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6-Minute Grammar: Unraveling Common Written English Errors

Introduction

Mastering written English is crucial for effective communication. However, even seasoned writers can encounter pitfalls that can undermine their credibility. "6-Minute Grammar" by BBC Learning English offers a concise guide to identify and correct common written errors, helping you enhance your written prowess.

Question: When should I use "affect" and "effect"?

Answer: "Affect" is a verb that means "to influence or change something." "Effect" is a noun that refers to a result or consequence. For example, "The weather affected my decision to go for a walk." (Verb) "The effect of the storm was widespread damage." (Noun)

Question: Is it "myself" or "me"?

Answer: "Myself" is a reflexive pronoun that means "I" or "my." It is used when you are performing an action on yourself. For example, "I injured myself while playing football." "Me" is an object pronoun that refers to yourself as the recipient of an action. For example, "The teacher gave the assignment to me."

Question: How do I use commas correctly?

Answer: Commas have several uses, including separating items in a list, setting off introductory phrases, and creating non-defining clauses. For example, "I went to the store to buy bread, milk, and eggs." (List) "After finishing my homework, I went for a walk." (Introductory phrase) "The house, which was built in 1890, is still standing."

(Non-defining clause)

Question: When should I use "who" and "whom"?

Answer: "Who" is a subject pronoun that refers to a person, while "whom" is an object pronoun. For example, "Who is going to the party?" (Subject) "To whom did you give the book?" (Object)

Question: What is the difference between "there," "their," and "they're"?

Answer: "There" is an adverb that indicates a place or location. "Their" is a possessive pronoun that means "belonging to them." "They're" is a contraction of "they are." For example, "The car is parked over there." (Adverb) "This is their house." (Possessive pronoun) "They're going to be late for the meeting." (Contraction)

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