# Errors, Common and Uncommon

- India has the second highest number of English speaking population in the world.
- Writing and speaking in English as a non-native speaker has its own set of problems.
- A lot of errors creep into the grammar and vocabulary of an average English speaker in India.

 Robin boasted that he had never fallen down from his bike. To fall down means to fall into the ground from standing position.

Correct Usage: Fallen off

- You fall off a horse/a ladder/a chair etc.
- You fall out of a window
- Tears do not fall down, they fall from the eyes. Similarly, leaves, rain, snow, etc. do not fall down, but simply fall.
- If you fall by hitting something, then you trip over.

I got your letter on last Friday... I am sad indeed to hear that you cannot attend my daughter's wedding... As you had advised, we bought the ornaments from a jewellery in Trichur... I hope you are in good condition.

- I got your letter on last Friday
- We do not place 'in', 'at' and 'on' before time phrases like 'this week', 'every month', 'last month', 'next year', etc.
- I am sad indeed to hear that you cannot attend my daughter's wedding.
- 'Indeed' means 'in fact', 'truly' etc. and is used to confirm to a previous or already mentioned point. Where there is no previous reference, proper word is 'certainly' or 'definitely'.

• As you had advised, we bought the ornaments from a jewellery in Trichur.

Jewellery means ornaments like rings, bangles, necklaces etc. Jeweller's is the place where ornaments are sold. You buy jewellery from jeweller's.

Rolled gold and Costume jewellery doesn't belong to this category. Rolled gold is gold plated jewellery whereas costume jewellery is expensive looking jewellery made of inexpensive materials.

• I hope you are in good condition.

When you enquire about general condition of health, the usual expression is 'well', 'fine' or 'in good health'. 'Good condition' suggests that one has been doing physical exercise.

## **Corrected**

I got your letter last Friday... I am indeed very sad to hear that you cannot attend my daughter's wedding... As you had advised, we bought the ornaments/jewellery from a jeweller's in Trichur... I hope you are well/in good health.

# Correct Usages of saying about illness

- She suffers from insomnia.
- There is something wrong with my chest.
- George has started problems with his back.
- She has a rare heart condition.
- My child is in bed with flu.
- He caught measles off his roommate.
- You will get pneumonia if you do not wipe your head.
- I cannot come, my husband's gone down with sore throat.

We do not say 'in the horizon', but 'on the horizon.

## Wrong

There's a new star in the horizon.

### Correct

There's a new star on the horizon.

## Wrong

Have you gone to foreign countries?

### Correct

Have you been to foreign countries?

(back after visiting foreign countries)

• Correct way of saying is 'broadening one's horizons' not broadening one's horizon.