planned '	'She has to do what she projected '
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'decease' instead of 'die':

'Time stopped when Harry died '	'Time stopped when Harry deceased '
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'get in' instead of 'enter':

'As soon as she enters the house'	'As soon as she gets in the house'
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'critic' instead of 'review'

'I have read a very good review of that book'	'I have read a very good critic of that book'
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Miscellaneous:

Always use full forms in formal essays:

'cannot', 'will not', 'who would', 'we are', etc.	'can't', 'won't', 'who'd', 'we're', etc.
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Confusion of noun with adjectival form, e.g. 'ironic' instead of 'irony':

'The last sentence of the story is ironic '	'The last sentence of the story is irony '
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Confusion of the noun form with the infinitive, e.g. 'apologies' with 'apologize':

'I must apologize for being late'	'I must apologies for being late'
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'News' with 'are' instead of 'is':

'What is the latest news?'	'What are the latest news?'
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Failure to capitalise days of the week and adjectives of nationality:

'See you on Wednesday '	'See you on wednesday '
'His behaviour is classically British '	'His behaviour is classically british '

Homophones

Beside and Besides

Take a close look at these words and notice that one has a "s" on the end which changes the meaning.

Beside: *preposition*, near, next to, at the side of

I will stand beside you through good times or bad.
She stood beside the fence gate.

Besides: in addition to, apart from, except

It was the most popular book ever written, besides the Bible.

Everyone besides Anna wanted to go swimming.

pore and pour

I recently read in a newspaper that "The police poured over the data of a crime looking for clues". We all know you can't pour over something, unless you are pouring a liquid over it. What they meant was pored which means to read or study.

Pore: *intransitive verb*; : to gaze intently, to read or study attentively —usually used with over, to reflect or meditate steadily.

She will pore over the book to get ready for the test.

Pour: *transitive verb*; to cause to flow in a stream, to dispense from a container
to supply or produce freely or copiously
to give full expression to : vent

intransitive verb; to move with a continuous flow , to rain hard, to move or come continuously, stream
to score easily or freely (as in basketball) —used with in

The waiter will pour drinks for the guest while we serve the food.

Did the rain pour down hard in your area?

elicit and illicit

Elicit and Illicit may sound the same when spoken but they have different spelling and meaning. Be careful when writing these words.

elicit: *verb*; to obtain, coax out, draw out, prompt

I could not elicit a response from her.

illicit: *adjective*; unlawful, forbidden, illegal

He is in jail for smuggling illicit drugs into the country.