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MODULE 1

Identifying Common Errors In Writing and Speaking English

1. SUBJECT VERB AGREEMENT

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What Is Subject Verb Agreement ?

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Basic Rule

- A singular subject (*she, bill, car*) takes a singular verb (*is, goes, shines*), whereas a plural subject takes a plural verb.
- **Example:**
- *The list of items is/are on the desk.*
- If you know that ***list*** is the subject, then you will choose ***is*** for the verb.

Rule 1

- A subject will come before a phrase beginning with **of**.
- ***Incorrect:*** *A bouquet of yellow roses lend colour and fragrance to the room.*
- ***Correct:*** *A bouquet of yellow roses lends . . . (bouquet lends, not roses lend)*

Rule 2

- Two singular subjects connected by *or*, *either/or*, or *neither/nor* require a singular verb.

Examples:

- *My aunt or my uncle **is** arriving by train today.*
- *Neither Juan nor Carmen **is** available.*
- *Either Kiana or Casey **is** helping today with stage decorations.*

Rule 3

- The verb **in an *or*, *either/or*, or *neither/nor*** sentence agrees with the noun or pronoun closest to it.
- **Examples:** *Neither the plates nor the serving bowl goes on that shelf.*
- *Neither the serving bowl nor the plates go on that shelf.*

This rule can lead to bumps in the road. For example, if I am one of two (or more) subjects, it could lead to this odd sentence:

- **Awkward:** *Neither she, my friends, nor I am going to the festival.*
- **Better:** *Neither she, I, nor my friends are going to the festival.*

OR

She, my friends, and I are not going to the festival.

Rule 4

- As a general rule, use a plural verb with two or more subjects when they are connected by ***and***
- ***Example:*** A car and a bike are my means of transportation.
- ***Exceptions:*** Breaking and entering is against the law.
- ***The*** bed and breakfast was charming.
- In these sentences, *breaking and entering* and *bed and breakfast* are compound nouns.

Rule 5

- ***Rule 5a:***

- Sometimes the subject is separated from the verb by such words as *along with*, *as well as*, *besides*, *not*, etc. These words and phrases are not part of the subject. Ignore them and use a singular verb when the subject is singular.

- ***Examples:***

- *The politician, along with the newsmen, is expected shortly.*
- *Excitement, as well as nervousness, is the cause of her shaking.*

- ***Rule 5b:***

- Parentheses are not part of the subject.
- **Example:** *Joe (and his trusty mutt) **was** always welcome.*
- If this seems awkward, try rewriting the sentence.

Rule 6

- In sentences beginning with *here* or *there*, the true subject follows the verb.
- ***Examples:***
 - There are four hurdles to jump.*
 - There is a high hurdle to jump.*
 - Here are the keys.*

Rule 7

- Use a singular verb with distances, periods of time, sums of money, etc., when considered as a unit.

- ***Examples:***

*Three miles **is** too far to walk.*

*Five years **is** the maximum sentence for that offense.*

*Ten dollars **is** a high price to pay.*

BUT

*Ten dollars (i.e., dollar bills) **were** scattered on the floor.*

Rule 8

- With words that indicate portions—e.g., **a lot, a majority, some, all** - Rule 1 given earlier in this section is reversed, and we are guided by the noun **after of**. If the noun **after of** is singular, use a singular verb. If it is plural, use a plural verb.
- **Examples:**
 - A lot of the **pie** has disappeared.
 - A lot of the **pies** have disappeared.
 - A third of the **city** is unemployed.
 - A third of the **people** are unemployed.
 - All of the **pie** is gone.
 - All of the **pies** are gone.
 - Some of the **pie** is missing.
 - Some of the **pies** are missing.

Rule 9

- With **collective nouns** such as *group, jury, family, audience, population*, the verb might be singular or plural, depending on the writer's intent.
- **Examples:**
All of my family has arrived OR have arrived.
Most of the jury is here OR are here.
A third of the population was not in favour OR were not in favour of the bill.
- *Anyone who uses a plural verb with a collective noun must take care to be accurate-and also consistent. It must not be done carelessly. The following is the sort of flawed sentence one sees and hears a lot these days:*
The staff is deciding how they want to vote.

Rule 10

- The word '**were**' replaces '**was**' in sentences that express a wish or are contrary to fact:
- **Examples:**
- If Joe **were** here, you'd be sorry.
- I wish it **were** Friday.
- She requested that he **raise** his hand.

Rule 11

- The verb and subject must agree in number (singular or plural)
- **Examples:**
- He plays football (SINGULAR)
- They play football (PLURAL)
- **A singular subject needs a singular verb**
- **A plural subject needs a plural verb**

BASIC PATTERN	SINGULAR	PLURAL
First Person	I walk	We Walk
Second Person	You walk	You walk
Third Person	He / she / it walks	They walk

Exercises: 1, 2 & 3

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3. COMMON ERRORS IN SUBJECT VERB AGREEMENT

Common Errors in Subject – Verb Agreement

- What is a subject – verb agreement error?
- **Singular Subject + Singular Verb = Agreement**
- **Plural Subject + Plural Verb = Agreement**
- How to find and fix subject verb agreement errors?

Common Errors in Subject – Verb Agreement

1. Words separate the subject and verb

- **Error:** One of my friends like to cook Italian food.
- **Correction:** One of my friends **likes** to cook Italian food.

2. The verb in the adjective clause doesn't match the noun it's referring to.

- **Error:** The people who lives next door asked me to get their mail.
- **Correction:** The **people** who **live** next door asked me to get their mail.

Common Errors in Subject – Verb Agreement

3. The verb comes before the subject

- **Error:** There is many reasons to disagree about politics.
- **Correction:** There **are** many **reasons** to disagree on politics.
- **Error:** Leading the club meeting today is **Akiko and Jose**.
- **Correction:** Leading the club meeting today **are Akiko and Jose**

Common Errors in Subject – Verb Agreement

4. The subject is a list of two or more nouns*

- **Error:** Microsoft, Starbucks, and Boeing hires technical graduates from Edmonds Community College.
- **Correction:** Microsoft, Starbucks, and Boeing hire technical graduates from Edmonds Community College.

***Exceptions**

Common Errors in Subject – Verb Agreement

5. The subject is an abstract idea

- **Error:** The **number** of students in each class **vary**.
- **Correction:** The **number** of students in each class **varies**.

6. The subject ends in an -s but is singular in meaning

- **Error:** **Mathematics** **prepare** students for many different careers.
- **Correction:** **Mathematics** **prepares** students for many different careers

Common Errors in Subject – Verb Agreement

7. The subject is an indefinite pronoun

- **Error:** Everyone have to take a health class to earn an AA degree.
- **Correction:** Everyone has to take a health class to earn an AA degree.

8. The subject is an uncountable noun

- **Error:** Time seem to go quickly during a test.
- **Correction:** Time seems to go quickly during a test.

Common Errors in Subject – Verb Agreement

9. Subject agrees with the nearest noun in paired conjunctions

- **Error:** Neither **Sam** nor **his friends** **wants** to miss graduation.
- **Correction:** Neither **Sam** nor **his friends** **want** to miss graduation.
- **Correction 2:** Neither **his friends** nor **Sam** **wants** to miss graduation.

Exercises: 4 & 5

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4. NOUN PRONOUN AGREEMENT

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Noun Pronoun Agreement

- What is a noun pronoun agreement?
- A pronoun is a word used to stand for (or take the place of) a noun. A word can refer to an earlier noun or pronoun in the sentence. A pronoun must agree with its antecedent in number.
- Rule: A singular pronoun must replace a singular noun; a plural pronoun must replace a plural noun.
- **Types of Noun Pronoun Agreements**
 - 1. Singular Noun, Singular Pronoun
 - 2. Plural Noun, Plural Pronoun
 - 3. Pronoun Ambiguity

Noun Pronoun Agreement

- **1. Singular Noun, Singular Pronoun**

- ***Example:*** Francine edited her **paper** because her ***paper*** was full of errors.
- ***Revision:*** Francine edited her ***paper*** because ***it*** was full of errors.
- ***Examples:***
- ***Each*** student must find ***his or her*** own note-taking strategy.
- ***Neither*** Bob nor Alex believed ***he*** would receive the award.
- ***A community group*** of teachers is meeting tonight to see if ***it*** can find a way to help students improve their SAT scores

Noun Pronoun Agreement

• 2. Plural Noun, Plural Pronoun

- **Example:** When **students** arrive on the first day of school, *students* need help finding the right classroom.
- **Revision:** When *students* arrive on the first day of school, *they* need help finding the right classroom.
- **Examples:**
 - When *a supervisor and an employee* disagree, *they* should discuss the situation.
 - The professor hoped that the *students* had reviewed *their* notes carefully. .
 - Smith (2016) and Taylor (2017) believed *their* results would lead to social change

Noun Pronoun Agreement

• 3. Pronoun Ambiguity

- *Example:* When Jeff and Brian joined the team members, **they** were scared.
- *Revision:* When Jeff and Brian joined the team members, **the team members** were scared.

Exercise: 6

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5. ADJECTIVE

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Adjective

- What is an Adjective?
- The simplest definition of an adjective is that it is a word that describes or clarifies a noun. Adjectives describe nouns by giving some information about an object's size, shape, age, colour, origin or material.
- It's a **big** table. (size)
- It's a **round** table. (shape)
- It's an **old** table. (age)

Types of Adjectives

1. Possessive Adjective
2. Descriptive Adjective
3. Numeral Adjective
4. Demonstrative Adjective
5. Interrogative Adjective

Exercise: 7

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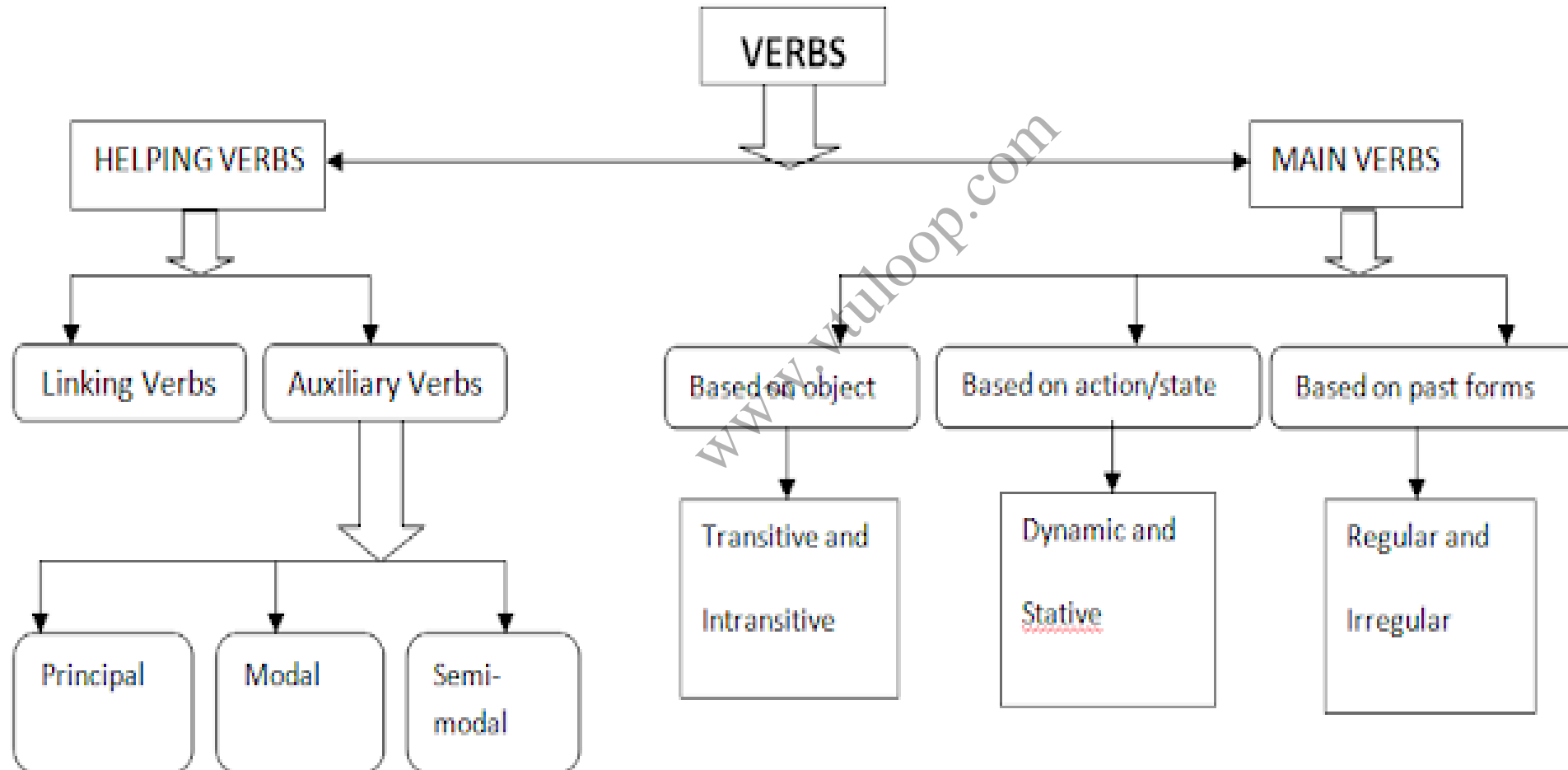
6. VERB

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Verb

- What is a Verb?
- A word used to describe an action, state, or occurrence, and forming the main part of the predicate of a sentence, such as *hear, become, happen*.
- A Verb is a word that tells or asserts something about a person or thing.

Types of Verbs



Exercise: 8

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7. ADVERB

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- What is an Adverb?
- A word or phrase that modifies or qualifies an adjective, verb, or other adverb or a word group, expressing a relation of place, time, circumstance, manner, cause, degree, etc. (e.g., *gently, quietly, then, there*).

- **Types of Adverbs**

1. Adverbs of Degree
2. Adverbs of Frequency
3. Adverbs of Manner
4. Adverbs of Place
5. Adverbs of Time

Exercise: 9

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8. SEQUENCE OF TENSES

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Sequence of Tenses

- **Meaning of Sequence of Tenses**
- The sequence of tenses is the principle, according to which the tense of the verb in the subordinate clause follows the tense of the verb in the principal clause

Sequence of Tenses: Rule 1

If the principle clause is in the present or future tense, the tense of the verb in the subordinate clause can be; past, present or future, depending on the sense conveyed, as:

- She says that she *has done well* in the examination
- She says that she *will surely get* through the examination
- Gopal realises that he *has not done* the right thing
- They will say that their relations *have deserted* them
- Rattan thinks that Savitri *will not attend* the party

Sequence of Tenses: Rule 1

- In the previous sentences, the tense in the principal clause is either the present or the future. The tense in the subordinate clauses, therefore, is present, past or future, according to the sense.
- Note: Whenever a subordinate clause expresses a purpose, condition or time its verb is always in the present tense, even if the verb in the principal clause is in the present or future; as:
 1. She is working hard so that she may pass the examination. (present)
 2. He will do anything so that he may escape imprisonment. (purpose)
 3. We will not get a reservation unless we know the booking clerk. (condition)
 4. We can excuse you if you promise not to worry about others again. (conditions)
 5. They shall leave when the seminar is over. (time)
 6. They may wait for me until I come. (time)

Sequence of Tenses: Rule 2

The past tense in the principal clause must be followed by a tense of the past time in the subordinate clause; as:

<i>Principal clause</i>	<i>Subordinate clause</i>
He said	<i>that he</i> knew <i>her brother</i>
She told me	<i>that she</i> had been suffering <i>since last Friday</i>
The principal	<i>knew</i> that the boy <i>would go</i> to his parents

Exceptions to Rule 2:

- A past tense in the principal clause may be followed by a present tense in the subordinate clause, when the subordinate clause expresses some habitual action or universal fact
- When the subordinate clause is introduced by some conjunction of comparison, example., *than*, this rule does not apply at all. Any tense can be followed by any tense.
- When the subordinate clause is an adverb clause, denoting place, reason or comparison, it may be in any tense as required by the sense, even if there is a past tense in the principal clause

- If the conjunction introducing the subordinate clause is 'lest', it is always followed by 'should'
- When a subordinate clause is introduced by 'as though' or 'as if', the past tense is generally used to indicate present time and the past perfect to denote past 'time'
- **Conditional Sentence:**
- In conditional sentence, the tense or the verb in the principal clause is future and that of the verb in the subordinate clause is 'present'

Exercise: 10

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9. MISPLACED MODIFIERS

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Misplaced Modifiers

- What are misplaced modifiers?
- Example:

On her way home, Jan found a **gold man's** watch.

Misplaced modifier

The example above suggests that a **gold man** owns a watch.

Example:

On her way home, Jan found a man's **gold watch**.

Correctly placed modifier

Now it is the **watch** that is **gold**.

Kinds of Misplaced Modifiers

A. Misplaced Adjectives

- **Example 1**

- The child ate a **cold dish** of cereal for breakfast this morning.
- Corrected: The child ate a dish of **cold cereal** for breakfast this morning.

- **Example 2**

- The **torn student's** book lay on the desk.
- Corrected: The student's **torn book** lay on the desk.

Kinds of Misplaced Modifiers

B. Placement of Adverbs

- **Example:** The sentences below illustrate how the placement of **just** can change the sentence's meaning
- *Just means only John was picked, no one else:*
- **Just John was picked to host the program**
- *Just means that John was picked now:*
- **John was just picked to host the program**
- *Just means that John hosted only the program, nothing else:*
- **John was picked to host just the program**


Kinds of Misplaced Modifiers

B. Placement of Adverbs

- **Example 1:**


This sentence, for example, suggests that we brought lunch slowly:

We ate the lunch that we had brought slowly.



To repair the meaning, move the adverb slowly so that it is near ate.

We slowly ate the lunch that we had brought




Kinds of Misplaced Modifiers

B. Placement of Adverbs

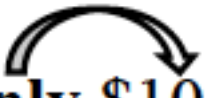
- **Example 2:**

This sentence, for example, means that I **only contributed** the money:



Only contributed \$10.00 to the fund for orphaned children.

Repaired, however, the sentence means that I contributed **only \$10.00**.



contributed **only** \$10.00 to the orphaned children.

Kinds of Misplaced Modifiers

C. Misplaced Phrases

- **Example 1 (a buyer with leather seats?)**

The dealer sold the buyer with leather seats.

Corrected:

The dealer sold the Cadillac with leather seats to the buyer.

Kinds of Misplaced Modifiers

C. Misplaced Phrases

- **Example 2 (a house made of barbed wire?)**

They saw a fence behind the house made of barbed wire

Corrected:

They saw a fence made of barbed wire behind the house.

Kinds of Misplaced Modifiers

D. Misplaced Clauses

- **Example 1 (a buttered woman?)**

The waiter served a dinner roll to the women that was well buttered.

Corrected:

The waiter served a dinner roll that was buttered to the women.

Kinds of Misplaced Modifiers

D. Misplaced Clauses

- **Example 2 (a hamper that Ralph wore?)**

Ralph piled all of his clothes in the hamper that he had worn.

Corrected:

Ralph piled all of his clothes that he had worn in the hamper.

Kinds of Misplaced Modifiers

E. Dangling Modifiers

- What are Dangling Modifiers?
- **Two Notes about Dangling Modifiers:**
 1. Unlike a misplaced modifier, a dangling modifier cannot be corrected by simply moving it to a different place in a sentence
 2. In most cases, the dangling modifier appears at the beginning of the sentence, although it can also come at the end
- *Sometimes the dangling modifier error occurs because the sentence fails to specify anything to which the modifier can refer*

Kinds of Misplaced Modifiers

E. Dangling Modifiers

- How to correct Dangling Modifiers?

Correction Method 1:

- Leave the modifier as it is
- Change the main part of the sentence so that it begins with the term actually modified
- This change will put the modifier next to the term it modifies

Correction Method 2:

- Change the dangling modifier phrase to a subordinate clause, creating a subject and verb
- Leave the rest of the sentence as it is

Kinds of Misplaced Modifiers

E. Dangling Modifiers

Example 1

Looking toward the west, a funnel-shaped cloud stirred up dust.

Dangling modifier

Corrected:

Looking toward the west, I saw funnel-shaped cloud stir up dust.

Kinds of Misplaced Modifiers

E. Dangling Modifiers

Example 2

When nine years old, my mother enrolled in medical school.

Dangling modifier

Corrected:

When I was nine years old, my mother enrolled in medical school.

Subject-verb

Kinds of Misplaced Modifiers

E. Dangling Modifiers

Example 3

walking to the movies, the cloudburst drenched Jim

↑
dangling modifier

Corrected:

Walking to the movies, Jim was drenched by the cloudburst.

Kinds of Misplaced Modifiers

E. Dangling Modifiers

Example 4

Having been fixed the night before, Priscilla could use the car.

↑
Dangling modifier

Corrected:

Since the car had been fixed the night before, Priscilla could use it.

↑ ↖
Subject-verb

Exercises: 11, 12 & 13

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10. ARTICLES

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Articles

- What are Articles?
- The words a or an, and the are called articles. Articles come before nouns.
- Types of Articles:
 1. Indefinite Articles
 2. Definite Articles

The article **a** or **an** is called the ***indefinite article*** because it doesn't state which person or thing we are talking about.

- For example, *a doctor* means *any doctor*
- A child means any child

The article **the** is called the ***definite article*** because it points out a particular person or thing.

Compare:

- You must consult the doctor. (Which doctor? It could be your family doctor.)
- You must consult a doctor. (Which doctor? It could be any doctor. Here the speaker does not have a particular doctor in mind.)

The indefinite article (a/an) is used before singular countable nouns. It cannot be used before plural nouns.

- We can say *an apple or a tree*, but not *an apples or a trees*

The definite article (the) can be used before singular countable nouns, plural countable nouns and uncountable nouns.

- We can say, *the book, the books, the rice or the milk*

A or an

The choice between a and an is determined by sound and not spelling.

- **A** is used before words beginning with a consonant sound. Examples are: *a boy, a tree, a ball, a flower, a horse, a hole, a European and a university.*
- **An** is used before words beginning with a vowel sound. Examples are: *an elephant, an egg, an orange, an umbrella, an hour, an heir etc.*

Exercise: 14

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11. PREPOSITIONS

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PREPOSITIONS

- What is a Preposition?
- A preposition is a word used to link nouns, pronouns, or phrases to other words within a sentence. They act to connect the people, objects, time and locations of a sentence. Prepositions are usually short words, and they are normally placed directly in front of nouns. In some cases, you'll find prepositions in front of gerund verbs.

Exercise: 15

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12. COMMON ERRORS IN CONJUNCTIONS

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- What are Conjunctions?
- Conjunctions are words that link other words, phrases, or clauses together.
- **Examples:**
- **Incorrect:** I work quickly and am careful.
- **Correct:** I work quickly and carefully.
- I like cooking and eating, but I don't like washing dishes afterward
- Sophie is clearly exhausted, yet she insists on dancing till dawn

Conjunctions allow you to form complex, elegant sentences and avoid the choppiness of multiple short sentences. Make sure that the phrases joined by conjunctions are parallel.

- **Types of Conjunctions?**
 1. Coordinating Conjunctions
 2. Correlative Conjunctions
 3. Subordinating Conjunctions

Conjunctions

- **Errors in Conjunction**
 - **One Conjunction for two clauses**
 - **Incorrect:** Because he is intelligent so he gets good marks
 - **Correct:** Because he is intelligent, he gets good marks
- OR**
- **Correct:** He is intelligent so he gets good marks

Conjunctions

- **Errors in Conjunction**

- **Incorrect:** Since he was angry, therefore, I said nothing

- **Correct:** Since he was angry, I said nothing

OR

- **Correct:** He was angry; therefore, I said nothing

- **Incorrect:** He did not come to work. Because he was ill

- **Correct:** He did not come to work because he was ill

Conjunctions

- **Errors in Conjunction**
- **Sentences beginning with a negative word**
- **Incorrect:** Neither he comes nor he writes
- **Correct:** Neither does he come nor does he write (Formal)
- **Correct:** He neither comes nor writes (Informal)
- **Incorrect:** Neither he smokes nor he drinks
- **Correct:** Neither does he smoke nor does he drink
- **Correct:** He neither smokes nor drinks

Conjunctions

• **Errors in Conjunction - Common Mistakes**

- **Incorrect:** The teacher asked that why I was late
- **Correct:** The teacher asked why I was late
- **Incorrect:** When I reached there then it was raining
- **Correct:** When I reached there, it was raining
- **Incorrect:** No sooner we reached the station, the train left
- **Correct:** No sooner did we reach the station, than the train left
- **Incorrect:** Not only he abused me but also beat me
- **Correct:** Not only did he abuse me but he also beat me

Conjunctions

• **Errors in Conjunction - Common Mistakes**

- **Incorrect:** Unless you do not try, you will never succeed
- **Correct:** Unless you try, you will never succeed
- **Correct:** If you do not try, you will never succeed
- **Incorrect:** There is no such novel which you mention
- **Correct:** There is no such novel as you mention
- **Incorrect:** The doctor asked me to avoid fatty foods such that cakes or hamburgers
- **Correct:** The doctor asked me to avoid fatty foods such as cakes or hamburgers

Exercises: 16 & 17

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13. WORD ORDER

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Word Order

- What do you understand by the term Word Order?
- **Common terms to know in Word Order:**
 1. Subject
 2. Object
 3. Adverbial Adjunct

For Simple Sentences:

- Identify the subject.
- Identify the action. (verb)
- Identify the object.
- Make the sentence and see if it makes proper sense.

For Complex Sentences:

- Identify the subject.
- Identify the action.
- Identify the object.
- Identify adverbial adjunct

Exercise: 18

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14. COMMON ERRORS IN THE USE OF IDIOMS AND PHRASES

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Idioms

An idiom is a special phrase (a group of words) whose total meaning is different from the meaning of individual words in the phrase.

A few common Idioms – Guess their meanings

- 1. The best of both worlds**
- 2. Speak of the devil**
- 3. See eye to eye**
- 4. Once in a blue moon**
- 5. When pigs fly**

Idioms

- 6. To cost an arm and a leg**
- 7. A piece of cake**
- 8. Let the cat out of the bag**
- 9. To feel under the weather**
- 10. To kill two birds with one stone**
- 11. To cut corners**
- 12. To add insult to injury**
- 13. You can't judge a book by its cover**
- 14. Break a leg**
- 15. To hit the nail on the head**

Phrases

A **Phrase** is a group of words, that mean something. E.g. the nice neighbor & a soft, comfortable bed.

Types of Phrases:

1. Noun Phrases

Examples:

- **The bewildered tourist** was lost
- **The lost puppy** was a **wet and stinky dog**
- **The flu clinic** had seen many cases of infectious disease
- It was a **story as old as time**
- **The sports car** drove **the long and winding road**
- Saturday became a **cool, wet afternoon**

Phrases – Types

2. Verb Phrases

Examples:

- He **was waiting** for the rain to stop
- She **was upset** when it didn't boil
- You **have been sleeping** for a long time
- You **might enjoy** a massage
- He **was eager** to eat dinner

Phrases – Types

3. Gerund Phrases

Examples:

- **Taking my dog for a walk** is fun
- **Walking in the rain** can be difficult
- **Strolling along a beach at sunset** is romantic
- **Getting a promotion** is exciting
- **Signing autographs** take time
- **Going for ice cream** is a real treat
- **Singing for his supper** was how he earned his keep
- **Getting a sore back** was the result of the golf game
- **Pulling an all-nighter** did not improve his test scores
- **Sailing into the sunset** was the perfect end to the book

Phrases – Types

4. Infinitive Phrases

Examples:

- **To make lemonade**, you have **to start with lemons**
- I tried **to see the stage**, but I was too short
- She organized a boycott **to make a statement**
- **To see Niagara Falls** is mind-boggling
- He really needs **to get his priorities in order**
- The company decided **to reduce hours for everyone**
- **To donate time or money** is an honourable thing
- I went to Spain **to study language and culture**

Phrases – Types

5. Appositive Phrases

Examples:

- **My favourite pastime**, needlepoint, surprises some people
- Her horse, **an Arabian**, was her pride and joy
- My wife, **the love of my life**, is also my best friend
- A cheetah, **the fastest land animal**, can run 70 miles an hour
- My idea, **a recycling bin for the office**, was accepted by the boss
- The Florida panther, **the state animal of Florida**, is an endangered species

Phrases – Types

6. Participial Phrases

Examples:

- **Washed with my clothes**, my cell phone no longer worked
- **Knowing what I know now**, I wish I had never come here
- I am really excited, **considering all the people that will be there**
- We are looking forward to the movie, **having seen the trailer last week**
- **Grinning from ear to ear**, she accepted her award
- The happy dog ran the entire length of the park, **pausing only to sniff the dandelions**
- **Painted a brilliant white**, the small room appeared bigger
- The lake, **frozen over all winter**, was finally thawing

Phrases – Types

7. Prepositional Phrases

Examples:

- The book was **on the table**
- We camped **by the brook**
- He knew it was **over the rainbow**
- She was lost **in the dark of night**
- He was **between a rock and a hard place**
- I waited **for a while**
- She smelled **of strawberries and cream**
- He won the challenge **against all odds**

Phrases – Types

8. Absolute Phrases

Examples:

- He looks sad, **his face expressing worry**
- **His heart beating fast**, Harry stood listening to the chilly silence

Exercises: 19 & 20

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15. GENDER

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Common list of genders

• Masculine	Feminine	Masculine	Feminine
Bachelor	maid, Spinster	buck	doe
Boar	sow	bull	cow
Boy	girl	bullock	heifer
Brother	sister	cock	hen
Dog	bitch	colt	filly
Darke	duck	lord	lady
Drone	bee	man	woman
Earl (count)	countess	monk	nun
		nephew	niece

By adding a termination - ess; as'

• Masculine	Feminine	Masculine	Feminine
• Author	authoress	mayor	mayoress
• Baron	baroness	patron	patroness
• Count	countess	peer	peeress
• Giant	Giantess	poet	poetess
• God	goddess	priest	priestess

By adding – ‘ess’ after dropping the vowel of the masculine ending; as,

• Masculine	Feminine	Masculine	Feminine
• Actor	actress	instructor	instructress
• Benefactor	benefactress	negro	negress
• Conductor	conductress	prince	princess
• Enchanter	enchantress	seamster	seamstress
• Traitor	traitress	proprietor	proprietors

By adding -ess in a less regular way; as,

• Masculine	Feminine	Masculine	Feminine
• Abbot	abbess	marquis	marchioness
• Duke	Duchess	marquess	marchioness
• Emperor	empress	master	mistress
• Governor	governess	murderer	murderess

By placing a word before or after the masculine word; as,

• Masculine	Feminine	Masculine	Feminine
• Beggar-man	beggar- women	he- bear	she – bear
• Bull- calf	cow – calf	he- devil	she- devil
• Bull-elephant	cow- elephant	he- goat	she – goat
• Cock-sparrow	hen- sparrow	landlord	landlady
• Fisherman	fisher women	mad servant	maid- servant

The feminine of some foreign words:

• Administrator	Administratrix	prosecutor	prosecutrix
• Czar	czarina	signor	Signora
• Executor	executrix	sultan	sultana
• Monsieur	madame	viceroy	vicereine
• Exceptional cases :			
• Bridegroom	bride	widower	widow
• Mr.	Mrs.	Lad	lass
• Master (boy)	miss (girl)	hero	heroine

Exercise: 21

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16. SINGULAR AND PLURAL

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Singular & Plural

- Meaning
- Spotting Singular and Plural

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Singular & Plural

- **Singular Noun Examples:**

- The **boy** had a **baseball** in his **hand**
- My **horse** prefers to wear an English **saddle**
- That **cat** never seems to tire of jumping in and out of the **box**
- **You** stole my **idea** and didn't give **me** any credit
- Your **mom** is going to be upset about that broken **lamp**
- It's not difficult to grow a **tree** as long as you give it plenty of water
- **I** can't believe **you** let your **dog** stick his **head** out the **window** while you drive

Singular & Plural

- **Plural Noun Examples:**
- The **boys** were throwing **baseballs** back and forth between **bases**
- Our **horses** are much happier wearing lightweight English **saddles**
- Those **cats** never seem to tire of chasing one another in and out of those **boxes**
- You stole my **ideas** and didn't give me any credit
- Our **moms** are going to be upset that **we** stayed out all night going to **parties**
- It's not too difficult to grow **trees** as long as you provide **them** with plenty of water
- I can't believe you allow your **dogs** to climb all over the **seats** while you are driving

Exercise: 22

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