

YOUR DAILY ENGLISH COMPANION

+ TOP 999 VOCABULARY WORDS

ENGLISH

Common Errors

Glossary of Correct Usage

Words differentiation

Common Mistakes

Your Vocabulary Booster

English Proverbs Explained

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Preface:

Ultimately, “ Your Daily English Companion” is and will be your number one choice for polishing your communication skills in English language.

Your Daily English Companion, will be a series of English language books for both students and non students who have a need and curiosity to improve their language abilities.

This one in particular, comprises of areas that are enabling your competency in understanding English Common Errors, Glossary of Correct Usage, Words differentiation, Common Mistakes, Your Vocabulary Booster and English Proverbs Explained.

If English Language is your second language, then this is the right book for you to use on a daily basis.

Learning never stops. Learning requires some bit of patience. And if you want to succeed in your profession, you must be able to communicate effectively and this cannot be achieved unless your English language is well polished. You must have a strong command of the language backed by a robust vocabulary. That is the only way you will win the respect of your employers, your peers, your business associates and guess what----- your family too!

Wish you good reading.

Common Errors

USE OF ARTICLES

Incorrect : I have **a good news** for you.

Correct : I have **good news** for you

Incorrect: **The men** are national beings.

Correct : **Men** are national beings.

Incorrect: The boys leave **the school** at four o'clock.

Correct : The boys leave **school** at four o'clock.

Incorrect: He sent **a word** that he would come soon.

Correct : He sent **word** that he would come soon.

Incorrect: I have read **the Shakespeare's Macbeth**.

Correct : I have read **Shakespeare's Macbeth**

Incorrect: You cannot **set a foot** in this house.

Correct : You cannot **set foot** in this house.

Incorrect: **The envy** is an evil passion.

Correct : **Envy** is an evil passion.

Incorrect: He has not yet **gone to the bed**.

Correct : He has not yet **gone to bed**.

Incorrect: He is **Daniel** in judgment.

Correct : He is **a Daniel** in judgment.

Incorrect: He made **very wise** decision.

Correct : He made **a very wise** decision.

Incorrect: **Fire** broke out in our village.

Correct : **A fire** broke out in our village.

Incorrect: **Andamans** are a group of islands.

Correct : The **Andamans** are a group of islands.

USE OF NOUNS

Incorrect: The clock has struck **five hours**.

Correct : The clock has struck **five**.

Incorrect: There is no **place** in the hall.

Correct : There is no **room** in the hall.

Incorrect: **Little thing** has been done.

Correct : **Little** has been done.

Incorrect: We have an **urgent business**.

Correct : We have an **urgent piece of business**.

Incorrect: He came by the **4:30 o'clock train**.

Correct : He came by the **4:30 train**.

Incorrect: He left the place with **his belonging goods**.

Correct : He left the place with **his goods**.

USE OF PRONOUNS

Incorrect: **He absented** from the school yesterday.

Correct : **He absented himself** from the school yesterday.

Incorrect: He **availed of** the opportunity.

Correct : He **availed himself of** the opportunity.

Incorrect: Don't **pride on** your victory.

Correct : Don't **pride yourself on** your victory.

Incorrect: The girl wants to **get herself married**.

Correct : The girl wants to **get married**.

Incorrect: The climate of India is hotter **than England**.

Correct : The climate of India is hotter **than that of England**.

Incorrect: Everybody will get **their** share.

Correct : Everybody will get **his** share.

USE OF ADJECTIVES

Incorrect: He is **sick**.

Correct : He is **ill**.

Incorrect: I have **strong** headache.

Correct : I have **a severe** headache.

Incorrect: This is **more preferable than that**.

Correct : This is **preferable to that**.

Incorrect: No **less** than fifty students were present.

Correct : No **fewer** than fifty students were present.

Incorrect: I want a **little** quantity of milk.

Correct : I want a **small** quantity of milk.

Incorrect: Ram **only** is guilty.

Correct : Ram **alone** is guilty.

Incorrect: Do not go out in the sun with your head **open**.

Correct : Do not go out in the sun with your head **bare OR uncovered**.

Incorrect: Give a **verbal** translation of the passage.

Correct : Give a **literal** translation of the passage.

Incorrect: The association has **three thousands of rupees in cash**.

Correct : The association has **only three thousand rupees**.

USE OF ADVERBS

Incorrect: He does not know **to swim**.

Correct : He does not know **how to swim**.

Incorrect: Don't **go** in the sun.

Correct : Don't **go out** in the sun.

Incorrect: I know him **too** well.

Correct : I know him **very** well.

Incorrect: I shall **of course** do it.

Correct : I shall **certainly** do it.

USE OF CONJUNCTIONS

Incorrect: **Now** you are tired, you may rest awhile.

Correct : **Now that** you are tired, you may rest awhile.

Incorrect: No sooner had he died, **when** his sons began to quarrel.

Correct : No sooner had he died **than** his sons began to quarrel.

Incorrect: He asked me **that why** I had not gone there.

Correct : He asked me **why** I had not gone there.

Incorrect: **Until** you remain idle, you cannot succeed.

Correct : **As long as** you remain idle, you cannot succeed.

ERRORS IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF SENTENCES

Incorrect: **One of his family members** is dead.

Correct : **A member of his family** is dead.

Correct : **One of the members of his family** is dead.

Incorrect: **My brother's all the books** have been stolen.

Correct : **All my brother's books** have been stolen.

Correct : **All the books of my brother** have been stolen.

Incorrect: For what **you are** here ?

Correct : What **are you** here for ?

Incorrect: Tell me why **did you go** there ?

Correct : Tell me why **you went** there ?

Incorrect: **I, you and he** will go together.

Correct : **You, he and I** will go together.

Incorrect: Exercise is good **both for** work as well as health.

Correct : Exercise is good **for** work as well as health.

Incorrect: He did not abstain **to smoke** but persisted **to purchase** valuable cigars.

Correct : He did not abstain **from smoking** but persisted **in purchasing** valuable cigars.

Incorrect: To him I **did a request** which he did not comply.

Correct : To him I **made a request with** which he did not comply.

Incorrect: I cannot bear **your separation**.

Correct : I cannot bear **separation from you**.

Incorrect: Open the **last but one page** of the book.

Correct : Open the **last page but one** of the book.

Incorrect: I solicit **your favor to grant me leave**.

Correct : I solicit the favor of your granting me leave.

Incorrect: Those who are absent, **I shall punish** them.

Correct : **I shall punish** those who are absent.

Incorrect: After **doing the work**, his face brightened.

Correct : After **he had done the work**, his face brightened.

Incorrect: We shall be glad to **get your good news**.

Correct : We shall be glad to **get good news from you**.

Incorrect: I feel **myself** feverish.

Correct : I feel feverish.

Incorrect: You have no excuse **to be forgetful**.

Correct : You have no excuse **for being forgetful**.

Incorrect: He rose **equal to the occasion**.

Correct : He rose **to the occasion**.

Correct : He was **equal to the occasion**.

Incorrect: Are your work busy ?

Correct : Do you have a busy job ?

Incorrect: I am going **to** a picnic.

Correct : I am going **on** a picnic.

Incorrect: I am **a bit in a hurry**.

Correct : I am **in a bit of a hurry**.

Incorrect: I'll **date her out** this Saturday.

Correct : I'll **take her out on a date** this Saturday.

Incorrect: If **one day** I am good in English, I would definitely admit it.

Correct : If **someday** I am good at English, I will definitely admit to it.

Incorrect: How do you think to learn the English ?

Correct : What is your point on learning English ?

Incorrect: Are you investing **on** stock market ?

Correct : Are you investing **in** the stock market ?

Incorrect: I am difficult to learn English.

Correct : It is difficult for me to learn English.

Incorrect: We have full off and half off on Sunday.

Correct : We are given the option to work either full or half day on Sunday.

Incorrect: In fact, Billy really owns some personality to be a VIP.

Correct : In fact, Billy really has what it takes to be a VIP.

Incorrect: Uganda is coming into rainy weather.

Correct : Uganda is in rainy season now.

Incorrect: All these three cities are similar warm as Malaysia.

Correct : All three of these cities are as warm as Malaysia.

Incorrect: What time of a day now in your country ?

Correct : What is the time now in your country ?

Incorrect: Comes to think of it, it sounds Right : !

Correct : Come to think of it, it does sound Right : !

Incorrect: You can try it more

Correct : You can try a few times

Incorrect: He went **to** abroad to further his study.

Correct : He went abroad to further his study.

Incorrect: Today, I'll wash my cat.

Correct : I'll give my cat a bath today.

Incorrect: How many days left for you to quit your position ?

Correct : How many days are left **before** you quit your job?

Correct : How many days are left **until** you quit your job?

Incorrect: Did Thailand come into rain season ?

Correct : Is it the rainy season in Thailand ?

Incorrect: How was your sleeping yesterday ?

Correct : Did you have a good sleep yesterday ?

Incorrect: He is trying to look cute to make himself forgiven.

Correct : He is trying to get away with it by looking cute.

Incorrect: Why don't stay more time here ?

Correct : Why don't you stay a little longer ?

Incorrect: But you know a lot about computer, isn't it ? I know nothing at all about it !

Correct : But you know a lot about computer, don't you ? I myself know nothing about it !

Incorrect: The sales of light arms is the main cause of heavy casualty in conflicting nations.

Correct : The sale of light arms to conflicting nations is the main cause of heavy casualties.

Incorrect: Why you want to know more about me ? I am just a small people.

Correct : Why do you want to know more about me ? I am a nobody.

Incorrect: Make sure that it is a high **pay** job.

Correct : Make sure that it is a high **paying** job.

Incorrect: I wonder if there is a comment on the certificate by GE about how **good** a student perform in the course ?

Correct : I wonder if there is a comment on the certificate by GE about how **well** a student performs in the course ?

Incorrect: We have lots of rain, because we're in monsoon season.

Correct : There is a lot of rain here as we are in monsoon season now.

Incorrect: How much is the temperature?

Correct : What is the temperature ?

Incorrect: Don't feel anger with me !!! I'm just kidding.

Correct : Don't be mad at me !!! I'm just kidding.

Incorrect: Kitty, your honey was left just now because I told him you will coming soon.

Correct : Kitty, your honey **has** just left as I told him you would be coming soon.

Incorrect: I am a Ugandan and have been **abroad 10 years**.

Correct : I am Ugandan and have been **abroad for 10 years**.

Incorrect: OK, tell me how does he like ?

Correct : OK, tell me what he looks like ?

Incorrect: I think you should go to abroad find a job make your life a little bit changed.

Correct : I think you should **go abroad** to find a job and make your life a little bit different for a change.

Incorrect: Lilian is living far away with Uganda.

Correct : Lilian is living far away from Uganda.

Incorrect: I am sure not even one man can control himself if he meet this kind of situation.

Correct : I doubt that there is even one man who can control himself in this situation.

Incorrect: Are you a saler, Alvin ?

Correct : Are you a salesman, Alvin ?

Incorrect: The team bring a lot of happy for football fan in the world but now I doubtful them.

Correct : The team used to bring a lot of fun to the soccer fans in the world but I am doubtful of them now.

Incorrect: Which kind of car ?

Correct : What type of car ?

Incorrect: I think your express will have a little difficult, but that is a lucky thing, I can understand you.

Correct : I think you have difficulty in expressing your idea. Luckily, I can understand you.

Incorrect: How are you this week ?

Correct : How have you been this week ?

Incorrect: I know you are good in computer and English.

Correct : I know you are good at computers/computing and English.

Incorrect: I think your qualification will surely make you open a computer or English training center.

Correct : I think you can open up a computer or English training center with your qualifications.

Incorrect: I am no exceptional.

Correct : I am no exception.

Incorrect: My telephone conversation with you for past one and half week has made me feel you as a very firm character.

Correct : Having telephoned with you for one week, I think you have a very firm/strong character.

Incorrect: It is easy or not get visa?

Correct : Is it easy to get visa ?

Incorrect: I wonder why are you keep study after graduated high school ?

Correct : I wonder why you keep studying after graduation from high school ?

Incorrect: He will be great help for you.

Correct : He will be of great help to you.

Incorrect: Am I a simple girl and has not any brains ?

Correct : Am I a naive lady who doesn't have intelligence ?

Incorrect: What sport are you interest ?

Correct : What sports are you interested in ?

Incorrect: The discussion will begin after the dinner.

Correct : The discussion will begin after dinner.

Incorrect: Can the communism coexist with the capitalism ?

Correct : Can communism coexist with capitalism ?

Incorrect: Professor Mbabazi will speak on the latest development in the chemistry.

Correct : Professor Mbabazi will speak on the latest development in chemistry.

Incorrect: We make **the bread** with the flour.

Correct : We make **bread** with flour.

Incorrect: **The experience** is the best teacher.

Correct : **Experience** is the best teacher.

Incorrect: David has just been commissioned as the captain.

Correct : David has just been commissioned as captain.

Incorrect: When children grow up, they are sent to the school.

Correct : When children grow up, they are sent to school.

Incorrect: They study in the England.

Correct : They study in England.

Incorrect: Some of the students speak the Swahili very well.

Correct : Some of the students speak Swahili very well.

Incorrect: More and more people today die of the cancer.

Correct : More and more people today die of cancer.

Incorrect: I like to play the football.

Correct : I like to play football.

Incorrect: The blue is my favorite color.

Correct : Blue is my favorite color.

Incorrect: Mary went shopping on the Saturday.

Correct : Mary went shopping on Saturday.

Note : When seasons, months or days are specified, they are preceded by the definite article.

In the winter of 1976 she met with an accident.

I shall be going to the States in the fall.

Incorrect: The dogs are faithful animals.

Correct : Dogs are faithful animals.

Incorrect: She has not answered to his question.

Correct : She has not answered his question.

Incorrect: We had a meeting in this afternoon.

Correct : We had a meeting this afternoon.

Note : With ~~the~~, the preposition **in** is used.

I work best in the morning.

He will be back in the afternoon.

Incorrect: My sister she is at school.

Correct : My sister is at school.

Note : In speaking, one may sometimes repeat the subject for emphasis, but such a construction normally occurs in this type of sentence.

You people must come earlier tomorrow.

Incorrect: The company, having finished the construction project, it received its pay.

Correct : The company, having finished the construction project, received its pay.

Incorrect: The hunter took aim and then he shot the boar.

Correct : The hunter took aim and then shot the boar.

Incorrect: I bought a story book to read it.

Correct : I bought a story book to read.

Incorrect: John said that, "I know the answer."

Correct : John said, "I know the answer."

Incorrect: Although he was ill, but he went to work as usual.

Correct : Although he was ill, he went to work as usual.

Incorrect: You may not realize that how important time is.

Correct : You may not realize how important time is.

Incorrect: He is a more nicer person than you.

Correct : He is a nicer person than you.

Incorrect: John's work is more perfect than Tom's.

Correct : John's work is better than/superior to Tom's.

Incorrect: This book is the most unique of all.

Correct : This book is unique.

Incorrect: I don't have enough money to buy big house.

Correct : I don't have enough money to buy a big house.

Note : If the noun is specified, **the** is used

I want to buy a computer. The computer must be versatile in function.

Incorrect: Why do you need hundred dollars ?

Correct : Why do you need a hundred dollars ?

Incorrect: He has good knowledge of English grammar.

Correct : He has a good knowledge of English grammar.

Incorrect: Japanese are industrious and frugal.

Correct : The Japanese are industrious and frugal.

Note : Once the is omitted, the meaning changes from people to language.

Not all the Baganda are proficient in Luganda.

Is French a beautiful language ?

Incorrect: I seldom go to theatre.

Correct : I seldom go to the theatre.

Incorrect: Smiths invited me to a dinner.

Correct : The Smiths invited me to a dinner.

Note : It is a common practice in English to use a family name to refer to a certain family and its members. Such a family name must be pluralized and preceded by the definite article **the**.

Incorrect: Uncle's advice is great significance.

Correct : Uncle's advice is of great significance.

Incorrect: The judge has decided the case.

Correct : The judge has decided upon the case.

Incorrect: Do you want to try my new car ?

Correct : Do you want to try out my new car ?

Incorrect: I enjoyed during the holidays.

Correct : I enjoyed myself during the holidays.

Incorrect: Mary felt sorry about the matter but she did not voice.

Correct : Mary felt sorry about the matter but she did not voice it.

Incorrect: Many people in the past died from malaria.

Correct : Many people in the past died of malaria.

Incorrect: We were astonished by his sudden resignation.

Correct : We were astonished at his sudden resignation.

Incorrect: He took his girlfriend in the hand.

Correct : He took his girlfriend by the hand.

Incorrect: What is the difference of these two things ?

Correct : What is the difference between these two things ?

Incorrect: What is the time on your watch ?

Correct : What is the time by your watch ?

Incorrect: Besigye has been absent from Monday ?

Correct : Besigye has been absent since Monday ?

Note : To express the idea of from a certain time to now, we normally say "from ... to/till now ?".

Every week, I work from Monday to Saturday.

Incorrect: We will tolerate no interference with our internal affairs.

Correct : We will tolerate no interference in our internal affairs.

Note : (**In** means to meddle ; **With** means to hinder/obstruct.)

I don't allow any interference with my work.

Incorrect: The answer of this question is quite complicated.

Correct : The answer to this question is quite complicated.

Incorrect: Under the help of an influential friend, he got the job.

Correct : With the help of an influential friend, he got the job.

Note : To express various states or conditions, we use **under**.

Business improved under the new management.

Incorrect: Nobody is bound to suffering.

Correct : Nobody is bound to suffer.

Incorrect: Some people are not used to live in a hot country.

Correct : Some people are not used to living in a hot country.

Incorrect: Susan is incapable to complete the task by herself.

Correct : Susan is incapable of completing the task by herself.

Incorrect: Nobody can avoid to make mistakes.

Correct : Nobody can avoid making mistakes.

Incorrect: He succeeded to get the prize.

Correct : He succeeded in getting the prize.

Incorrect: The students were busy to prepare their lessons.

Correct : The students were busy preparing their lessons.

Incorrect: Please tell him don't come now.

Correct : Please tell him not to come now.

Incorrect: I saw them to work.

Correct : I saw them work.

Incorrect: You had better to go now.

Correct : You had better go now.

Incorrect: The country is belonged to every citizen.

Correct : The country belongs to every citizen.

Note : Verbs like ***belong, happen, occur*** etc. are not used in the passive voice.

Incorrect: Water composes of hydrogen and oxygen.

Correct : Water is composed of hydrogen and oxygen.

Incorrect: Shelley looks cheerfully.

Correct : Shelley looks cheerful.

Incorrect: I didn't see him too.

Correct : I didn't see him either.

Note : In English, the adverbs **also** and **too** appear in affirmative sentences. The adverb **either** appears at the end of negative sentences.

Incorrect: She bought a new scissors.

Correct : She bought a new pair of scissors

Incorrect: His room's windows are open.

Correct : The windows of his room are open.

Incorrect: It is everybody's duty to defend their country.

Correct : It is everybody's duty to defend his country.

Incorrect: Either of them are to go.

Correct : Either of them is to go.

Incorrect: More police was sent to the scene of the crime.

Correct : More police were sent to the scene of the crime.

Note : The noun police is singular in form but plural in sense.

Incorrect: Kabajungu pretended to not recognize me.

Correct : Kabajungu pretended not to recognize me.

Incorrect: She neither speaks English nor Runyankore.

Correct : She speaks neither English nor Runyankore.

Incorrect: Only I and my friend were at the concert.

Correct : Only my friend and I were at the concert.

Incorrect: There is a dirty mark on the rug which must be removed.

Correct : On the rug, there is a dirty mark which must be removed.

Incorrect: Kirabo approached me and held my hand, said, "Hello !"

Correct : Kirabo approached me, held my hand, and said, "Hello !"

Incorrect: The climate of Japan is different from Taiwan.

Correct : The climate of Japan is different from that of Taiwan.

Incorrect: We realized where our weak points were and how to get rid of them.

Correct : We realized where our weak points were and how we could get rid of them.

Incorrect: All I know is my friend is right.

Correct : All I know is that my friend is right.

Note : When the "**that** clause" is the object of a verb, the subordinating conjunction that may be omitted. When it is a complement of the verb **be**, **that** cannot be omitted.

Incorrect: Most of us found difficult to comprehend his speech.

Correct : Most of us found it difficult to comprehend his speech.

Incorrect: Her heart sank and could hardly stand.

Correct : Her heart sank and she could hardly stand.

Note : Not changing the subject will make "her heart" seem to have "feet" on which it stands.

Incorrect: While doing the work, there are obstacles ahead.

Correct : While doing the work, they met with obstacles.

Note : A certain action must be attached to the actor; otherwise the action becomes dangling.

Incorrect: Mandy is easy to suffer from cold.

Correct : Mandy suffers from cold easily.

Incorrect: : How much is the price of this pen ?

Correct : How much is this pen ? Or How much does this pen cost ? Or What is the price of this pen ?

Glossary of Correct Usage

A

1. accept, except. **Accept** is a verb : **except** is a preposition
They **accepted** my invitation.
Everyone attended the meeting **except** the secretary.

2. advice, advise. **Advice** is a noun; **advise** is a verb.
His **advice** was useful.
I was **advised** to purchase a more economical car.

3. affect, effect. **Affect** is a verb; it means " to influence."
Effect may be a verb or a noun. The verb **effect** means " to
cause to happen "; the noun **effect** means " the result."
Pollution **affects** everyone.
Your tears do not **affect** me.
Your tears have no **effect** upon me.
Doctors have **effected** a cure for polio.
The **effect** of drugs is well known.

4. almost, most. **Most** is used to form the superlative; it is
used to modify nouns. **Almost** is an adverb.
Most people are honest.
He is the **most** unusual person I have ever met.
Almost everyone has a desire to succeed.
Almost all of the food was eaten.

5. already, all ready. **Already** means " before the time
specified. " **All ready** means " completely prepared."
The movie had **already** begun by the time we arrived.
The members were **all ready** to hear the report.

6. altogether, all together. **Altogether** means " thoroughly."
All together means " in a group."
The thought of a third world war is **altogether** frightening.
The children were **all together** on the bus.

7. amount, number. Use **amount** to refer to thing sin bulk or mass; **number** refers to the countable.

Wrong : I was amazed by the **amount** of people present.

Right : I was amazed by the **number** of people present.

Right : The **amount** of money needed was soon collect.

8. and which, which

Wrong : I found a lost dog **and which** needs a good home.

Right : I found a lost dog **which** needs a good home.

Wrong : My father is a good man **and whom** we all love deeply.

Right : My father is a good man **whom** we all love deeply **and whom** we admire.

9, anywheres, anywhere Anywheres is very informal

Wrong : We can talk **anywheres**.

Right : We can talk **anywhere**.

10. around

Wrong : He arrived **around** ten o'clock.

Right : He arrived **about** ten o'clock.

B

1. as. Avoid using **as** instead of **because, for, since, that, or whether**.

Wrong : **As** he was ill, he stayed home.

Right : **Because** he was ill, he stayed home.

: **Since** he was ill, he stayed home.

: He stayed home, **for** he was ill.

Wrong : I feel **as** I should go.

Right : I feel **that** I should go.

2. at. Omit the " at "

Wrong : Where is he living **at** now ?

Right : : Where is he living now ?

3. at about. Omit the " at ".

Wrong : He arrived **at about** noon.

Right : He arrive **about** noon.

4. **because**. Do not begin a noun clause with **because**.

Wrong : **Because** he was late annoyed the teacher

Right : His lateness annoyed the teacher.

Right : The fact that he was late annoyed the teacher.

Wrong : **Because** I overate was why I became ill.

Right : **Because** I overate, I became ill.

5. **beside, besides**. **Besides** means " in addition to." **Beside** means " next to. "

He sat **beside** the pretty girl.

He owes a bicycle **besides** a car.

6. **between, among**. **Among** always implies more than two; **between** implies only two.

Wrong : There is little difference **between** the members of the class.

Right : There is little difference **among** the members of the class.

Right : There is little difference **between** the two nationalities.

7. **but, hardly, scarcely**. Do not use these words with another negative.

Wrong : I **couldn't hardly** see him.

Right : I **could hardly** see him.

Wrong : He **didn't have but** one dollar.

Right : He **had but** one dollar..

8. **different from (not different than)**

The result was much **different** from what I expected.

9. **equally as good** is not correct. Use either **equally good** or **as good as**.

Wrong : The movie is **equally as good** as the play.

Right : The movie and the play are **equally good**.

Right : The movie is **as good as** the play.

10. **expect and suppose (or think)** have different meanings.

Wrong : I **expect** that she will be here.

Right : I **suppose** (or **think**) that she will be here.

Right : I **expect** to be late.

Right : They **expect** us to help them.

C

1. farther, further. Farther pertains to distance; **further** is used to express additional time, degree, or quantity.

Chicago is **farther** north than Fort Worth.

We traveled **farther** yesterday than the day before.

I will give you **further** information later.

The president had nothing **further** to reveal.

2. fewer, less. Fewer refers to number, to the countable. **Less** refers to value, degree, or amount.

The class consists of **fewer** than fifteen students.

Fewer girls become engineers than boys.

He spends **less** time on his studies than on his golf game.

Wrong : **Less** people speak Thai than English.

Right : **Fewer** people speak Thai than English.

3. had better, would rather express advisability or preference. Do not omit the auxiliary.

Wrong : You **better** pay attention to what I am saying.

Right: You **had better** pay attention to what I am saying.

4. half a, a half are correct. Do not use **a half a**.

Wrong : She ate **a half a** sandwich.

Right : She ate **half a** sandwich (or **a half** sandwich)

5. hanged, hung. Hanged refers to executions.

The murderer was **hanged** for his crime.

The wall was **hung** with photographs.

He **hung** his clothes in the closet.

6. healthful, healthy. Healthy usually means " having health." **Healthful** means " giving health."

Vitamins are **healthful**.

I want to buy a **healthy** kitten.

7. in, into. **In** indicates "location within." **Into** indicates "motion or direction."

Wrong : She stepped **in** the car.

Right : She stepped **into** the car.

8. in back of, in between are incorrect. Omit the " in."

Wrong : Mary was standing **in between** two chairs.

Right : Mary was standing **between** two chairs.

Right : **Back of** the library is Allen Hall.

9. in regards to is not correct. Say **in regard to, as regards, or regarding.**

Wrong : She spoke to me **in regards to** my grades.

Right : She spoke to me **in regard to**(or **as regards, regarding**) my grades.

10. inside of, outside of are incorrect. Omit the " of." Do not confuse **inside of** with **within.**

Wrong : He lives **outside of** the city.

Right : He lives **outside** the city.

Wrong : The meeting will be over **inside of** an hour.

Right : The meeting will be over **within** an hour.

Wrong : The children are to remain **inside of** the house.

Right : The children are to remain **inside** the house.

D

1. its, it's. It's is a contraction of it is. **Its** is a possessive pronoun.

It's essential that we leave on time.

Its habits have been studied in detail.

2. kind, sort are singular words which may be modified by **that** or **this.**

Wrong : I like **these kind** of students.

Right : I like **this kind** of student.

Right : **These kinds** of machines are very useful.

Wrong : **Those sort** of people amuse me.

Right : **That sort** of person amuses me.

3. kind of a, sort of a. Omit "a."

Wrong : What **sort of a** wife is she ?

Right: What **sort of** wife is she ?

4. kind of, sort of are sometimes confused with the word "somewhat."

Wrong : The record was **kind of** expensive.

Right : The record was **somewhat** expensive.

5. later, latter. **Latter** refers to the last name of two. Do not use **latter** if more than two are named. **Later** is the comparative of **late**.

Wrong : John, Mary, and Susan entered the room. **The latter** was carrying a typewriter.

Right : John, Mary, and Susan entered the room. **The last named** was carrying a typewriter.

Right : There are a typewriter and a pencil sharpener on the desk. **The latter** needs to be repaired.

6. lay, lie. The verb **lay** has an object; the verb **lie** does not have an object. The principal parts of the verb **lay** are: **lay** (present), **laid** (past), **laid** (past participle), and **laying** (present participle). The principal parts of the verb **lie** are: **lie** (present), **lay** (past), **lain** (past participle), and **lying** (present participle).

Wrong : I always **lay** down after I eat dinner.

Right : I always **lie** down after I eat dinner. (present tense)

Wrong : He **laid** down because he had a headache.

Right : He **lay** down because he had a headache. (past tense)

Wrong : The books are **laying** on the table.

Right : The books are **lying** on the table (present participle)

Right : The teacher **laid** her books on her desk. (past tense)

Right : The boys have **lain** under the tree for several hours. (past

participle)

Right : She has **laid** her head on the pillow. (past participle)

Right : Her head **lies** on the pillow. (present tense)

7. leave, let are sometimes confused.

Wrong : She will not **leave** me smoke inside the classroom.

Right : She will not **let** me smoke inside the classroom.

Right : **Leave** (or **let**) me alone.

8. lend, loan. **Lend** is a verb; **loan** is a noun.

Wrong : Would you **loan** me your pencil.

Right : Would you **lend** me your pencil.

Right : He went to the bank to take out a **loan**.

9. like, as, as if. **Like** is a preposition; **as, as if** (or **as though**) are conjunctions. **As** is also a preposition when it means " in the capacity of."

Wrong : She doesn't study **like** she should.

Right : She doesn't study **as** she should.

Wrong : She acts **like** she doesn't understand.

Right : She acts **as if** (or **as though**) she doesn't understand.

Right : **As** a member of the organization, I have a Right : to vote.

Right : He eats **like** a bird.

10. lose, loose. **Lose** is a verb. **Loose** means " not tight."

She will **lose** weight if she goes on a diet.

One of the buttons on my shirt is **loose**.

E

1. maybe, may be. **Maybe** means " perhaps." **May be** is a verb form.

Wrong : **May be** the meeting will be cancelled.

Right : **Maybe** the meeting will be cancelled.

Right : The meeting **may be** cancelled.

2. myself, himself, yourself are reflexive pronouns. Do not use them unless they refer back to the subject.

Wrong : No one attended the meeting besides **ourselves**.

Right : No one attended the meeting besides **us**.

Wrong : **A man like himself** deserves praise.

Right : A man like **him** deserves praise.

Wrong : Only John and **myself** witnessed the accident.

Right : Only John and **I** witnessed the accident.

Right : I wrote the composition **by myself**.

Right : They **themselves** did the research. (or They did the research **themselves**.)

3. off of. Omit " of."

He **fell off** the horse.

4. out loud is not correct. Say **aloud**.

Wrong : He sang out loud.

Right : He sang aloud.

5. passed, past. **Passed** is a verb.

Wrong : She **past** me the salt.

Right : She **passed** me the salt.

Right : One can learn from his **past** experiences.

Right : He lives in the **past**.

6. percentage, percent. Use percent after a number.

Wrong : A large **percent** of his salary is spent on food.

Right : A large **percentage** of his salary is spent on food.

Right : He spends twenty **percent** of his income for rent.

7. prefer is not followed by the preposition **than**.

Wrong : I **prefer** chocolate ice cream **than** vanilla.

Right : I **prefer** chocolate ice cream **to** vanilla.

Right : I **prefer** chocolate ice cream **rather than** vanilla.

8.principal, principle. **Principal** is a noun or an adjective meaning " chief official " or " main." **Principle** is a noun, meaning " fundamental truth."

He followed basic scientific **principles**.

He is a man of few **principles**.

The **principal** side effect of the drug is drowsiness.

My **principal** objection to smoking is its danger to health.

9. quiet, quite. Quite means " completely." Do not use **quite** instead of **very, rather, or somewhat**.

Wrong : The apartment is **quite** expensive.

Right : The apartment is **very** (**rather, somewhat**) expensive.

Right : We must be **quiet** inside the library.

Right : You are **quite** wrong.

10.raise, rise. The verb **rise** does not have an object. The verb **raise** has an object. The principal parts of the verb rise are:

rise (present), **rose** (past), **risen** (past participle), and

rising (present participle). The principal parts of the verb

raise are: **raise** (present), **raised** (past), **raised** (past participle), and **raising** (present participle).

He **raised** his hand before asking the question. (past tense)

Some questions were **raised** about income taxes. (past participle)

Should a gentleman **rise** when a lady enters the room ? (present tense)

The sun **rises** in the east and sets in the west. (present tense)

After finishing dinner, he **rose** from the table. (past tense)

God has **risen** from the dead. (past participle)

The sun is **rising** high in the sky. (present participle)

F

1. reason because is not correct. Say **reason that**

Wrong : The **reason** I came late was **because** I overslept..

Right : The **reason** I came late was **that** I overslept.

Wrong : The **reason** that he makes poor grades is **because** of his poor study habits.

Right : The **reason that** (or **why**) he makes poor grades is his poor study habits.

2. says, said. Said is the past tense.

Wrong : John ran into the room and says, " There is a stranger outside."

Right : John ran into the room and said, " There is a stranger outside."

3. **seldom ever, seldom or ever** are incorrect. Use **seldom if ever** or **hardly ever**.

Wrong : He **seldom ever** plays tennis.

Right : He **seldom if ever** (or **hardly ever**) plays tennis.

4. **sit, set. Sit** does not take an object; **set** takes an object. The principal parts of the verb **sit** are : **sit** (present), **sat** (past), **sat** (past participle), and **sitting** (present participle). The principal parts of the verb **set** are: **set** (present), **set** (past), **set** (past participle), and **setting** (present participle).

The old man is **sitting** under the tree. (present participle)

She **set** the chair beside the window. (past tense)

He **sat** down to rest. (past tense)

They **set** a date for the meeting. (past tense)

Sit here. (present tense)

The guests are **sitting** at the table. (present participle)

5. **so that. So that** refers to " purpose." Do not omit " that."

Wrong : He came here **so** he could study English.

Right : He came here **so that** he could study English.

6. **such.** Do not use **such** to mean " very." In a result clause;

such should be followed by **that**.

Wrong : New York is **such** a crowded city.

Right : New York is a **very** crowded city.

Right : New York is **such** a crowded city **that** I wouldn't like to live there.

7. **superior** is followed by the preposition **to** (not **than**).

Wrong : My toothpaste is **superior than** the other brands on the market.

Right : My toothpaste is **superior to** the other brands on the market.

8. **sure** and **try** are not followed by **and**.

Wrong : : Be **sure and** study for the test.

Right : Be **sure to** study for the test.

Wrong : **Try and** get some rest.

Right : **Try to** get some rest.

9. that. Do not omit **that** in noun clause.

Wrong : My objective to smoking is it is dangerous to health.

Right : My objective to smoking is **that** it is dangerous to health.

Wrong : He assured me he understood my problem and he would try to help me.

Right : He assured me **that** he understood my problem and **that** he would try to help me.

10. their, there, they're.

They're over there beside the cabinet.

I am not interested in **their** motives.

There was nothing left to do.

There are several reasons for his actions.

They're coming later this afternoon.

G

1. to, too, two

It isn't urgent **to** write a report.

The actress was **too** nervous to go on stage.

There were **two** cars involved in the accident.

Too many cooks spoil the broth.

2. type of. Do not omit " of."

Wrong : That **type** movie depresses me.

Right : That **type of** movie depresses me.

3. used to, supposed to. Do not omit the **-d**.

Wrong : He is **suppose** to be here by six.

Right : He is **supposed** to be here by six.

4. wait on means " to serve." Do not confuse with **wait for**.

Wrong : She **waited on** me for half an hour.

Right : She **waited for** me for half an hour.

Right : The clerk **waited on** several customers during the morning.

5. want is not followed by a clause.

Wrong : : She **wants that** I help her.

Right : She **wants me to** help her.

6. were is used in contrary-to-truth conditional clauses. Do not use **was** in these clauses.

Wrong : If I **was** taller, I could play basketball.

Right : If I **were** taller, I could play basketball.

Right : I **was** a basketball player when I **was** in college.

7. when refers to " time." Do not use **when** to introduce a noun clause.

Wrong : : **When** I miss my bus causes me to be late.

Right : : **When** I miss my bus, I am late.

8. where refers to " place." Do not use **where** meaning **that**.

Wrong : : I read in the newspaper **where** the President is going to veto the proposed law.

Right : : I read in the newspaper **that** the President is going to veto the proposed law.

9. while refers to " time." Do not use **while** meaning **but** or **and**.

Wrong : : My brother is a pilot **while** my sister is a teacher..

Right : : My brother is a pilot, **and** my sister is a teacher.

Wrong : : **While** my family is not rich, we have many advantages.

Right : : My family is not rich, **but** we have many advantages.

Right : : **While** you were out, someone called and left a message.

10. who's, whose. Who's means who is. Whose is a possessive.

Wrong : : She is a woman who's advice is easy to follow.

Right : : She is a woman whose advice is easy to follow.

Right : : Do you know who's giving the party ?

Words differentiation

Able , Capable

able - if someone or something is able to do something, they have skills or qualities which make it possible for them to do it.

capable - if a person or thing is capable of doing something, they have the ability, capacity, or potential to do it.

The different usage between **able** and **capable** is 'able' has a broader meaning in one's ability but 'capable' shows one's ability in a more specialized aspect.

- ✓ She is an able teacher. (She is a teacher with quality)
- ✓ She is a capable teacher. (She has the ability to be a teacher)

Capable also shows a sense of possibility whereas there is no such usage with able.

- ✓ The situation is **capable of** improvement.

In this situation, we can't replace capable with able to show the possibility for improvement.

Ability can be acquired through a series of training, but capability has nothing to do with training.

- ✓ I do not doubt his **ability** to do the work.

Another, The other

another - another thing or person means an additional thing or person of the same type as one that already exists.

The other - the other thing or person means the only remaining thing or person except the existing one.

- ✓ Have **another** piece of cake.
- ✓ Please fetch **another** cup for me.
- ✓ That's quite **another** matter.
- ✓ Both my uncles are abroad, one in Paris and **the other** in New York.
- ✓ One of them is yours; **the other** is mine.

When we are given two options, we say **one or the other**.

When we are given more than two options, we say **one or another**.

Anyway, Any way

anyway - (in any case) (at any rate)

- ✓ **Anyway**, we can try.
- ✓ I will not change my mind, **anyway**.
- ✓ " I can give you a lift if you wait ". No, I'll walk.

Thanks, **anyway**.

any way - any possible method

- ✓ If there is **any way** in which you can help me tide over the difficulties, let me know.
- ✓ He could not find the way to the village in **any way**.
- ✓ I cannot manage it **any way**.

Asleep ,Sleeping

asleep - someone who is **asleep** is sleeping.

Asleep is **adj** being placed in front of the **verb to be**. It cannot be used before a noun.

- ✓ Looking at the **asleep** baby. (Wrong :)
- ✓ Looking at the **sleeping** baby. (Right :)

sleeping - (present participle of sleep)

Sleeping is **adj** that precedes a noun such as sleeping baby etc. While it is used after the verb to be, it is functioning as a verb.

- ✓ Who is that **sleeping** man ?
- ✓ Keep an eye on the **sleeping** baby.
- ✓ Let **sleeping** dogs lie.

at ease ,with ease

at ease - feeling confident and relaxed.

- ✓ The old couple are quite **at ease** as their son is out of danger.
- ✓ With good social security, the aged can live **at ease**.
- ✓ Her promise of support set my mind **at ease**.
- ✓ I don't know why he is ill **at ease**.

with ease - easily or without difficulty

- ✓ They fulfill the task **with ease**.
- ✓ Our football team gained the day **with ease**.
- ✓ Every day we marched twenty miles **with ease**.

Into ,In to

Into - transforming from one condition into another.

- ✓ He fell into the pond.
- ✓ The explorers get into difficulties.
- ✓ The boss flew into a temper.
- ✓ The rain changed into snow.

In to - 'In' is adverb and 'to' is preposition or bare infinitive

Let's go in to look at the book show.

Entries for the competition should be sent in to the editorial board before January 19th.

- ✓ The news came in to us.
- ✓ They went in to supper.

Believe ,Believe in

believe - to accept as true

Do you **believe** his reports.

I can hardly **believe** my eyes.

In ancient times, it was **believed** that the earth was flat.

believe in - to have faith in somebody or something.

- ✓ We do not **believe in** ghosts.
- ✓ He **believes in** getting plenty of exercise.
- ✓ In the days of the French Revolution, people **believed in** liberty, equality and fraternity.

Comparing the two sentences :-

I **believe** him (= I believe what he says)

I **believe in** him (= I trust him)

by all means ,by no means

by all means - no matter what measure is taken.

- ✓ You must bring him here **by all means**.
- ✓ This project must be realised **by all means**.
- ✓ You should **by all means** warn him before he leaves for Macau.

by no means - not at all.

- ✓ She is **by no means** bright.
- ✓ I will **by no means** consent.

✓ The first step will take quite a long time and can **by no means** accomplished overnight.

Note :- **by all means** or **by no means**, the word **means** is in plural form. We can't omit the (s).

By all means also can be used as ' of course ' ' no problem'.

✓ May I have one ? ---- Yes, **by all means** (of course)

by name, in name

by name - by the name of

* The aeronautical engineering institute has built an airplane, ' Stingray ' **by name**.

✓ There was a great poet in Uganda, Okot p'Bitek **by name**.

✓ Someone **by the name of** Kabiikire wants to see you.

in name - if you say that a situation exists in name only, you mean that it does not have the status or position that it claims to have.

✓ He is a doctor **in name** only, he stays in the stock exchange all day long.

Other usages

:

✓ I know him **by name**.

✓ He mentioned you **by name**.

Close, Near

Close - if one thing or person is close to another, there is only a very small distance between them.

✓ My house is close to the public library.

✓ The examination is close at hand.

✓ She is close with him : They are very close friends.

✓ First cousins are close relatives.

✓ His father is close on ninety years of age.

Near - if something is near a place, thing, or person, it is a short distance from them.

✓ In Hong Kong, residential houses are quite near to the airport.

✓ Is Tiger Balm Garden near or far ?

✓ In the near future they can complete this arduous task.

Decided, Decisive

Decided - clear and definite

- ✓ He was quite decided in the matter and no one could stop him.
- ✓ They are quite decided about it
- ✓ Please give us a decided answer.

Decisive - if a fact, action, or event is decisive, it makes it certain that there will be a particular result.

- ✓ The battle of Stalingrad is a decisive one in the Second World War.
- ✓ General Patton was known for his decisive manner.
- ✓ He has a decisive character.
- ✓ Public opinion is decisive on this question.

Disability, Inability

Disability - lacking ability caused by injury or inherent defect

- ✓ He has a disability pension because he lost his legs while he was in the army
- ✓ He was always cheerful in spite of his disability
- ✓ Facilities for people with disabilities are still insufficient.

Inability - lack of power or means

- ✓ His inability to undertake the work is due to his physical disabilities.
- ✓ Can you account for your inability to pay the debt ?
- ✓ Her inability to concentrate could cause an accident.

Discover, Invent

Discover - to find out something existing but not yet known

- ✓ Columbus discovered America but he did not explore the new continent.
- ✓ Modern astronomers have discovered a million such galaxies.
- ✓ The circulation of blood was discovered by Harvey.

Invent - to create or design some thing not existing before

- ✓ Edison invented the electric light bulb.
- ✓ A new-type stethoscope has yet to be invented.
- ✓ Don't you know a lie is always invented ?
- ✓ We must invent an excuse of being late.

distinct ,distinctive

distinct - well-marked, clearly defined or easily discernible

- ✓ The photo you took in Hong Kong Cultural Center is not distinct enough

- ✓ She has a distinct pronunciation.
- ✓ There is a distinct smell of smoke in my room.

Distinctive - marking or showing a difference

- ✓ Can you find the distinctive watermarks of this stamp ?
- ✓ Pupils in Kenya usually have distinctive badges on their school uniforms.
- ✓ One of the distinctive features of this book is its distinct illustrations.

English ,The English

English - the English language

- ✓ English is chosen as one of the official languages to be used during meetings at the UN.
- ✓ English is also the official language in India.
- ✓ Hard Times is an English novel, written by Charles Dickens

The English - the English people

- ✓ The English have a wonderful sense of humor.
- ✓ The English belong to the white race.

In favor of , In favor with

In favor of - If one thing is rejected in favor of another the second thing is done or chosen instead of the first

- ✓ Are you in favor of this new project ?
- ✓ The court ruled in favor of the defendant.
- ✓ The Prime Minister resigned in favor of a better candidate.

In favor with - to acquire support from someone or groups

- ✓ The Chief Executive is now in favor with the people.
- ✓ Our plan is not in favor with the authority.

Wood ,Woods

Wood - material which forms the trunks and branches of trees.

- ✓ All the furniture here is made of wood.
- ✓ The wood is rotting.
- ✓ The woodcutter collected two bundles of wood.

Woods - area of lands covered with growing trees, or forest.

- ✓ We came upon a clearing in the woods.
- ✓ After dinner Alice slipped away for a walk in the woods with Artie.

All together ,Altogether

All together - Used of a group whose members acted or were acted upon collectively

- ✓ At the class reunion, we sang the college song all together.
- ✓ The books lay all together in a heap.

Altogether - Entirely, with all included or counted, with everything considered

- ✓ The work is altogether unnecessary.
- ✓ It was not altogether her fault.

Everyday ,Every day

Everyday - is an *adjective* used before a noun to mean "ordinary" or common

- ✓ Snatch thefts have become an everyday occurrence in our country.

She has a few silk dresses for special occasions and many cotton dresses for everyday wear.

Every day - is an *adverbial phrase* meaning "without missing a day"

- ✓ The newspaper is delivered to his house every day.
- ✓ Older people can keep fit by walking briskly for half an hour every day.

percentage, per cent

percentage - means 'proportion'

- ✓ A large percentage of people failed the test.
- ✓ What percentage of women return to work after having a baby?

per cent - is used after a number.

- ✓ I was given a fifty per cent discount.
- ✓ You got 20 per cent of the answers Right : - that means one in every five

indoor ,indoors

indoor - is an adjective

- ✓ Snooker is an indoor sport.
- ✓ The high percentage of death and disease is linked to indoor air pollution.

indoors - is an adverb.

- ✓ You should stay indoors if you are not well.
- ✓ Come indoors, it's cold outside.

accept ,except

accept - is a verb

- ✓ We accept your apology.
- ✓ Do you accept credit cards?

except - is a preposition.

- ✓ All of us failed the test except John.
- ✓ The museum is open daily except Mondays.

across, cross

across - is a preposition

- ✓ I want to go across the road.
- ✓ They're building a new bridge across the river.

cross - is a verb

- ✓ I want to cross the road.
- ✓ Look both ways before you cross over.

affect ,effect

affect - is a verb; it means ' to influence '.

- ✓ Smoking affects your health
- ✓ It's a disease which affects mainly older people.

effect - may be a verb or a noun. The verb effect means ' to cause to happen'. The noun effect means ' the result '.

What are the effects of pollution ?

The radiation leak has had a disastrous effect on the environment

already, all ready

already - means ' before the time specified '.

- ✓ We had already prepared lunch by noon.
- ✓ The concert had already begun by the time we arrived.

all ready - means ' completely prepared '.

She is all ready to go.

We are all ready to study English.

because ,because of

because - is a conjunction; it is followed by a clause.

- ✓ I took a taxi because I was late.
- ✓ We can't go to Julia's party because we're going away

that weekend.

because of - is a preposition; it is followed by a noun or noun phrase.