

# Common Errors: Grammar, Spelling and Choice of Words





# Common Errors: Grammar

# Pronoun Disagreement



- They occur when pronouns do not agree in number with the nouns to which they refer. If the noun is singular, the pronoun must be singular. If the noun is plural, the pronoun must be plural as well.
- **Example:**  
Incorrect: “Every girl must bring their own lunch.”



Correct: “Every girl must bring her own lunch.”

- 1) Everything **was** destroyed in the attack.
- 2) Though nobody died, everybody **was** injured.
- 3) Each and every student **needs** to be regular in the class.
- 4) Everyone **was** listening to the speaker with avid interest.

# Mistakes in Apostrophe Usage



- Apostrophes are used to show possession. However, you do not use an apostrophe after a possessive pronoun such as my, mine, our, ours, his, hers, its, their, or theirs.

- **Example:**

Incorrect: “My       mothers       cabin       is       next       to       his’       cabin.”

Incorrect: “Its a cold day for October.”



- Correct: “My mother’s cabin is next to his cabin.”

In the case of it's, the apostrophe is used only to indicate a contraction for “it is.”

- Correct: “It’s a cold day for October.”

# Lack of Subject-Verb Agreement



- Confusion over subject-verb agreement can be the source of many grammatical errors.
- When speaking or writing in the present tense, a sentence must have subjects and verbs that agree in number. If the subject is singular, the verb must be singular. If the subject is plural, the verb must be plural as well.

Example:

Incorrect: “These recipes is good for beginning chefs.”



Correct: “These recipes are good for beginning chefs.

- 1) Either Geeta or her **sister has** done this.
  - 2) Either Geeta or her **sisters have** done this.
- The minister besides the bodyguards **was** killed.
  - The minister and the bodyguards **were** killed.
  
  - The cashier and the accountant **have** come.
  - The cashier and accountant **has** come.
  - The poet and philosopher **is** dead.



# Misplaced Modifiers



- To clearly communicate your ideas, you should place a modifier directly next to the word it is supposed to modify. The modifier should clearly refer to a specific word in the sentence.
- **Example:**
- Incorrect: Lee **only** eats cakes.

# Misplaced Modifiers



- This is ambiguous if the intended meaning is that Lee eats nothing but cakes. This could mean Lee does not do other things to cakes, e.g., bake them.
- Correct: Lee eats **only** cakes.

# Sentence Fragments



- A sentence needs to have a subject and a verb.
- A fragment often happens after another related idea has been expressed.
- **Example:**
- Incorrect: Slammed the door and left.
- Incorrect: “Sharon stayed home from school the other day. Because she was sick.



Correct: **Sarah** slammed the door and left.

Correct: “Sharon stayed home from school the other day because she was sick.”

# Missing Comma in a Compound Sentence



A compound sentence expresses two complete and related ideas, and it usually includes a conjunction to connect these two parts. There should be a comma before the conjunction to indicate the two ideas are related.

## Example:

Incorrect: “Jim went to the store and Ella went with him.”

Correct: “Jim went to the store, and Ella went with him.”

# No Clear Antecedent



- An antecedent is a word that comes before a pronoun and helps the reader understand what the pronoun means. Generally, you can clear up this confusion by rearranging the wording.
- **Example:**  
Incorrect: “The dad found the boy, and he was happy.”



Correct: “The dad was happy when he found the boy.”

# Ending a Sentence in a Preposition



A preposition, by its nature, indicates that another word will follow it. In casual conversation, this type of error is no big deal, but you should avoid this mistake in your writing.

- **Example:**

Incorrect: “What reason did he come here for?”





Correct: “For what reason did he come here?”

# Mixing Up Possessives and Plurals



- You use an apostrophe before an “s” to show possession or as a contraction, like “that’s” for “that is.” If you’re just trying to say something is plural, you don’t need the apostrophe.
- Example:
- Incorrect: “The dogs dish was full of bone’s.”



Correct: “The dog’s dish was full of bones.”

# Comparisons That Are Incomplete



- When you use a word that has a comparative aspect, you need to compare it to something else. These common grammatical errors may appear in advertisements or market slogans, but it does not work well in papers or other writing.
- **Example:**
- Incorrect: “My hair is smoother and softer.”



- Correct: “My hair is smoother and softer than it was a month ago.”

# Mixing Up Adverbs and Adjectives



- If you mix up adverbs and adjectives, this can be an embarrassing grammar mistake.  
This happens most often with words that end in “-ly.”
- Example:
- Incorrect: “Susan gave me a real nice bouquet of flowers.”



- Correct: “Susan gave me a really nice bouquet of flowers.”



# Common Errors: Spelling



# Accomodate



- This is one that often shows up in business communications, so you want to make sure you get it right.
- Correct spelling: accommodate



- This one has more than two million mentions in the Oxford Dictionary's corpus, more mentions than any other word on this list.
- Correct spelling: which

# Recieve



- The rule is .“i before e, except after c.”
- Correct spelling: receive



- This was originally the correct spelling of the word ... In the Middle Ages. We've (arguably) advanced since that period of human history, and the word only has one "l" these days.
- Correct spelling: until

# Occured



- It might also occur to you that there's only one r in the word when it's in present tense, which makes it extra confusing.
- Correct spelling: occurred

# Seperate



Again, you want to get this right in business settings, such as when telling your team to “send separate emails” to different clients.

Correct spelling: separate



- You've got to govern in order to have a government.
- Correct spelling: government

# Definately



- If you just remember, “I want to get it right,” then you can remember that there’s an *i* in the middle there, not an *a*.
- Correct spelling: definitely



# Publically



Correct spelling: publicly



# Word Choice Errors

# Words with similar sounds or meanings



- Using a word that sounds similar to the intended word but has a different meaning is one of the most common errors in word choice.
- **Example** 1: Attained and obtained
- Attain means reach and is mostly used when talking about a condition or stage (e.g., “the larva attains maturity”), while Obtain simply means get (e.g., “he obtained data from hospital records”).



- **Example 2:** Principal and principle

The word principle is a noun meaning a rule or law (e.g., “principle of conservation of mass”), whereas principal is an adjective meaning main or important or primary (e.g., “principal findings of the study”). These two are often mistakenly interchanged because of their similar sounds.

# Words with similar meanings but different connotations



- Let's see how words that don't sound similar but have similar or overlapping meanings can be misused.

## Example 1: Devised and developed

- Both devise and develop mean coming up with something new, but the meaning of devise is restricted to an idea or a plan, whereas develop is generally used for a product or system invented.
- Incorrect: We have devised a method to calculate the exergy efficiency.  
Correct: We have developed a new method to calculate the exergy efficiency.

# Using non-standard or non-existent forms of words



- Verbs, nouns, and adjectives can be formed from other words (called root words) by adding appropriate suffixes (e.g., -ify, -er, -al, -ate, -ly, -able, -ish, -ion). But these have to be standard, accepted spellings and cannot be arbitrarily created.

## Example

- Incorrect: The structural changes were **determinated** through microscopy studies.
- Correct: The structural changes were **determined** through microscopy studies.

# Use of plurals (countable or uncountable)



- Examples of words used exclusively in uncountable form:
- **Information** (e.g., “this information is crucial to the subsequent modeling process”)
- **Performance** (e.g., “the performance of the samples was evaluated”, “a series of tests were conducted”)
- Examples of words that have countable forms but are preferably used in uncountable form: **Data**

# Incorrect collocations



- Collocations are combinations of words that appear together very frequently and have evolved as natural phrasing in English. For example, “heavy rain” and “strong wind” are collocations.
- The words rain and wind can be described by many adjectives, but heavy and strong, respectively, are among the more common ones. You would not say “strong rain” or “heavy wind;” that does not sound natural.
- To native speakers, these collocations come naturally, but non-native speakers often struggle to get them right.



# Common Errors of Tenses



Sr.no	Wrong	Right
1	I am thinking you are wrong.	I think you are wrong.
2	He is having a cellphone.	He has a cellphone.
3	I have watched Titanic last year.	I watched Titanic last year.
4	She is seeming sad.	She seems sad.
5	I am staying in Pune since 2004.	I have been staying in Pune since 2004.
6	We have planned that we will go out tonight.	We have planned that we are going out tonight.

# Common Errors Examples with Explanations



Sr.no	Incorrect Sentences
1	Myself Prof. Sudhakar Rathod.
2	I am having one brother and one sister.
3	Could you please repeat that again?
4	I am learning English since my childhood.
5	The PM has announced a lockdown a few months ago.
6	Why you are asking this question?
7	All of us will discuss about this issue.
8	We must take care of all equipments in the laboratory.
9	Rajesh did not give his examination.
10	The Principal may probably come for the meeting.
11	This video is more better than that.
12	What is you good name, please?
13	I did a mistake.
14	They are all junior than me.
15	Unless he doesn't work ,he wont succeed.

# Common Errors Examples with Explanations



Sr.no	Incorrect Sentences	Correct Sentences
1	<b>Myself</b> Prof. Sudhakar Rathod.	My name is / I am Prof. Sudhakar Rathod.
2	I <b>am having</b> one brother and one sister.	I have one brother and one sister.
3	Could you please repeat <b>that again</b> ?	Could you please repeat?
4	I <b>am learning</b> English since my childhood.	I have been learning English since my childhood.
5	The PM <b>has announced</b> a lockdown a few months ago.	The PM announced a lockdown a few months ago.
6	Why <b>you are</b> asking this question?	Why are you asking this question?
7	All of us will discuss <b>about</b> this issue.	All of us will discuss this issue.
8	We must take care of all <b>equipments</b> in the laboratory.	We must take care of all equipment in the laboratory.
9	Rajesh did not <b>give</b> his examination.	Rajesh did not take his examination.
10	The Principal <b>may probably</b> come for the meeting.	The Principal may come for the meeting.
11	This video is <b>more better</b> than that.	This video is better than that.
12	What is your <b>good name</b> , please?	What is your name, please?
13	I <b>did</b> a mistake.	I made a mistake.
14	They are all junior <b>than</b> me.	They are all junior to me.
15	Unless he <b>doesn't work</b> , he won't succeed.	Unless he works, he won't succeed.

# Common Errors Examples with Explanations



Sr.no	Incorrect Sentences
16	One of my closed friend is a cricketer.
17	If it will rain, I will not go outside.
18	The shop is open between 9 am. to 6 pm.
19	Please do the needful.
20	Can we prepone the meeting?
21	It was a blunder mistake.
22	He is an Engineer, isn't it?
23	Are you understanding it?
24	I listen music everyday.
25	I passed out from D.Y.Patil University.
26	Data is important.
27	It is a free gift.
28	little
29	a little
30	the little

# Common Errors Examples with Explanations



Sr.no	Incorrect Sentences	Correct Sentences
16	One of my closed <b>friend</b> is a cricketer.	One of my closed friends is a cricketer.
17	If it <b>will rain</b> , I will not go outside.	If it rains, I will not go outside.
18	The shop is open <b>between</b> 9 am. <b>to</b> 6 pm.	The shop is open between 9 am. and 6 pm.
19	Please do the <b>needful</b> .	Please do whatever is required.
20	Can we <b>prepone</b> the meeting?	Can we advance the meeting?
21	It was a <b>blunder mistake</b> .	It was a blunder.
22	<b>He</b> is an Engineer, isn't <b>it</b> ?	He is an Engineer, isn't he?
23	Are you <b>understanding</b> it?	Do you understand it?
24	I <b>listen music</b> everyday.	I listen to music everyday.
25	I <b>passed out</b> from D.Y.Patil University.	I graduated from D.Y.Patil University.
26	Data <b>is</b> important.	Data are important.
27	It is a <b>free gift</b> .	It is a gift.
28	little	There is little water in the tank.
29	a little	There is a little water in the tank.
30	the little	There is the little water in the tank.

# Words often confused



Accept Except	To receive Leaving out	I always accept good advice. I teach everyday except Sunday.
Compliment Complement	Appreciation Anything that completes	The teacher complimented the student. We have complement after dinner.
Desert Dessert	Barren land, to leave A dish of fruits and sweets	Sahara desert is in India. No desserts were served after the dinner.
Eligible illegible	Qualified Not clear writing	The applications are invited from the eligible candidates. Your hand written letters are illegible.
Personal Personnel	Belonging to one's own self Employees	It is my personal problem. I met corporation personnel yesterday.
Stationary Stationery	Not moving Writing material	The machine is stationary. We placed an order for office stationery.
Principal principle	Head of college Rules,noms	The teacher sent the student to the Principal. The team works on the principle of give and take.
Industrial industrious	Relating to industry Hard working	Mumbai is an industrial city. Some students are very industrious.