

FREQUENTLY COMMITTED ERRORS

1. Hypothetical Situation

- a. I wish I **was** there. (were)
- b. She wished she **was** free from the life in which she was forced to fear death. (were)

Note :

Use 'were' with he /she/I in an imaginary /hypothetical situation.

2. Resemble

- a. He resembles **with** his brothers a lot. (remove with)
- b. He bears an uncanny resemblance **with** his mother. (to)

Note :

- a. Resemble /Resembles /Resembled will not take any preposition.
- b. Resemblance (noun form) takes preposition 'to.'

3. Discuss /Describe

- a. They discussed **about** the weather of Dehradun for hours. (remove about)
- b. She described **about** the scenic beauty of Mussoorie. (omit about)

Note :

Do not use 'about' after discuss and describe.

4. Property of Inversion

- a. Hardly I **had** got into bed when the telephone rang. (had I)
 - b. Barely **they had** stepped out of their house when it began to rain. (had they)
 - c. Scarcely **she had** got off the bike when it crashed into the back of a truck. (had she)
- No sooner **we had** arrived home than the police rang the doorbell. (had we)

Note :

- a. Helping Verb + Subject (Inverted Sentence Structure)
- b. Hardly /Barely/Scarcely - when
- c. No sooner - than

5. Lest

- a. Work hard lest you **will** fail. (should)
- b. Prepare well lest you should **not** come last. (Do not use any other negative word with lest)

Note :

- a. 'Lest' in itself is a negative word. Do not use any other negative word with it.
- b. Lest is followed by 'should.'

6. Advice

- a. His **advices were** very helpful (advice was)
- b. This was **a** good advice. (Do not use 'a')
- c. She gave me **an** advice. (Do not use 'an')

Note :

- a. Advice is an uncountable noun so it does not have any plural form .
- b. 'Advices' is an incorrect usage.
- c. Instead of saying 'an advice' use 'a piece of advice'.

7. Both ... and/as well as

- a. Both X **as well as** Y are known to me. (Remove as well as)

Note :

- a. 'Both' and 'as well as' are not used together. Use one of these two.
- b. Both X and Y are known to me.
- c. X as well as Y is known to me. (If X is singular, use a singular verb and if X is plural ,use a plural verb)

8. Until /unless

- a. You can go out and play until it **does not** get dark. (Remove 'does not' and write 'gets' .)
- b. I will not shoot that squirrel **until** someone puts a gun to my head. (use until for a condition)

Note :

- a. Do not use any other negative word with until /unless.
- b. Unless is used in the context of any general condition. It means except if.
- c. Until is used in the context of time.
- d. Do not use until and unless together if the sentence does not indicate both. (General condition & Time context.)

9. Despite /Inspite of

- a. Despite **of** her fear, she wrapped her arms around him .(Remove 'of')
- b. **Inspite** his hard work he failed. (Use inspite of)

Note :

- a. Despite does not take any preposition.
- b. Inspite takes the preposition 'of'
- c. Both these words are used to express contrary situations.

10. Look forward to/looking forward to

- a. She is looking forward to **meet** me. (in place of meet use 'meeting'.)
- b. She looks forward to meeting me. (correct)
- c. She is looking forward to the meet. (correct) (meet is a noun here.)

Note :

- a. If looking forward to /look forward to is followed by a verb ,add – ing .
- b. If looking forward to/look forward to is followed by a noun do not change it .
- c. Both the expressions mean the same.

11. It is high time /it is time/It is about time

- a. It is high time we **do** our preparation. (did)
- b. It is time we did our preparation. (correct)
- c. It is about time (that)you clean your study table. (use cleaned)

Note :

- a. All the above expressions mean that something should have been done a long time ago.
- b. Use verb in the past form with the above expressions .

12. Reflexive Pronoun (self /selves)

- a. Ram **enjoyed** at the party. ('enjoyed himself ' as object is missing.)
- b. You can **avail** of 50% discount on this product. (avail yourself)
- c. They **absented** from the class. (absented themselves)
- d. The student absented **himself/herself** from the session. (himself)

Note :

- a. Reflexive pronouns end in – self/selves.
- b. All the above verbs take reflexive pronouns.
- c. By default use a masculine gender with a noun that does not specify the gender. (writer/student/doctor etc.)

13. Nothing else ...than/but

- a. Nothing else matters to her **than** her self esteem. (but)

Note :

Nothing else means except one thing no other thing . And to denote except we use 'but.'

14. Accompany

- a. She accompanied **with** her sister to the party. (Remove with)
- b. She accompanied her sister to the party.(correct)

Note :

- a. With accompany do not use 'with'.
- b. Accompany itself means to go with someone .

15. Comprise : Consists of /made up of

- a. The U.S.A. comprises **of** 50 states. (remove of)
- b. The book is comprised of 20 pages. (correct)

Note :

- a. Comprise does not take the preposition 'of'.
- b. However, when used in a passive voice it takes 'of'.
- c. Passive voice structure : is /are comprised of.

16 Emphasize : To lay stress / To give importance to

- a. The teacher emphasized **on** the need for strict monitoring of attendance. (remove 'on')
- b. The teacher laid emphasis on the need for strict monitoring of attendance. (correct)

Note :

- a. Emphasize does not take the preposition 'on'.
- b. However, its noun form 'emphasis' takes 'on'.

17. Forbid :To order someone not to do something.

- a. The duke forbade the people of his state from **not** marrying outside of their social classes. (Remove 'not')
- b. He was forbidden from meeting me. (No error)

Note : Forbid/Forbade/Forbidden is a negative word. Do not use another negative word with it.

18 Type of/sort of/kind of

- a. What type of a situation this is? (incorrect)
- b. What type of a situation is this? (incorrect)
- c. What kind of a person are you? (incorrect)
- d. What type of situation is this? (correct)

Note :

- a. The above phrases denote that we are referring to a group /a category etc. Hence , do not use 'a'.
- b. In sentences beginning with a 'question word' do not write the helping verb (is/are etc.) at the end.

19. Although ...but/yet

- a. Although much research has been conducted on medical marijuana, **but** scientists haven't determined whether the substance causes cancer or not. (replace but with yet)
- b. Although much research has been conducted on medical marijuana, scientists haven't determined whether the substance causes cancer or not . (No error)
- c. Although much research has been conducted on medical marijuana, yet scientists haven't determined whether the substance causes cancer or not . (No error)

Note :

- a. Although is used to express a contrasting (opposite idea) in a sentence.
- b. Although is not followed by but. It takes yet or simply a comma.

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