**Common Grammar Mistakes in English Language**

***Below are some of the most common English mistakes made by students, in speech and in writing. Go through the examples and make sure you understand the corrections.***

Wrong I have visited Niagara Falls last weekend.

Right I visited Niagara Falls last weekend.

REASON: We use Simple Past Tense with finished actions, states or habits in the past when we have a finished time word (yesterday, last week, at 2 o'clock, in 2003).

Wrong The woman which works here is from Japan.

Right The woman who works here is from Japan.

REASON: Who is normally used to refer to human beings, either male or female. On the other hand, the word which is used to refer to other living beings such as animals, insects, plants, and objects in general.

Wrong She’s married with a dentist.

Right She’s married to a dentist.

Wrong She was boring in the class.

Right She was bored in the class.

REASON: **Bored** is an adjective that describes when someone feels tired and unhappy because something is not interesting or because they have nothing to do

For example: She was so **bored** that she fell asleep*.*

**Boring** is an adjective that means something is not interesting or exciting.

For example: The lesson was so **boring** that she fell asleep.

Wrong Every students like the teacher.

Right Every student likes the teacher.

REASON: The noun directly following the word " every" must be singular, not plural, so the correct phrase here is "every **student.**

Wrong Although it was raining, but we had the picnic.

Right Although it was raining, we had the picnic.

REASON: The adverbial “although” means the same thing as “despite the fact that”. We use “although” at the beginning of a clause which contains information that contrasts in an unexpected or surprising way with information in another clause. For example:  
  
*Although it was raining, we went for a walk.*  
  
If it is raining, it is surprising that we went for a walk. The walk happened despite the rain.

Wrong I look forward to meet you.

Right I look forward to meeting you.

REASON*: Look forward to* something means to be pleased or excited that it is going to happen. The ‘to’ in “*look forward to* “is a preposition, so we must follow it by a noun phrase or a verb in the -ing form:

I **look forward to** hearing from you soon.

Wrong I like very much ice-cream.

Right I like ice-cream very much.

REASON: A phrase like this generally can go before the verb.  
I very much like....  
Or it can go at the end of the sentence or immediately after a noun which is usually more common.  
I like......... very much.  
It **does not** go before **a noun**. In the above example sentence, there is a **noun immediately afte**r it.   
'...very much ice-cream.'

Wrong Where I can find a bank?

Right Where can I find a bank?

Wh-questions begin with what, when, where, who, whom, which, whose, why and how. We use them to ask for information.

Who is your favorite actor?

**Forming wh-questions**

With an auxiliary verb

We usually form wh-questions with wh- + an auxiliary verb / a modal verb + subject + main verb :

When are you leaving?

Where do they live?

Why didn’t you call me?

Where should I park?

Wrong I live in United States.

Right I live in the United States.

* **countries**whose names include **words like** ***kingdom***, ***states***or ***republic***:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *the United Kingdom* | *the Kingdom of Bhutan* |
| *the United States* | *the People's Republic of China* |

* **countries**which have **plural nouns** as their names:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *the Netherlands* | *the Philippines* |
|  |  |

Wrong When I will arrive, I will call you.

Right When I arrive, I will call you.

REASON: 'When' is about that point in time. Not about the future from that point.  
  
Now it is five o'clock.  
From NOW, looking into the future, something will happen.  
  
I will arrive (at 7 o'clock).  
  
But 'when' means 'at that point in time' - the point in time that I arrive.  
When (at seven o'clock) I arrive  
I will call you.  
  
When I arrive - that is not the future, because **'when' is the time it happens**.

Wrong You speak English good.

Right You speak English well.

REASON: **good** = adjective  
**well** = adverb

Therefore it has to be we speak wellas we are describing how we speak. It might be said that adverbs answer the question **How…?** Whilst adjectives answer the question **What sort of…?**

Study the following:

* 'She speaks **good**Japanese.'
* 'She speaks Japanese **well**.'

Wrong The police is coming.

Right The police are coming.

REASON: Some nouns in English are **collective**. **They represent a group or number of objects together**. In many cases, these nouns are considered plural: they are collections of single pieces kept together. Because of this, **they take a plural verb and have no singular noun form**.

More examples: staff, congratulations, cattle, thanks and fishes (an alternative plural which means the different species of fish which are in the same place).

Wrong Do you like a glass of water?

Right Would you like a glass of water?

REASON: Asking someone **do you like** is asking whether they like it, and asking them **would you like** is offering it to them.

Here's how one would answer:

A: Do you like candy?

B: Yes, I like candy.

And:

A: Would you like some candy? (Do you want some candy right now?)

B: No thanks. (Not now.)

Wrong Where is post office?

Right Where is the post office?

We use *the* – the definite article – when the listener already knows which thing we are talking about because it was mentioned before or because there's only one of them.

*I'm going to take****the****dog for a walk.  
Have you seen****the****car key?  
They go to****the****school next to****the****bridge.*

Wrong We are studying since morning.

Right We have been studying since morning.

Wrong We are playing since five hours.

Right We have been playing for five hours.

REASON: When we use the **present perfect continuous**, however, there is usually a suggestion that the activity is not yet completed, or we wish to emphasize the length of time it has lasted or stress the continuous, on-going nature of the activity. The present perfect continuous is often used in conjunction with **for**or **since**phrases. Consider the following:

* 'How long **have**you **been waiting**for this bus?' **'I’ve been standing**here for over half an hour. These buses never come.'
* 'We’**ve been living**here in Brighton since 1988.'

Wrong My childrens are sleeping.

Right My children are sleeping.

REASON: “Children” is the plural of child NOT childrens.

Wrong It is more hot/ hotter than yesterday.

Right It’s hotter than yesterday.

REASON: “More hot" is not correct. You should always use "hotter".  
  
One-syllable words take -er to make them comparative.  
  
hot, hotter, hottest

Wrong Me and Johnny live here.

Right Johnny and I live here.

REASON: If First, Second and Third Person Pronouns are to be used in the same sentence, then the order is —

1. When all the Personal Pronouns are **singular,**the order is Second, Third, First person **[Rule 231].**
   1. **You, he**and **I**had gone for shopping.
   2. **You, she**and **I**were best friends.
2. If the sentence is about **accepting guilt or mistake,**the order is First, Second, Third person **[Rule 123].**
   1. **I, you**and **he**will ask for pardon
   2. **I, you**and **he**are at fault.
   3. **You**and **she**are at fault.
3. When all Personal Pronouns are **plural,**the order is First, Second and Third person **[Rule 123].**
   1. **We, you**and **they**will go to the picnic.
   2. **We**and **you**will arrange the payment.
   3. **You**and **they**are supposed to write the script.

Wrong I go always to school by subway.

Right I always go to school by subway.

REASON: *Always* is an adverb of frequency, like *never*, *often*, *frequently*, and *usually*.

In simple tenses, it usually goes after the verb "to be": *She is always on time. She was always on time.* With other verbs, it usually comes just before the verb: *She always runs before breakfast.*

Wrong If I will be in London, I will contact to you.

Right If I am in London, I will contact you.

REASON: We use the first conditional when we talk about future situations we believe are real or possible.

*If it doesn't rain tomorrow, we'll go to the beach.  
Arsenal will be top of the league if they win.  
When I finish work, I'll call you.*

In first conditional sentences, the structure is usually: *if*/*when* + present simple >> *will* + infinitive.

It is also common to use this structure with *unless*, *as long as,* *as soon as* or *in case* instead of *if*.

*I'll leave as soon as the babysitter arrives.  
I don't want to stay in London unless I get a well-paid job.  
I'll give you a key in case I'm not at home.  
You can go to the party, as long as you're back by midnight.*