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Common Mistakes in English

T. J. Fitikides

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Common Mistakes in English

with Exercises

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Errors, like straws, upon the surface flow;
He who would search for pearls must dive below.
John Dryden

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Preface

Preface to the first edition

This book has been designed to meet the requirements of students whose mother tongue is not English. Its main purpose is to help to correct the common mistakes to which foreign learners of English are liable.

The method adopted throughout this work is uniform. All the errors dealt with are singled out, for they have to be recognised before they can be corrected; then correct forms are substituted for incorrect ones; finally, simple explanations are given wherever necessary to justify particular usages. Exercises are set at the end to ensure that the principles may become firmly fixed in the students' minds.

It is not claimed that this manual is exhaustive. Nevertheless, the difficulties tackled are real, and the examples are representative of the mistakes commonly made by foreign students of English, being the result of observations made over a long period of time.

Much care has been given to the preparation of the Index, which it is hoped will make the book a useful work of reference.

My acknowledgements are due to Mr W. H. G. Popplestone, who has read my manuscript and made many valuable suggestions.

T. J. F.

August 1936

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Preface to the Sixth Edition

It is now more than 60 years since this book was first published. It has gone through many revisions, and additions have been made at different times in its history. With the millennium approaching it was decided that there were some points of usage which are no longer relevant and so this new edition has been prepared. The content has been completely reviewed in the light of modern English usage, and the type-faces and design up-dated for clarity.

And yet the original concept and, indeed, most of the original mistakes listed, are still pertinent to students of English even in the year 2000. This little book has sold several hundred thousand copies all over the world and seems likely to go on doing so.

The author's note on how the book should be used is on page vii, with an addition for this edition.

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How this book should be used

This book is intended for two uses. It may be used as a reference book and as an ordinary text book.

As a book of reference it should be consulted with every composition. The teacher may refer the student to the appropriate section dealing with his mistake by a number in the margin of his exercise book. For example, a misuse of a preposition of time (*at*, *on* or *in*) is indicated by 383 in the margin to enable the student to look up his mistake and correct it. This method has been tested and found more effective than the common practice of writing the correct form for the student. It is axiomatic that the greater the student's individual effort, the more thorough will be his learning.

With regard to its second use, as an actual text book, we strongly recommend that the teacher should start off with the exercises on pages 137 to 181. These are arranged under the headings of the various parts of speech: nouns, adjectives, pronouns, etc. However, before an exercise is attempted, the teacher should make certain that the students have comprehended the particular usage involved. An occasional reference to some specific section may be made whenever this is deemed necessary, but under no circumstances is it advisable to go through the various sections of the book consecutively, or to commit to memory rules concerning usage.

Despite the fact that this book has been designed for two separate uses, the writer is of the opinion that the best results will be achieved if it is used by the student both as a text book and as a book of reference.

T.J.F.

January 1961

While the above is still true, there is also a self-study use for this little book. With more varied teaching materials available now, it can also be used as a self-study book by

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students of English as a foreign language who are preparing work either as part of their studies or for their occupations. With a view to this, it is suggested that, when a question of correct usage arises, the student should look first for the core word in the index and so find the section detailing the usage. For example, is it *by foot* or *on foot*? Look up *foot* in the index and you will be directed to Section 13 which will explain that *on foot* is correct.

Students and teachers will decide for themselves what is the best way to use this book. What is constant is the quality of content and how helpful it is to all those who use English as a foreign language.

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Misused forms

Using the wrong preposition

Mistakes are often made by using the wrong preposition after certain words. The following list includes the words which most often give trouble:

1 **Absorbed** (= very much interested) **in,** not *at.*
Don't say: The man was absorbed at his work.
✓ *Say:* The man was **absorbed in** his work.

2 **Accuse of,** not *for.*
Don't say: She accused the man for stealing.
✓ *Say:* She **accused** the man **of** stealing.

Note: **Charge** takes **with**: *The man was **charged with** murder.*

3 **Accustomed to,** not *with.*
Don't say: I'm accustomed with hot weather.
✓ *Say:* I'm **accustomed to** hot weather.

Note: Also **used to**: *He is **used to** the heat.*

4 **Afraid of,** not *from.*
Don't say: Laura is afraid from the dog.
✓ *Say:* Laura is **afraid of** the dog.

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5 **Aim at,** not *on* or *against*.
Don't say: She aimed on (*or* against) the target.
✓ *Say:* She **aimed at** the target.

Note: Use the preposition **at** to denote direction: **throw at, shout at, fire at, shoot at. Shoot** (without the **at**) means to kill: *He **shot** a bird* (= he hit and killed it).

6 **Angry with,** not *against*.
Don't say: The teacher was angry against him.
✓ *Say:* The teacher was **angry with** him.

Note 1: We get **angry *with*** a person but **at** a thing. *He was **angry at** the weather* (not: **with** the weather)

Note 2: Also **annoyed with, vexed with, indignant with** a person, but **at** a thing.

7 **Anxious** (= troubled) **about**, not *for*.
Don't say: They're anxious for his health.
✓ *Say:* They're **anxious about** his health.

Note: **Anxious** meaning **wishing very much** takes **for**. *Parents are **anxious for** their children's success.*

8 **Arrive at,** not *to*.
Don't say: We arrived to the village at night.
✓ *Say:* We **arrived at** the village at night.

Note: Use **arrive in** with countries and large cities. *Mr Smith has **arrived in** London.* (*or New York, India,* etc.)

9 **Ashamed of,** not *from*.
Don't say: He's now ashamed from his conduct.
✓ *Say:* He's now **ashamed of** his conduct.

Note: It isn't correct to use **ashamed of** meaning **shy**. **Ashamed** means feeling shame or guilt about something. **Shy** means feeling nervous with someone. Instead of saying: *I'm ashamed (or shamed) of my teacher*, say: *I'm **shy of** my teacher.*

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10 **Believe in**, not *to*.
Don't say: We believe to God.
✓ *Say:* We **believe in** God.

Note: **To believe in** means to have faith in. **To believe** (without the **in**) means to regard something as true: *I **believe** everything he says.*

11 **Boast of** or **about**, not *for*.
Don't say: James boasted for his strength.
✓ *Say:* James **boasted of** (or **about**) his strength.

12 **Careful of, with** or **about**, not *for*.
Don't say: Elke's very careful for her health.
✓ *Say:* Elke's very **careful of/about** her health.
Or: You should be more **careful with** your money.

Note: **Take care of**: *He **takes care of** his money.*

13 **Travel by train**, etc., not *with the train*, etc.
Don't say: He travelled with the train yesterday.
✓ *Say:* He **travelled by train** yesterday.

Note: We say: **by train, by boat, by plane, by bike;** also, **by land, by sea, by air, by bus; in a bus** or **on a bus; by car** or **in a car, by taxi** or **in a taxi; on horse-back, on a donkey, on a bicycle; on foot.**

14 **Complain about**, not *for*.
Don't say: Annette complained for the weather.
✓ *Say:* Annette **complained about** the weather.

Note: When talking about illness we use **complain of**. We say: *She **complained of** a sore throat.*

15 **Composed of**, not *from*.
Don't say: Our class is composed from thirty students.
✓ *Say:* Our class is **composed of** thirty students.

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16 **Confidence in,** not *to*.
Don't say: I have great confidence to you.
✓ *Say:* I have great **confidence in** you.

Note: **In confidence:** *Let me tell you something* ***in confidence*** (= as a secret)

17 **Conform to,** not *with*.
Don't say: We must conform with the rules.
✓ *Say:* We must **conform to** the rules.

Note: **comply** takes **with**. *We'll* ***comply with*** *your request.*

18 **Congratulate on,** not *for*.
Don't say: I congratulate you for your success.
✓ *Say:* I **congratulate** you **on** your success.

19 **Consist of,** not *from*.
Don't say: A year consists from twelve months.
✓ *Say:* A year **consists of** twelve months.

Note: Take great care never to use **consist** in the passive form.

20 **Covered with,** not *by*.
Don't say: The mountains are covered by snow.
✓ *Say:* The mountains are **covered with/in** snow.

21 **Cure of,** not *from*.
Don't say: The man was cured from his illness.
✓ *Say:* The man was **cured of** his illness.

Note: The noun **cure** takes **for**: *There is no* ***cure for*** *that disease.*

22 **Depend on** or **upon,** not *from*.
Don't say: It depends from her.
✓ *Say:* It **depends on** (or **upon**) her.

Note: **Rely on** or **upon**. *I can't* ***rely on*** *(or* ***upon****) him.*

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23 **Deprive of,** not *from.*
Don't say: Nelson Mandela was deprived from his freedom.
✓ *Say:* Nelson Mandela was **deprived of** his freedom.

24 **Die of an illness,** not *from an illness.*
Don't say: Many people have died from malaria.
✓ *Say:* Many people have **died of** malaria.

Note: People **die of** illness, **of** hunger, **of** thirst, **of** or **from** wounds; **from** overwork; **by** violence, **by** the sword, **by** pestilence; **in** battle; **for** their country, **for** a cause; **through** neglect; **on** the scaffold; **at** the stake.

25 **Different from,** not *than.*
Don't say: My book is different than yours.
✓ *Say:* My book is **different from** yours.

26 **Disappointed by, about** or **at,** not *from.*
(a) by/at/about:
Don't say: Phillipa was disappointed from the low mark she got in the test.
✓ *Say:* Phillipa was **disappointed by/about/at** the low mark she got in the test.

(b) with/in:
Don't say: Jane was disappointed from her son.
✓ *Say:* Jane was **disappointed with/in** her son.

Note: Before a person we use **with** or **in**, before a thing we use **at**, **about** or **by** and before a gerund we use **at**: *Keith is very disappointed* ***at*** *not winning the prize.* We use **that** (optional before a new clause): *I was disappointed* ***(that)*** *I didn't get an invitation.*

27 **Divide into parts,** not *in parts.*
Don't say: I divided the cake in four parts.
✓ *Say:* I **divided** the cake **into** four parts.

Note: A thing may be divided **in half** or **in two**: *Paul* ***divided*** *the apple* ***in half*** *(or* ***in two****).*

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28 **No doubt** (*n*) **of** or **about**, not *for*.
Don't say: I've no doubt for his ability.
✓ *Say:* I've **no doubt of** (or **about**) his ability.

Note: **Doubtful of**: *I am **doubtful of** his ability to pass.*

29 **Dressed in**, not *with*.
Don't say: The woman was dressed with black.
✓ *Say:* The woman was **dressed in** black.

Note: *The woman was **in** black* is also correct.

30 **Exception to**, not *of*.
Don't say: This is an exception of the rule.
✓ *Say:* This is an **exception to** the rule.

Note: We say **with the exception of**: *She liked all her subjects **with the exception of** physics.*

31 **Exchange for**, not *by*.
Don't say: He exchanged his collection of matchboxes by some foreign stamps.
✓ *Say:* He **exchanged** his collection of matchboxes **for** some foreign stamps.

Note: **In exchange for**: *He gave them his old car **in exchange for** a new one.*

32 **Fail in**, not *from*.
Don't say: Steven failed from maths last year.
✓ *Say:* Steven **failed in** maths last year.

33 **Full of**, not *with* or *from*.
Don't say: The jar was full with (*or* from) oil.
✓ *Say:* The jar was **full of** oil.

Note: **Fill** takes **with**: Jane **filled** the glass **with** water.

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34 **Get rid of,** not *from*.
Don't say: I'll be glad to get rid from him.
✓ *Say:* I'll be glad to **get rid of** him.

35 **Glad about,** not *from* or *with*.
Don't say: Francis was glad from (or with) receiving your letter.
✓ *Say:* Francis was **glad about** receiving your letter.

36 **Good at,** not *in*.
Don't say: My sister's good in maths.
✓ *Say:* My sister's **good at** maths.

Note 1: **Bad at, clever at, quick at, slow at,** etc. However, **weak in**: *He's **weak in** grammar.*
Note 2: *He's **good in** class* means that his conduct is good.

37 **Guard against,** not *from*.
Don't say: You must guard from bad habits.
✓ *Say:* You must **guard against** bad habits.

38 **Guilty of,** not *for*.
Don't say: He was found guilty for murder.
✓ *Say:* He was found **guilty of** murder

39 **Independent of,** not *from*.
Don't say: Clare's independent from her parents.
✓ *Say:* Clare's **independent of** her parents.

Note: We say **dependent on**: *A child is **dependent on** its parents.*

40 **Indifferent to,** not *for*.
Don't say: They're indifferent for politics.
✓ *Say:* They're **indifferent to** politics.

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41 **Insist on,** not *to*.
Don't say: He always insisted to his opinion.
✓ *Say:* He always **insisted on** his opinion.

Note: **Persist** takes in *He **persisted in** his silly ideas*

42 **Interested in,** not *for*.
Don't say: She's not interested for her work.
✓ *Say:* She's not **interested in** her work.

Note: Also **take an interest in** *She **takes a great interest in** music.*

43 **Jealous of,** not *from*.
Don't say: He's very jealous from his brother.
✓ *Say:* He's very **jealous of** his brother.

44 **Leave for a place,** not *to a place*.
Don't say: They're leaving to England soon.
✓ *Say:* They're **leaving for** England soon.

45 **Live on,** not *from*.
Don't say: He lives from his brother's money.
✓ *Say:* He **lives on** his brother's money.

Note: **Feed on**: *Some birds **feed on** insects*

46 **Look at,** not *to*.
Don't say: Look to this beautiful picture.
✓ *Say:* **Look at** this beautiful picture.

Note: Also **gaze at, stare at,** etc. But: **look after** (= take care of); **look for** (= try to find); **look over** (= examine); **look into** (= examine closely); **look on** or **upon** (= consider); **look down on** (= have a low opinion of), **look up to** (= respect); **look out for** (= expect); **look forward to** (= expect with pleasure), **look to** (= rely on).

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47 **Married to,** not *with.*
Don't say: Angela was married with a rich man.
✓ *Say:* Angela was **married to** a rich man.

Note: Also **engaged to**: *Sally was **engaged to** Peter for a year before they got married.*

48 **Opposite to,** not *from*
Don't say: Their house is opposite from ours.
✓ *Say:* Their house is **opposite to** ours.

Note: **Opposite ours** is also correct

49 **Pass by a place,** not *from a place.*
Don't say: Will you pass from the post-office?
✓ *Say:* Will you **pass by** the post-office?

Note: Also **pass the post-office** is correct.

50 **Play for a team,** not *with a team.*
Don't say: He plays regularly with that team.
✓ *Say:* He **plays** regularly **for** that team.

51 **Pleased with,** not *from.*
Don't say: The teacher is pleased from me.
✓ *Say:* The teacher is **pleased with** me.

Note: We say **pleased at** or **pleased with** if an abstract noun or a clause follows: *They were **pleased at** (or **with**) what he said; They were **pleased at** (or **with**) her results.*

52 **Popular with,** not *among.*
Don't say: John's popular among his friends.
✓ *Say:* John's **popular with** his friends.

53 **Prefer to,** not *from.*
Don't say: I prefer a blue pen from a red one.
✓ *Say:* I **prefer** a blue pen **to** a red one.

Note: Also **preferable to**: *This car is **preferable to** my old one.*

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54 **Preside at** or **over**, not *in*.
Don't say: Who presided in the last meeting?
✓ *Say:* Who **presided at** (or **over**) the last meeting?

55 **Proud of**, not *for*.
Don't say: He's very proud for his promotion.
✓ *Say:* He's very **proud of** his promotion.

Note: We say **take (a) pride in** : *A craftsman **takes a pride in** his work.*

56 **Rejoice at** or **in**, not *for*.
Don't say: We rejoiced for her success.
✓ *Say:* We **rejoiced at** (or **in**) her success.

57 **Related to**, not *with*.
Don't say: Are you related with Simon in any way?
✓ *Say:* Are you **related to** Simon in any way?

Note: Also **relation to**: *Is he any **relation to** you?*

58 **Repent of**, not *from*.
Don't say: He repented from his crime.
✓ *Say:* He **repented of** his crime.

Note: **Repentance** takes **for**: *He feels **repentance for** his sin.*

59 **Satisfied with**, not *from*.
Don't say: Are you satisfied from your marks?
✓ *Say:* Are you **satisfied with** your marks?

Note: Also **content with, delighted with, unhappy with, happy with, displeased with, dissatisfied with, disgusted with.**

60 **Similar to**, not *with*.
Don't say: Your house is similar with mine.
✓ *Say:* Your house is **similar to** mine.

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61 **Sit at a desk** etc., not *on a desk* etc.
Don't say: The bank manager was sitting on his desk.
✓ *Say:* The bank manager was **sitting at** his desk.

Note: Also **sit at a table.** But **on a chair, on a bench, on a sofa,** etc ; **in an arm-chair, in a tree** or **up a tree.** A bird sometimes **perches** (= sits) **on** a tree

62 **Spend on,** not *for.*
Don't say: I spend a lot of time for my computer.
✓ *Say:* I **spend** a lot of time **on** my computer.

63 **Succeed in,** not *at.*
Don't say: I hope he'll succeed at his work.
✓ *Say:* I hope he'll **succeed in** his work.

Note: A person **succeeds to** a property, a title, or an office: *Queen Elizabeth II* ***succeeded to*** *the throne in 1952.* Also one person can **succeed** another.

64 **Superior to,** not *from* or *than.*
Don't say: This is superior from (*or* than) that.
✓ *Say:* This is **superior to** that.

Note: Also **inferior to, junior to, senior to, subsequent to, prior to.**

65 **Sure of,** not *for.*
Don't say: I'm quite sure for her honesty.
✓ *Say:* I'm quite **sure of** her honesty.

Note: Also **certain of.** *I am quite* ***certain of*** *it.*

66 **Surprised at** or **by,** not *for.*
Don't say: Harold was surprised for the loud bang.
✓ *Say:* Harold was **surprised at/by** the loud bang.

Note: Also **astonished at/by, amazed at/by, alarmed at/by, puzzled at/by, shocked at/by.**

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Have another look at ...

Prepositions after certain words

Note carefully the prepositions used after the following words:

accuse *of*
accustomed *to*
afraid *of*
aim *at*
angry *with*, *at*
arrive *at*, *in*
ashamed *of*
believe *in*
boast *of*
careful *of*, *with*, *about*
complain *about*
composed *of*
conform *to*
congratulate *on*
consist *of*
cure *of*
depend *on*
deprive *of*
die *of*
different *from*
dressed *in*
fail *in*
full *of*
good *at*
guard *against*
guilty *of*
independent *of*
indifferent *to*
insist *on*
interested *in*
jealous *of*
look *at*
married *to*
no doubt *of* or *about*
pleased *with*
prefer *to*
proud *of*
related *to*
repent *of*
satisfied *with*
similar *to*
succeed *in*
superior *to*
sure *of*
surprised *at*, *by*
suspect *of*
tired *of*
translate *into*
warn *of*, *about*

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67 **Suspect of,** not *for*.
Don't say: I suspect Kate for stealing the pen.
✓ *Say:* I **suspect** Kate **of** stealing the pen.

Note: Also **suspicious of**: *Dogs are **suspicious of** strangers.*

68 **Take by,** not *from*.
Don't say: Robert took his brother from the hand.
✓ *Say:* Robert **took** his brother **by** the hand.

Note: Also: **hold by, catch by, seize by, snatch by, grasp by.**

69 **Tie to,** not *on*.
Don't say: The girl tied the string on the kite.
✓ *Say:* The girl **tied** the string **to** the kite.

Note: Also **bind to**: *The prisoner was **bound to** the stake.*

70 **Tired of,** not *from*.
Don't say: The boys are tired from eating boiled eggs.
✓ *Say:* The boys are **tired of** eating boiled eggs.

71 **Translate into,** not *to*.
Don't say: Translate this passage to English.
✓ *Say:* **Translate** this passage **into** English.

72 **Tremble with cold,** etc., not *from cold*, etc.
Don't say: The man was trembling from cold.
✓ *Say:* The man was **trembling with** cold.

Note: Also **shake with** and **shiver with**: *The thief was **shaking with** fear.*

73 **Warn** (a person) **of danger,** not *about danger*.
Don't say: They were warned about the danger.
✓ *Say:* They were **warned of** the danger.

Note 1: Use **warn about** for specific things: *They warned us about the bumps in the road.*

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Note 2: We **warn** a person against a fault: *His teacher **warned** him **against** breaking the rules.*

74 **Write in ink,** not *with ink.*
Don't say: I've written the letter with ink.
✓ *Say:* I've **written** the letter **in ink.**
Note. We use **in** when we are referring to the final work: *The drawing was done **in** charcoal. Dora writes her letters **in** green ink.* When we are referring to the instrument used we use **with**: *The children are learning to write **with** a pen. Helen prefers to paint **with** a thin brush.*

(See Exercises 73–76 on pages 168–170)

Misuse of the infinitive

Use the gerund and not the infinitive:

(a) After prepositions or preposition phrases:

75 **Without,** etc. + **-ing.**
Don't say: Do your work without to speak.
✓ *Say:* Do your work **without speaking.**

76 **Instead of,** etc. + **-ing.**
Don't say: He went away instead to wait.
✓ *Say:* He went away **instead of waiting.**

(b) After words which regularly take a preposition:

77 **Capable of + -ing.**
Don't say: They're quite capable to do that.
✓ *Say:* They're quite **capable of doing** that.

Note. Also **incapable of; to** + the infinitive follows **able** or **unable**: *He is **unable to do** anything*

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78 **Fond of + -ing.**
Don't say: She's always fond to talk.
✓ *Say:* She's always **fond of talking.**

79 **Insist on + -ing.**
Don't say: Simon insisted to go to London.
✓ *Say:* Simon **insisted on going** to London.

80 **Object to + -ing.**
Don't say: I object to be treated like this.
✓ *Say:* I **object to being** treated like this.

81 **Prevent from + -ing.**
Don't say: The rain prevented me to go.
✓ *Say:* The rain **prevented me from going.**

82 **Succeed in + -ing.**
Don't say: Paula succeeded to win the prize.
✓ *Say:* Paula **succeeded in winning** the prize.

83 **Think of + -ing.**
Don't say: I often think to go to England.
✓ *Say:* I often **think of going** to England.

84 **Tired of + -ing.**
Don't say: The customer got tired to wait.
✓ *Say:* The customer got **tired of waiting.**

85 **Used to + -ing.**
Don't say: She's used to get up early.
✓ *Say:* She's **used to getting** up early.

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(c) After certain verbs:

86 **Avoid + -ing.**
Don't say: You can't avoid to make mistakes.
✓ *Say:* You can't **avoid making** mistakes.

Note: Also **can't help** (= can't avoid): ***I can't help laughing.***

87 **Enjoy + -ing.**
Don't say: I enjoy to play football.
✓ *Say:* I **enjoy playing** football.

Note: Use the gerund or **to** + infinitive after verbs meaning **to like** or **to dislike**: ***He likes reading*** *English books,* or *He* ***likes to read*** *English books.*

88 **Excuse + -ing.**
Don't say: Please excuse me to be so late.
✓ *Say:* Please **excuse my being** so late.
Or: Please **excuse me for being** so late.

89 **Finish + -ing.**
Don't say: Have you finished to speak?
✓ *Say:* Have you **finished speaking?**

Note: **To** + infinitive or the gerund follow verbs meaning **to begin**: *She* ***began to speak,*** *or She* ***began speaking.***

90 **Go on** (continue) **+ -ing.**
Don't say: The music went on to play all day.
✓ *Say:* The music **went on playing** all day.

Note: Also **keep on**: *She* ***kept on playing*** *the piano.*

91 **Mind** (object to) **+ -ing.**
Don't say: Would you mind to open the door?
✓ *Say:* Would you **mind opening** the door?

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Have another look at ...

Use of the gerund

Use the gerund (and not the infinitive):
1 After prepositions.
Examples: He worked *without stopping*. She played *instead of working*.

2 After words which regularly take a preposition, such as *fond of, insist on, tired of, succeed in*.
Examples: I'm *tired of doing* the work again. He *succeeded in catching* the rat.

3 After certain verbs, such as *avoid, enjoy, finish, stop, risk, excuse*.
Examples: They *enjoy playing* football. The wind has *stopped blowing*.

4 After the adjectives *busy* and *worth*.
Examples: Lena was *busy writing* a book. This date is *worth remembering*.

5 After certain phrases, such as *it's no use, it's no good, I can't help, would you mind, look forward to*.
Examples: I think *it's no use trying* again. *I can't help feeling* angry about it.

Use the gerund or the infinitive after certain verbs, such as *begin, like, dislike, hate, love, prefer*.
Example: He began to talk *or* He began talking.

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92 **Practise + -ing.**
Don't say: You must practise to speak English.
✓ *Say:* You must **practise speaking** English.

93 **Remember + -ing.**
Don't say: I don't remember to have seen him.
✓ *Say:* I don't **remember seeing** him.
Or: I don't **remember having** seen him.

94 **Risk + -ing.**
Don't say: We couldn't risk to leave him alone.
✓ *Say:* We couldn't **risk leaving** him alone.

95 **Stop + -ing.**
Don't say: The wind has almost stopped to blow.
✓ *Say:* The wind has almost **stopped blowing.**

Note: Also **give up** (= stop): *He **gave up smoking.***

(d) After certain adjectives:

96 **Busy + -ing.**
Don't say: He was busy to revise the exams.
✓ *Say:* He was **busy revising** for the exams.

97 **Worth + -ing.**
Don't say: Is today's film worth to see?
✓ *Say:* Is today's film **worth seeing?**

(e) After certain phrases:

98 **Have difficulty in + -ing.**
Don't say: She has no difficulty to do it.
✓ *Say:* She **has** no **difficulty in doing** it.

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99 **Have the pleasure of + -ing.**
Don't say: I had the pleasure to meet him.
✓ *Say:* **I had the pleasure of meeting** him.

Note Also **take pleasure in**: *He takes great pleasure in helping* others.

100 **It's no use + -ing.**
Don't say: It's no use to cry like a baby.
✓ *Say:* **It's no use crying** like a baby.

101 **It's no good + -ing.**
Don't say: It's no good to get angry.
✓ *Say:* **It's no good getting** angry.

102 **Look forward to + -ing.**
Don't say: I look forward to see him soon.
✓ *Say:* **I look forward to seeing** him soon.

103 **There is no harm in + -ing.**
Don't say: There's no harm to visit her now.
✓ *Say:* **There's no harm in visiting** her now.

(See Exercises 63 and 64 on page 164.)

Use of the wrong tense

104 Using the past tense after **did** instead of the infinitive without **to.**

(*a*) To ask questions:
Don't say: Did you went to school yesterday?
✓ *Say:* **Did** you **go** to school yesterday?

(*b*) To make negatives:
Don't say: I did not went to school yesterday.

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✓ *Say:* I **did** not **go** to school yesterday.

Use the present infinitive without **to**, not the past tense after the auxiliary **did**.

Note: the answer to a question beginning with **did** is always in the past tense: ***Did*** *you see the picture? – Yes ,* ***I saw*** *the picture;* or *Yes, I* ***did.***

105 Using the third person singular after **does** instead of the infinitive without **to**.

(*a*) To ask questions:
Don't say: Does the gardener waters the flowers?
✓ *Say:* **Does** the gardener **water** the flowers?

(*b*) To make negatives:
Don't say: The man doesn't waters the flowers.
✓ *Say:* The man **doesn't water** the flowers.

After the auxiliary **does** use the infinitive without **to**, and not the third person of the present.

Note. The answer to a question beginning with **Does** is always in the present tense, third person: ***Does*** *he like the cinema? – Yes, he* ***likes*** *the cinema,* or *Yes, he* ***does.***

(For Sections 104–105 see Exercises 33 and 34 on pages 152–153.)

106 Using the third person singular after **can, must,** etc., instead of the infinitive without **to.**
Don't say: Ian can speaks English very well.
✓ *Say:* Ian **can speak** English very well.

After the verbs **can, must, may, shall,** and **will,** use the infinitive without **to** and not the third person of the present.

107 Wrong sequence of tenses.
Don't say: Rachel asked me what I am doing.
✓ *Say:* Rachel **asked** me what I **was** doing.

When the verb in the main clause is in the past tense, use a past tense in subordinate clauses.

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Note: This rule doesn't apply (1) to verbs within quotations, (2) to facts that are true at all times. We say:
1 She **said,** 'I **am** waiting for your answer'
2 He **said** that London **is** a great city

108 Using *will/'ll* instead of **would/'d** in a subordinate clause.
Don't say: He said (that) he will/'ll come tomorrow.
✓ *Say:* He **said** (that) he **would/'d** come tomorrow.

Will/'ll changes to **would/'d** in subordinate clauses, when the verb in the main clause is in a past tense.

109 Using *may* instead of **might** in a subordinate clause.
Don't say: Last Sunday Ailsa told me that she may come.
✓ *Say:* Last Sunday Ailsa **told** me that she **might** come.

May changes to **might** in subordinate clauses, when the verb in the main clause is in the past simple tense.

Note: The conjunction **that** is never preceded by a comma

110 Using *can* instead of **could** in a subordinate clause.
Don't say: Ben thought he can win the prize.
✓ *Say:* Ben **thought** he **could** win the prize.

Can changes to **could** in subordinate clauses, when the verb in the main clause is in the past simple tense.

(For Sections 107–110 see Exercises 22 and 23 on pages 147–148.)

111 Using the past simple tense after **to** + the infinitive.
Don't say: He tried to kicked the ball away.
✓ *Say:* He tried **to kick** the ball away.

Don't use the simple past tense after **to**.

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112 Using the past simple tense after an auxiliary verb, instead of the past participle.

Don't say: I've forgot to bring my book.

✓ *Say:* **I've forgotten** to bring my book.

Use the past participle (and not the past tense) with the auxiliary verb **have** ar its parts.

113 Using *must* or *ought to* to express a past obligation.

Don't say: You ought to come yesterday.

✓ *Say:* You **ought to have come** yesterday.

Or: You **should have come** yesterday.

Don't use **must** and **ought to** as past tenses. To express a past duty (which wasn't done) use the perfect infinitive without to after **ought to** or **should**, or expressions such as **had to, was obliged to**.

Note: In indirect speech use **must** and **ought to** as past tenses: *He **said** he **must** do it.*

114 Using the present perfect instead of the simple past tense.

Don't say: I have seen a good film yesterday.

✓ *Say:* I **saw** a good film **yesterday**.

Use the simple past tense (and not the present perfect) for an action comple in the past at a stated time.

Note: When a sentence has a word or a phrase denoting past time, like **yesterday, last night, last week, last year, then, ago,** etc., always use a simple past tense.

115 Using the simple past tense instead of the present perfect.

Don't say: I saw the Parthenon of Athens.

✓ *Say:* I **have seen** the Parthenon of Athens.

If we are speaking of the result of a past action rather than of the action it we must use the present perfect tense. When somebody says, ***I have seen** Parthenon*, he or she is not thinking so much of the past act of seeing it, a the present result of that past action.

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116 Using the simple past tense with a recent action, instead of the present perfect.
Don't say: The clock struck.
✓ *Say:* The clock **has struck**.

If we are speaking of an action just finished, we must use the present perfect instead of the simple past tense. For example, immediately after the clock strikes, we shouldn't say *The clock struck*, but *The clock* ***has struck.***

117 Using the simple present instead of the present perfect.
Don't say: I'm at this school two years.
✓ *Say:* **I've been** at this school two years.

Use the present perfect (and not the simple present) for an action begun in the past and continuing into the present. ***I've been at*** *this school two years* means **I'm still here.**

118 Using the simple present instead of the present perfect after a **since** clause of time.
Don't say: Since he came, we're happy.
✓ *Say:* Since he came, **we've been** happy.

The verb after a **since** clause of time is generally in the present perfect tense.

19 Using the simple present instead of the present continuous.
Don't say: Look! Two boys fight.
✓ *Say:* Look! Two boys **are fighting**.

Note: We also use the present continuous for the future when something is pre-arranged or expected with some certainty: *Lorna* ***is arriving*** *tomorrow at six. Tom and I* ***are eating*** *out tonight.*

20 The continuous form of the tense misused.
Don't say: I'm understanding the lesson now.
✓ *Say:* **I understand** the lesson now.

As a rule, verbs denoting a state rather than an act have no continuous forms, like **understand, know, believe, like, love, belong, prefer, consist, mean, hear, see,** etc.

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121 Using the present continuous for a habitual action, instead of the simple present.
Don't say: Every morning I'm going for a walk.
✓ *Say:* Every morning **I go** for a walk.

Use the simple present (and not the present continuous) to express a present habitual action.

Note: Use the present continuous to express a habitual action with the word **always** or with a verb denoting a continuous state: ***He is always talking*** *in class;* ***He is living*** *in London.*

122 Using the verb *to use* for the present habitual action.
Don't say: I use to get up at six every morning.
✓ *Say:* **I get up** at six every morning.
Or: **I'm accustomed to** getting up at six, etc.

The verb **to use** doesn't express a habit in the present. *I use* means *I employ*: ***I use*** *a pen to write with.*

Note: **Used to** expresses a past state or habit and it usually refers to some old situation which no longer exists: ***I used to*** *see him every day; My father* ***used to*** *play football very well.*

123 Using the past continuous for a habitual action, instead of the simple past tense.
Don't say: Last year I was walking to school every day.
✓ *Say:* Last year **I walked** to school every day.

Use the simple past tense to express a habit in the past, and not the past continuous.

Note: Use the past continuous tense to describe events in the past happening at the time another action took place: *I* ***was walking*** *to school when* ***I met*** *him.*

124 Using the past tense instead of the past perfect.
Don't say: The train already left before I arrived.
✓ *Say:* The train **had already left** before I arrived.

Use the past perfect when the time of one past action is more past than that of another. Put the action which was completed first in the past perfect and the second action in the past tense.

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Note: Don't use the present tense and the past perfect in the same sentence. It would be incorrect to say: *My brother **says** that he **had** not **gone** to the cinema last night.*

125 Using the past perfect instead of the simple past tense.
Don't say: I'd finished the book yesterday
✓ *Say:* I **finished** the book yesterday.

Don't use the past perfect unless there is another verb in the past tense in the same sentence.

(See Section 124.)

126 Using the future in a clause of time, instead of the present tense.
Don't say: I'll see you when I shall come back.
✓ *Say:* I'll see you **when I come** back.

If the verb in the main clause is in the future, the verb in the time clause must be in the present tense.

127 Using the future in the **if** clause instead of the present tense.
Don't say: If he'll ask me, I will/'ll stay.
✓ *Say:* **If he asks** me, I will/'ll stay.

Use the present tense in a future conditional in the **if** clause and the future tense in the main clause

Note: But the future tense may be used in an **if** clause expressing a request: *If you **will/'ll** give me some money I **will/'ll buy** you a drink.*

128 Using the present tense after **as if** or **as though** instead of the past.
Don't say: Janine talks as if she knows everything.
✓ *Say:* Janine talks **as if she knew** everything.

Use the past tense after the phrase **as if** or **as though**. *He talks as if he knew everything,* means *He talks as **he would talk** if he knew everything.*

Note: Use the subjective **were** with the verb **to be** after **as if**: *He acts **as if he were** a rich man.*

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129 Using the past conditional of **wish** instead of the present indicative.
Don't say: I would wish to know more English.
✓ *Say:* I **wish (that) I knew** more English.

Use the present tense of **wish** to express a present meaning, followed by a **that** clause containing a past tense.

130 Using a wrong tense with an **improbable** condition.
Don't say: If he would/'d ask me, I would/'d stay.
✓ *Say:* **If he asked me, I would/'d stay.**

Express an **improbable** condition by the past tense and use the conditional in the main clause. This use of the past tense doesn't indicate a time but a degree of probability.

131 Using a wrong tense with a counterfactual condition.
Don't say: If he would/'d have asked me, I would/'d stay.
✓ *Say:* **If he had/'d asked me, I would/'d have stayed.**

Express a counterfactual (that didn't happen) condition by the past perfect and use the past conditional in the main clause. This use of the past perfect doesn't indicate a time but an impossible happening.

132 Using the infinitive instead of a finite verb.
Don't say: Sir, to go home to get my book?
✓ *Say:* Sir, **may I go** home to get my book?

The infinitive simply names an action without reference to person, number or time. Therefore, it can't make sense without the help of a finite verb.

133 Mixing up the tenses.
Don't say: They asked him to be captain, but he refuses.
✓ *Say:* They **asked** him to be captain, but he **refused.**

If you begin with a verb referring to past time, keep the verb forms in the past. The same rule applies to tenses throughout a composition.

(See Exercises 24–30 on pages 148–151.)

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Have another look at ...

Use of certain tenses

1 Use the Simple Present for habitual or frequent actions, and use the Present Continuous for actions taking place at the present moment.
Examples: I *read* the newspaper every day. I'*m reading* an English book (now).

2 Use the Simple Past when a definite time or date is mentioned, and use the Present Perfect when no time is mentioned.
Examples: I did my homework *last night*. I'*ve done* my homework (so I can watch TV – or whatever – now).

3 Express habitual or repeated actions in the past either by the Simple Past or by the phrase *used to*.
Example: I *went* (or *I used to go*) to the cinema every week last year.

Note: Don't use the Past Continuous (*I was going*) for a past habitual action, but for an action in the past continuing at the time another action took place: *I was going to the cinema when I met him.*

4 The only correct tense to use is the Present Perfect if the action began in the past and is still continuing in the present.
Example: I'*ve been* in this class for two months.

5 Be very careful NOT to use the future but the Present tense in a clause of time or condition, if the verb in the main clause is in the future.
Example: I will/'ll visit the Parthenon *when I go* (or *if I go*) to Athens.

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Miscellaneous examples

134 Confusion of gender.

Don't say: The door is open, please shut her.

✓ *Say:* The door is open, please shut **it**.

In English only names of people and animals have gender (masculine or feminine). Inanimate things are neuter, and take the pronoun **it** in the singular.

Note: It's possible to use masculine or feminine pronouns when inanimate things are personified: ***England** is proud of **her** navy.*

135 Using the possessive **'s** with inanimate objects.

Don't say: Her room's window is open.

✓ *Say:* **The window of her room** is open.

With inanimate objects we usually use the **of** structure. *The door **of** the car. The leg **of** the table. The surface **of** the water.* With the names of places and organisations we can use either: London**'s** streets = The streets **of** London. Italy**'s** climate. = The climate **of** Italy. The school**'s** main office = The main office **of** the school.

Note: However, we do say: **a day's work, a night's rest, a week's holiday, a pound's worth,** etc., especially with similar measures of time.

136 Using the objective case after the verb **to be**.

Don't say: It was him.

✓ *Say:* It was **he**.

The pronoun coming after the verb **to be** must be in the nominative case, and not in the objective in written composition. However, the objective case is now usually used in coversation: **It's me, It was him/her/them,** etc.

137 Using the objective case after the conjunction **than**.

Don't say: My sister is taller than me.

✓ *Say:* My sister is taller **than I (am).**

The word **than** is a conjunction, and can only be followed by a pronoun in the nominative case. The verb coming after the pronoun is generally omitted.

Note: Use the objective case in spoken English: *You're much taller **than me**.*

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138 Using the subject pronoun after **between**.
Don't say: It's a secret between you and I.
✓ *Say:* It's a secret **between** you and **me.**

Between is a preposition, and all prepositions take the objective case after them.

139 Using an object pronoun before a gerund.
Don't say: Him laughing at her was what made her angry.
✓ *Say:* **His** laughing at her was what made her angry.

When we use an **-ing** verb as a noun, the preceding noun or pronoun must be possessive.

140 Using an object pronoun in a double genitive.
Don't say: A friend of him told us the news.
✓ *Say:* A friend of **his** told us the news.

We use the double genitive (**of + name + 's, his, mine** etc.) when we want to emphasise the person who possesses rather than the thing which he possesses. **A friend of his** is simply another way of saying **one of his friends**.

141 Misuse of **-self** forms.
Don't say: Michael and myself are here.
✓ *Say:* Michael and **I** are here.

Use the simple personal pronouns **I, you, he,** etc., if no emphasis is necessary.

Note: Use the **-self** pronouns in two ways: (1) for emphasis: *She **herself** was hurt*; (2) reflexively: *She hurt **herself.***

142 Using *hisself* or *theirselves* instead of **himself** or **themselves.**
Don't say: They fell down and hurt theirselves.
✓ *Say:* They fell down and hurt **themselves.**

The reflexive pronouns, third person, are **himself** and **themselves**, and not hisself and theirselves.

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3 Misuse of noun/verb homonyms.

Don't say: Becky played a good play of chess.

✓ *Say:* Becky **played** a good **game** of chess.

Some verbs and nouns do have the same form and analogous meaning in English: *The police fight a hard fight. Heather dreams long vivid dreams. If you lie the lie will catch you out! The company danced an African dance.* However, we seldom use the same word like this. Usually we try to avoid it in some way: *She fought a long battle with them. If you lie you will be caught out. The company did an African dance.*

14 Using the relative pronoun *which* for persons.

Don't say: I've a brother which is at school.

✓ *Say:* I've a brother **who** is at school.

Only use **which** as a relative pronoun for animals or things. The right pronoun to use for people is **who** (**whose, whom**).

45 Using *what* or *which* after **everything**, etc.

Don't say: I heard everything which (*or* what) he said.

✓ *Say:* I heard **everything (that)** he said.

Don't use the relative pronouns **which** and **what** after **everything, all, something, anything, a lot, (not much), little,** or **nothing**. We can use **that** after these words, or it can be omitted.

46 **Who** and **whom.**

Don't say: I saw the woman whom you said lived next door.

✓ *Say:* I saw the woman (**who**) you said lived next door.

We rarely use **whom** in modern English. We still use it after prepositions **to, by, with, after, on** etc. For example, *The girl to* **whom** *you were speaking is Nigerian.* We prefer to avoid this nowadays by changing the order of the sentence: *The girl you were speaking to is Nigerian.* You can also use **that** in place of **who**: *The girl* **that** *you were speaking to is Nigerian.*

(For Sections 144–146 see Exercise 18 on page 145.)

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147 Using *who*, *whom*, or *which* after the superlative, instead of **that**.

Don't say: It's the best which I've seen.

✓ *Say:* It's **the best (that)** I've seen.

Use the relative **that** (not **who, whom,** or **which**) after a superlative. It can, however, be omitted.

148 The **same as/same that**.

Don't say: Amelia bought the same bag that me.

✓ *Say:* Amelia bought the **same** bag **as** me.

After **the same** we use **as** unless it's followed by a subordinate clause, in which case we use **that**, or omit it: *Mr Smith ordered the same meal (**that**) he ordered before.*

Note: Sometimes we use **that** instead of **who** or **which** after **same**: *He wore the **same** clothes **that** he wore on Sunday.*

149 Using *who?* or *what?* instead of **which?**

Don't say: Who of the two boys is the taller?

✓ *Say:* **Which** of the two boys is the taller?

Use the interrogative pronoun **which?** for both people and things, asks for **one** out of a definite number.

Note: The interrogative pronoun **what?** doesn't imply choice: ***What**'s your telephone number?* It's also used to ask for a person's profession. ***What**'s your father? – He's a lawyer.*

(Compare Section 144.)

150 **Who?** and **Whom?**

(*a*) Who?

Don't say: Whom do you think will be chosen?

✓ *Say:* **Who** do you think **will be chosen?**

(*b*) Whom?

Don't say: Who do you think I saw yesterday?

✓ *Say:* **Whom** do you think **I saw** yesterday?

In sentence (*a*) **who** is the subject of **will be chosen**, *do you think* is a

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parenthesis. In sentence *(b)* **whom** is the object of **I saw**; *do you think* is a parenthesis.

(For Sections 149 and 150 see Exercise 19 on page 145.)

151 Using *one other* instead of **another**.
Don't say: Please give me one other book.
✓ *Say:* Please give me **another** book.

Another is formed from **an** and **other**, but instead of being written **an other** it's written as one word **another**.

152 Using the superlative instead of the comparative.
Don't say: John is the tallest of the two boys.
✓ *Say:* John is the **taller** of the **two** boys.

Use the comparative when two people or things are compared. See 154.

153 Using *from* after the comparative instead of **than**.
Don't say: Amy is taller from her brother.
✓ *Say:* Amy is **taller than** her brother.

Adjectives (or adverbs) in the comparative are followed by **than** and not by **from**.

154 Using the comparative instead of the superlative.
Don't say: Cairo is the larger city in Africa.
✓ *Say:* Cairo is the **largest** city in **Africa**.

Use the superlative when **more than two** persons or things are compared.

155 Using *the more* instead of **most**.
Don't say: The more people will agree with me.
✓ *Say:* **Most** people will agree with me.

Use **most** (not *the more*) when you mean *the majority of*.

Note: Use **the more** in sentences like *The more I complain, the more I laugh. The more we write, the happier our tutor becomes.*

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156 Using *more good* or *more bad* instead of **better** or **worse**.

Don't say: This one looks more good than that.

✓ *Say:* This one looks **better** than that.

The adjectives **good** and **bad** have irregular forms of comparison: **good, better, best** and **bad, worse, worst**.

(For Sections 151–156 see Exercises 7 and 8 on page 140.)

157 Using *home* instead of **at home**.

Don't say: In the afternoon I stay home.

✓ *Say:* In the afternoon I stay **at home**.

Use the phrase **at home** to mean *in the house*. With such verbs as **come** or **go** no preposition is necessary: *He wants to go **home***.

158 Using *from* instead of **one of** or **among**.

Don't say: She is from the nicest girls I know.

✓ *Say:* She is **one of the nicest** girls I know.

Avoid using *from* in the sense of **one of** or **among**.

159 Using the passive infinitive (**to be** + past participle) instead of the active (*to* + infinitive).

Don't say: English isn't easy to be learned.

✓ *Say:* English isn't easy **to learn**.

The adjectives **easy, difficult, hard, heavy, good,** etc., are generally followed by the active infinitive.

160 Using an intransitive verb in the passive form.

Don't say: She was disappeared from the house.

✓ *Say:* She **disappeared** from the house.

As a rule, don't use intransitive verbs, like **appear, seem, become, consist,** in the passive form. Intransitive verbs don't have an object.

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161 Mixing up one form of the verb with another.
Don't say: It's better to enjoy yourself when you're young rather than wasting time worrying about the future.
✓ *Say:* It's better **to enjoy** yourself when you're young than **to waste** time worrying about the future.

Don't mix one form of the verb with another. If the first verb in a comparison is in the infinitive, the second must also be in the infinitive.

162 Wrong sequence of moods.
Don't say: If you would/'d do me this favour, I will/'ll be very grateful to you.
✓ *Say:* **If you would/'d** do me this favour, **I would/'d** be very grateful to you.
Or: **If you will/'ll** do me this favour, **I will/'d** be very grateful to you.

163 The unrelated participle.
Don't say: Being in a hurry, the door was left open.
✓ *Say:* **Being in a hurry, he** left the door open.

Take care to provide the logical subject relating to the participle phrase. In the sentence given, the logical subject to **being in haste** is **he** and not the **door**.

164 The question phrase *isn't it?* misused.
Don't say: He played well yesterday, isn't it?
✓ *Say:* He played well yesterday, **didn't he**?

Use the question phrase **isn't it** only when the preceding statement contains the word **is**: *It **is** a hot day, **isn't it**?*

Note. In this form of question, use the same tense and person as in the preceding statement and use the correct auxiliary. If, however, the preceding statement is in the negative form, the question phrase omits **not**. We say:
1 They are on holiday, **aren't they**?
They aren't on holiday, **are they**?
2 You speak English, **don't you**?
You don't speak French; **do you**?

(See Exercise 36 on page 154.)

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165 Misuse of the gerund to express purpose.
Don't say: I come here for learning English.
✓ *Say:* I come here **to learn** English.

Express purpose by using the infinitive, not the gerund.

166 *Yes* or *No* in answer to negative questions.
Question: Didn't you see the game?
Answer: **Yes,** – that is, I saw it.
No, – that is, I didn't see it.

In answering negative questions, say **Yes** if the answer is an affirmation, and **No** if it's a negative. That is, answer without any regard to the negative form of the question.

16 Using a double negative.
Don't say: She says she's not afraid of nobody.
✓ *Say:* She says she's **not** afraid of **anybody.**
Or: She says she's afraid of **nobody**.

In English, two negatives are equal to an affirmative statement. You should avoid using two negative words in the same clause: when **not** is used, **none** changes to **any**, **nothing** to **anything**, **nobody** to **anybody**, **no one** to **anyone**, **nowhere** to **anywhere**, **neither** ... **nor** to **either** ... **or**.

(See Exercise 38 on page 155.)

168 Using *one time* or *two times* instead of **once** or **twice**.
Don't say: I was absent one time or two times.
✓ *Say:* I was absent **once** or **twice.**

Use **once** and **twice** instead of **one time** and **two times**.

169 Using *a day*, etc., instead of **one day**, etc.
Don't say: A day they went sight-seeing in Florence.
✓ *Say:* **One day** they went sight-seeing in Florence.

Use **one** (not **a** or **an**) with **day**, **night**, **morning**, **afternoon** and **evening**, when the **one** means **on a certain ....**

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170 Using *the other day* instead of **the next day**, etc.
Don't say: David slept well and was better the other day.
✓ *Say:* David slept well and was better **the next day** (or **on the following day**).

Note **The other day** is an idiom meaning a few days ago. *I met an old friend **the other day***

171 Using *one and a half*, instead of **half past one**, etc.
Don't say: Lessons begin at eight and a half.
✓ *Say:* Lessons begin at **half past eight.**

In telling time, say **half past one**, **half past two**, **half past three**, etc.

172 Using *as usually* instead of **as usual.**
Don't say: As usually, he left his pen at home.
✓ *Say:* As **usual,** he left his pen at home.

173 Using *according to my opinion* instead of **in my opinion.**
Don't say: According to my opinion, she's right.
✓ *Say:* **In my opinion**, she's right.

Note. Avoid using the phrase **as I think** instead of **I think**. Say: *He's lazy and **I think** he'll fail*, not. ***as I think***)

174 Using *at the end* instead of **in the end.**
Don't say: At the end they reached the city.
✓ *Say:* **In the end** they reached the city.

In the end means finally or at last. **at the end** means at the farthest point or part. *There's an index **at the end** of this book. There's a holiday **at the end** of this month.*

175 Using *under the rain* instead of **in the rain.**
Don't say: They played football under the rain.
✓ *Say:* They played football **in the rain.**

Note. Also **in the sun** and **in the shade**. *He was sitting **in the sun*** (or ***in the shade***)

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Have another look at ...

Negatives

Express the negative in the present + past simple in one of two ways:
1 By putting *not(n't)* after the verb. Use this method with the following twenty-one verbs.
am, is, are, was, were; have, has, had; shall, should; will, would; can, could; may, might; must; need; dare; ought ... to; used ... to.
Examples: I'*m not* ready. You *mustn't* do that. He *can't* write well. He *oughtn't* to go.

In conversation, *not* is often shortened to *n't*. We say *don't* for *do not*, *doesn't* for *does not*, *didn't* for *did not*, *hadn't* for *had not*, *wouldn't* for *would not*, etc. (But we say *shan't* for *shall not*, *won't* for *will not*, *can't* for *cannot*.)

2 Use *do, does, did,* with *not* and the present infinitive (without *to*). Use this method with all verbs except those twenty-one given above.
The word order is:
SUBJECT + *do* (*does, did*) + *not* + INFINITIVE
Examples: I *don't go* there very often. He *doesn't teach* English. They *didn't see* the game.

3 Use other words of negative meaning to express negatives: *no, nobody, no one, nothing, nowhere.*
Example: They know *nothing*
or They do not (don't) know *anything.*

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176 Using *the reason is because* instead of **the reason is that.**

Don't say: The reason is because I believe it.

✓ *Say:* **The reason is that** I believe it.

The word **reason** denotes cause, therefore **the reason is because** is repetition. The correct idiom is **the reason is that** ...

177 Using *a country* instead of **the country.**

Don't say: I spend my holidays in a country.

✓ *Say:* I spend my holidays in **the country.**

A country is a place like France, India, or Egypt. **The country** is a rural area where there are no towns or cities.

178 Using *if* instead of **whether.**

Don't say: I asked Paul if he was going.

✓ *Say:* I asked Paul **whether** he was going.

Where **or not** is implied, use **whether**, not **if**. Unlike **whether, if** does not expect a Yes or No reply: *I shall speak to him if he comes.*

179 Using *any* for two, instead of **either.**

Don't say: Any of these two books is good.

✓ *Say:* **Either** of these two books is good.

Either means one or the other of two, **any** means one of three or more: ***Any** of these books will do.*

180 Using *likes me* instead of **I like.**

Don't say: The cinema likes me very much.

✓ *Say:* **I like** the cinema very much.

Note *The cinema **appeals to me*** is correct, and means *I like the cinema very much.*

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181 Using *neither ... or* instead of **neither ... nor.**

Don't say: Sara speaks neither English or French.

✓ *Say:* Sara speaks **neither** English **nor** French.

Remember: **Neither** must be followed by **nor** and not by **or. Either** is followed by **or**: She drinks either orange juice or apple juice.

182 Using *both* in a negative sentence instead of **neither.**

Don't say: Both of them didn't go to school today.

✓ *Say:* **Neither** of them went to school today.

Remember: Change **both** into **neither** in a negative sentence and use a positive verb.

183 Using *also* or *too* in a negative sentence instead of **either.**

Don't say: Joe hasn't come also (*or* too).

✓ *Say:* Joe hasn't come **either.**

Remember: Change **also** or too into **either** in a negative sentence.

184 Using *and* in a negative sentence instead of **or.**

Don't say: I don't like red and orange. I want the blue one.

✓ *Say:* I don't like red **or** orange. I want the blue one.

The meaning of the first sentence is that you don't like the two colours together. The intended meaning is that you don't like either of them, even separately.

Note: If we join clauses with different subjects we use **and** even after a negative: He didn't write to me **and** I was worried.

185 Using *till* instead of **before** or **when.**

Don't say: I'd reached the school till the rain started.

✓ *Say:* I'd reached the school **before** the rain started.

Or: I'd reached the school **when** the rain started.

Before or **when** introduces a clause of time, if the verb of the main clause denotes an action completed before that of the time clause.

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Un-English expressions

Mistakes often result from too close a translation into English of foreign idiomatic expressions. The following are examples of such mistakes:

186 **Take an exam**, not *give an exam.*
Don't say: The pupil gave his exam.
✓ *Say:* The pupil **took** his exam.

Note. The teacher **gives** or **sets** the exam. The student **takes** the exam or **sits** the exam.

187 **To be right or wrong**, not *to have right or wrong.*
Don't say: You've right *or* You've wrong.
✓ *Say:* You're **right** *or* You're **wrong**.

188 **To be busy**, not *to have work.*
Don't say: I have much work this morning.
✓ *Say:* **I'm very busy** this morning.

Note: We can say: ***I have a lot of work to do*** *this morning.*

189 **It's cold**, etc., not *it has cold,* etc.
Don't say: It has cold this winter.
✓ *Say:* **It's cold** this winter.

190 **Go for a walk**, not *make a walk.*
Don't say: We made a walk along the river.
✓ *Say:* We **went for a walk** along the river.

Note: We can also say: *We* ***had a walk*** or *We* ***took a walk*** *along the river.*

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191 **Go for a ride on a bicycle,** etc., not *go for a walk on a bicycle,* etc.
Don't say: We went for a walk on our bicycles.
✓ *Say:* We went for a **ride** on our bicycles.

Note: We **ride** on a bicycle, on horseback, etc., but we **ride** in a bus, train, or other public vehicle.

192 **Mount or get on a horse,** etc. not *ride a horse, etc.*
Don't say: Peter rode his horse and went home.
✓ *Say:* Peter **got on** his horse and **rode** home.

Note: **To ride** denotes a continuous action. **To mount** or **to get on** denotes a simple action

193 **Dismount or get off a horse,** etc., not *come down from a horse,* etc.
Don't say: They came down from their horses.
✓ *Say:* They **got off** their horses.

Note: We **get out of** a taxi or a car. We **get on** or **off** the train, the bus, etc.

194 **Go on foot,** not *go with the feet.*
Don't say: Shall we go there with the feet?
✓ *Say:* Shall we go there **on foot**?

195 **Take or have a shower,** not *make a shower.*
Don't say: I make a shower every morning.
✓ *Say:* I **take** a shower every morning.
Or: I **have** a shower every morning.

Note: When speaking of the sea or the river, say: **to bathe**, **to have a bathe**, **to go for a bathe**, **to go bathing**, **to go for a swim** or **to go swimming**.

196 **Ask a question,** not *make a question.*
Don't say: Naomi made me several questions.
✓ *Say:* Naomi **asked** me several questions.

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197 **Take an hour**, not *need an hour*, etc.
Don't say: I'll need an hour to do that.
✓ *Say:* **It'll take me an hour** to do that.

198 **Give a discount**, not *make a discount.*
Don't say: He made me a small discount.
✓ *Say:* He **gave** me a small discount.

199 **Take exercise**, not *make exercise.*
Don't say: You ought to make more exercise.
✓ *Say:* You ought to **take** more exercise.

200 **Give or deliver a lecture**, not *make a lecture.*
Don't say: He made an interesting lecture.
✓ *Say:* He **gave** an interesting lecture.
Or: He **delivered** an interesting lecture.

Note: We say: *He **made** an interesting **speech**.*

201 **Say one's prayers**, not *make or do one's prayer.*
Don't say: I make my prayer before I go to bed.
✓ *Say:* I **say** my prayers before I go to bed.

Note: **To say grace** is to ask God's blessing before beginning a meal

202 **Pretend**, not *make oneself that.*
Don't say: She makes herself that she knows.
✓ *Say:* She **pretends** to know.

203 **Have a dream**, not *see a dream.*
Don't say: I saw a strange dream last night.
✓ *Say:* I **had a** strange dream last night.
Or: I **dreamt a** strange dream last night.

204 **Smoke a cigarette**, etc., not *drink a cigarette*, etc.
Don't say: He drinks too many cigarettes.
✓ *Say:* He **smokes** too many cigarettes.

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205 **Make a mistake,** not *do a mistake.*
Don't say: I did one mistake in dictation.
✓ *Say:* I **made** one mistake in dictation.

206 **Tell or speak the truth,** not *say the truth.*
Don't say: Fiona always says the truth.
✓ *Say:* Fiona always **tells** the truth.
Or: Fiona always **speaks** the truth.

Note: Also **to tell a lie** (not **to say a lie**): *He **told** me a lie.*

207 **See or watch a game,** not *to follow a game.*
Don't say: Did you follow the game?
✓ *Say:* Did you **see** (*or* **watch**) the game?

Note: Avoid saying *to follow the lesson* when you mean **to attend the class.**

208 **Turn (switch) the light on or off,** not *open or shut the light.*
Don't say: Please open (*or* shut) the light.
✓ *Say:* Please **turn on** (*or* **off**) the light.
Or: Please **switch on** (*or* **off**) the light.

Note: We **light, blow out** or **put out** a lamp, a candle, or a fire.

209 **Give an example,** not *bring an example.*
Don't say: Can you bring a better example?
✓ *Say:* Can you **give** a better example?

210 **Give a mark,** not *put a mark.*
Don't say: The teacher put me a good mark.
✓ *Say:* The teacher **gave** me a good mark.

Note: Avoid *to put a lesson, to put a goal.* Say instead: **to give a lesson, to score a goal.**

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211 **Set a watch by,** not *put a watch with.*
Don't say: I put my watch with the radio news.
✓ *Say:* **I set my watch by** the radio news.

212 **A watch is slow or fast,** not *goes behind* or *in front.*
Don't say: My watch goes two minutes behind.
✓ *Say:* My watch **is** two minutes **slow.**

Note: We can also say: *My watch* ***loses*** *or* ***gains.***

213 **Show a film,** not *play a film.*
Don't say: This film will be played shortly.
✓ *Say:* This film will be **shown** shortly.

214 **Have one's hair cut,** not *cut one's hair.*
Don't say: I'm going to cut my hair.
✓ *Say:* I'm going **to have my hair cut.**

Note: Avoid *I'll make a pair of shoes* (or *a suit of clothes*). Say instead **I'll have a pair of shoes (or a suit of clothes) made.**

215 **Learn by heart,** not *learn from out.*
Don't say: We have a poem to learn from out.
✓ *Say:* We have a poem to learn **by heart.**

216 **Put on weight,** not *put weight.*
Don't say: I've put at least three kilos.
✓ *Say:* I've **put on** at least three kilos.

Note: The opposite of **to put on weight** is **to lose weight:** *She has* ***lost*** *five kilos.*

217 **It works miracles,** not *it makes miracles.*
Don't say: That medicine makes miracles.
✓ *Say:* That medicine **works miracles.**

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218 **Getting on with,** not *going with.*
Don't say: How is Susan going with her work?
✓ *Say:* How is Susan **getting on with** her work?

219 **This morning,** etc., not *today morning,* etc.
Don't say: I haven't seen him today morning.
✓ *Say:* I haven't seen him **this morning.**

Note: Avoid *today morning, today afternoon, today evening, yesterday night, this night.* Say: **this morning, this afternoon, this evening, last night, tonight.**

220 **Quietly,** not *slowly, slowly.*
Don't say: The boy came in slowly, slowly.
✓ *Say:* The boy came in **quietly.**

221 **What's the matter** not *What have you?*
Don't say: What have you today?
✓ *Say:* **What's the matter with you today?**

Note: **What's wrong (with you)?, What's the trouble (with you)?** and **What's the problem?** are also correct.

222 **What do you call ...?** not *How do you call ...?*
Don't say: How do you call this in English?
✓ *Say:* **What do you call this in English?**

Note: If the question isn't about a thing, but about some expression, we'd say, **How do you say this in English?**

(See Exercise 62 on pages 163–164.)

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Incorrect omissions

Omission of prepositions

The following are examples of mistakes made through the omission of the preposition after certain words:

223 **Ask for a thing,** not *ask a thing.*
Don't say: She came and asked my book.
✓ *Say:* She came and **asked for** my book.

224 **Dispose/get rid of a thing,** not *dispose/get rid a thing.*
Don't say: He'll dispose/get rid all his property.
✓ *Say:* He'll **dispose/get rid of** all his property.

225 **Dream of a thing,** not *dream a thing.*
Don't say: Young men dream glory and riches.
✓ *Say:* Young men **dream of** glory and riches.

226 **Explain to a person,** not *explain a person.*
Don't say: She explained me the matter.
✓ *Say:* She **explained** the matter **to** me.

227 **Knock at the door,** not *knock the door.*
Don't say: Who is knocking the door?
✓ *Say:* Who is **knocking at** the door?

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228 **Listen to a person or thing,** not *listen a person or thing.*
Don't say: They were listening the music.
✓ *Say:* They were **listening to** the music.

229 **Pay for a thing,** not *pay a thing.*
Don't say: How much did you pay the book?
✓ *Say:* How much did you **pay for** the book?

Note: A person can **pay** another person. He/She can also **pay** a bill, an account, or a subscription. He/She **pays for** a thing that he/she buys.

230 **Point to** or **at a person or thing,** not *point a person or thing.*
Don't say: He pointed the map on the wall.
✓ *Say:* He **pointed to** the map on the wall.
Or: He **pointed at** the map on the wall.

Note: Also **point out**: *He **pointed out** the boy who did it.* **To point** (without any preposition) means **to direct**: *Don't **point** the gun this way.*

231 **Remind a person of something,** not *remind a person something.*
Don't say: Please remind me that later.
✓ *Say:* Please **remind me of** that later.

232 **Reply to a person,** not *reply a person.*
Don't say: She's not replied me yet.
✓ *Say:* She's not **replied to** me yet.

233 **Say to a person,** not *say a person.*
Don't say: Kevin said me, Come tomorrow.'
✓ *Say:* Kevin **said to** me, 'Come tomorrow.'

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234 **Search for a lost thing,** not *search a lost thing.*
Don't say: They're searching the ball.
✓ *Say:* They're **searching for** the ball.

Note: **In search of**: *The wolf goes **in search of sheep**.* **To search** someone or something (without the **for**) means to look in one's pockets or house: *The policeman **searched** the man and his house.*

235 **Share with a person,** not *share a person.*
Don't say: My friend shared me his book.
✓ *Say:* My friend **shared** his book **with** me.

236 **Speak to a person,** not *speak a person.*
Don't say: I'll speak him about that.
✓ *Say:* I'll **speak to** him about that.

Note: I'll speak **to** him means *I'll do all the speaking;* I'll speak **with** him means *I'll have a conversation with him.*

237 **Supply a person with something,** not *supply a person something.*
Don't say: Can you supply me all I need?
✓ *Say:* Can you **supply me with** all I need?

Note: Also **provide a person with**: *She **provided her son with** all he needed.*

238 **Think of a person or thing,** not *think a person or thing.*
Don't say: Think a number and then double it.
✓ *Say:* **Think of** a number and then double it.

239 **Wait for a person or thing,** not *wait a person or thing.*
Don't say: I'll wait you at the cinema.
✓ *Say:* I'll **wait for** you at the cinema.

Note: **Await** takes no preposition: *I'm **awaiting** your reply.*

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240 **Wish for a thing,** not *wish a thing.*
Don't say: He doesn't wish any reward.
✓ *Say:* He doesn't **wish for** any reward.

241 **Write to a person,** not *write a person.*
Don't say: I'll write her tomorrow.
✓ *Say:* I'll **write to** her tomorrow.

Note: When the direct object of **write** is expressed, omit the preposition:
*I'll **write him a letter.***

(See Exercises 84 and 85 on pages 173–174.)

Miscellaneous examples

242 The **-s** or **-es** of the third person singular omitted.
Don't say: He speak English very well.
✓ *Say:* **He speaks** English very well.

Take great care not to leave out the **-s** or **-es** from the present tense, when the subject is **he, she, it,** or a noun in the singular.

(See Exercise 31 on page 151.)

243 Using *don't* instead of **doesn't.**
Don't say: He don't care what he says.
✓ *Say:* **He doesn't** care what he says.

Use **don't** (= **do not**) with **I, we, you, they,** and with plural nouns. Use **doesn't** (= **does not**) with **he, she, it,** and with singular nouns.

(See Exercise 32 on page 152.)

244 The **-d** or **-ed** of the past tense omitted.
Don't say: I receive a letter yesterday.
✓ *Say:* I **received** a letter yesterday.

Take care not to leave out the **-d** or **-ed** from the past tense of regular verbs. When speaking, pronounce the ending of the past tense clearly.

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Have another look at ...

Third person singular, simple present

1 With the pronouns **he, she, it,** or any singular noun, the verb in the present tense takes a special ending, *-s, -es* or *-ies*: *he works, it catches, the sun rises, she worries.*

2 When the first person of the verb ends in *s, x, ch, sh,* or *o,* the third person singular takes *-es*:

I watch	I finish	I fix	I go
he watches	he finishes	he fixes	he goes

3 When the first person of the verb ends in *-y* with a consonant before it, form the third person singular by changing *y* into *ies*:

I carry	I study	I fly
he carries	he studies	he flies

Note: If there is a vowel before the *-y*, we only add s for the third person singular: *he plays, he enjoys, he obeys.*

4 A few verbs are irregular in the third person singular:

I am	I have
he is	he has

5 Modal verbs such as *will, can, may, must,* and *ought* do NOT change their form in the third person singular:

I will	I can	I may	I must
he will	he can	he may	he must

Remember: The third person singular of verbs in the present tense takes *-s, -es* or *-ies*.

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245 The **-s, -es** or **-ies** of the plural form omitted.
Don't say: I paid six pound for the book.
✓ *Say:* I paid **six pounds** for the book.

Take care not to leave out the **-s, -es** or **-ies** of the plural number.

Note. the following nouns have irregular plurals: **man, men; woman, women; child, children; ox, oxen; foot, feet; tooth, teeth; goose, geese; mouse, mice.**

246 The possessive ending omitted.
Don't say: A hen's egg is different from a pigeon.
✓ *Say:* A hen's egg is different from a pigeon's.

If the first noun in a comparison is in the possessive case, the second must also be in the possessive: *My mother's nose is bigger than my father's*

247 Omission of the article before a countable noun in the singular.
Don't say: I've no money to buy car.
✓ *Say:* I've no money to buy **a car**.

As a rule, use either **the** or **a** or **an** before a countable noun in the singular.

248 Omission of **a** or **an** after the verb **to be**.
Don't say: I'm not teacher, I'm student.
✓ *Say:* I'm not **a** teacher, I'm **a** student.

Use the indefinite article **a** or **an** to express a singular noun-complement of the verb **to be**. *There's an animal in there. It's a mouse.*

249 Omission of **a** or **an** after the word **half**.
Don't say: He drank half glass of milk.
✓ *Say:* He drank **half a glass** of milk.

Note. **Half a glass** (**an hour, a day, a mile,** etc.) is the shortened form of **half of a glass** (**of an hour, of a day, of a mile,** etc.).

250 Omission of **a** or **one** before **hundred**, etc.
Don't say: Hundred years make a century.

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✓ *Say:* **A hundred** years make a century.
Or: **One hundred** years make a century.

Use the indefinite article **a** or the numeral **one** before **hundred** and **thousand**. See also Section 527.

251 Omission of **a** or **an** from **make a noise**, etc.
Don't say: I told them not to make noise.
✓ *Say:* I told them not **to make a noise**.

Note: Also **to make a mistake, to make a fortune, to make a will, to make an impression, to make an experiment, to make an attempt.**

252 Omission of **the** before names of nationalities.
Don't say: English are fond of sports.
✓ *Say:* **The English** are fond of sports.

Place the definite article before the names of nationalities, describing a people collectively: **the** British, **the** French, **the** Dutch, **the** Swiss, **the** Chinese, **the** Sudanese, etc.

253 Omission of **the** before names of musical instruments.
Don't say: I play violin, but not piano.
✓ *Say:* I play **the violin**, but not **the piano**.

Use the definite article before the names of musical instruments.

254 Omission of **the** before the word **cinema**, etc.
Don't say: On Saturday I go to cinema.
✓ *Say:* On Saturday **I go to the cinema**.

Use definite article before the words **cinema, theatre, concert,** etc.

(For Sections 247–254 see Exercises 16 and 17 on page 144.)

255 Omission of the verb **to be** from the passive.
Don't say: Charles Dickens born in 1812.
✓ *Say:* Charles Dickens **was born** in 1812.

Form the passive form by using the verb **to be,** combined with the past participle of the verb required (**to be** + past participle).

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Have another look at ...

Indefinite article

Use the indefinite article:
1 Before every common noun in the singular, if it isn't preceded by *the* or some word such as *this, that, my, his*: *I bought* ***a*** *new book* (*not:* I bought new book).

2 Before the words *hundred* and *thousand*: ***A*** *hundred soldiers were in the camp.*

3 After the verb *to be* when a countable noun in the singular follows: *Mary's father is* ***a*** *lawyer.*

4 In certain phrases: to make *a* noise, *a* mistake, *a* fortune, *an* impression; to have *a* headache, *a* pain, *a* cold, *a* cough.

Don't use the indefinite article:
1 Before singular nouns that aren't used in the plural, such as *advice, information, work, furniture, bread*
Example: He gave me good advice (*not:* a good advice).

2 After the phrase **kind of** or **sort of**: *What kind of pen do you want?*

a, an or one
Many languages use the numeral **one** instead of the indefinite article **a** or **an**. This is not so in English. *One man went into one shop* ought to be ***A*** *man went into* ***a*** *shop*. **One** is used only when the *number* is emphatic: ***One*** *swallow does not make a summer.*

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256 Omission of the auxiliary **do** from questions.

Don't say: You understand the problem?
He understands the problem?
She understood the problem?

✓ *Say:* **Do you understand** the problem?
Does he understand the problem?
Did she understand the problem?

Place the auxiliary verb **do** (**does, did**) before the subject to ask questions in the simple present and simple past tenses.

Note: Don't use the auxiliary **do** with modal verbs, like **can, may, must**: *Can you meet me tomorrow?*

(See Exercise 34 on page 153.)

257 Omission of auxiliary **do** when **do** is a principal verb.

Don't say: Do pupils their work carefully?

✓ *Say:* **Do** pupils **do** their work carefully?

In the correct form of the sentence, the first **do** means nothing on its own and only helps to make the question. The second **do** is the principal verb of the sentence, and has the meaning of **perform**.

258 Omission of the preposition indicating time.

Don't say: I was born the third of December.

✓ *Say:* I was born **on the third** of December.

As a rule, don't use a noun without a preposition to show the time of some action.

Note: Don't use a preposition with **last year, next year, some day, one day, this afternoon,** etc.

259 Omission of the preposition after the infinitive.

Don't say: They've no houses to live.

✓ *Say:* They've no houses **to live in**.

The infinitive of an intransitive verb (like **live,** etc.): it must have a preposition after it.

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Have another look at ...

Verb *TO BE*

Present Tense	**I am/'m,** you **are/'re,** he (she, it) **is/'s;** We, you, they **are/'re.**
Past Tense	I **was,** you **were,** he (she, it) **was;** We, you, they **were.**
Future Tense	I, you, he (she, it) **will/'ll be;** We, you, they **will/'ll be.**
Present Perfect	I, you, **have/'ve been,** he (she, it) **has/'s been;** We, you, they **have/'ve been.**
Past Perfect	I, you, he (she, it) **had/'d been;** We, you, they **had/'d been.**
Future Perfect	I, you, he (she, it) **will/'ll have been;** We, you, they **will/'ll have been.**

Uses of the verb *TO BE* as auxiliary

Use the verb *to be*:

1 With the Present Participle to form the Continuous Tenses.

To be + Present Participle

Example: The sun *was shining* in the sky.

2 With the Past Participle to form the Passive Form.

To be + Past Participle

Example: The letter *was written* by John.

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260 Omission of **there** as an introductory word.
Don't say: Once lived a great king.
✓ *Say:* Once **there/There** once **lived** a great king.

Use the adverb **there** to introduce the subject of a sentence in which the verb stands before the subject.

261 Omission of **how** after the verb **to know**.
Don't say: She knows to play the piano.
✓ *Say:* She **knows how to play** the piano.

After the verb **to know** the adverb **how** always comes before an infinitive.

262 Omission of **other** after a comparative.
Don't say: Homer was greater than all the Greek poets.
✓ *Say:* Homer was greater than all the **other** Greek poets.

Since Homer was a Greek poet, the first sentence makes him greater than himself, which is illogical.

263 Omission of **before** in comparisons.
Don't say: I'd never seen such a thing.
✓ *Say:* I'd never seen such a thing **before**.

Don't leave out the word **before** in making a comparison between one thing and all others of the same kind.

264 Omission of **else** after **everybody**, etc.
Don't say: She is stronger than everybody.
✓ *Say:* She is stronger than **everybody else**.

Use the word **else** in making a comparison between one person or thing and all others of the same kind after **everybody, anybody, anything,** etc.

265 Omission of the demonstrative pronoun **one**.
Don't say: This is the only that I like.
✓ *Say:* This is the only **one** that I like.

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Use the demonstrative pronoun **one** (plural **ones**) in place of a noun mentioned before.

266 Omission of the personal pronoun before the infinitive.

Don't say: I want to tell me the truth.

✓ *Say:* **I want you to tell** me the truth.

Express the subject of the infinitive after verbs like **want, like, wish,** etc., if it is different from that of the main verb.

267 Omission of **it** as subject of an impersonal verb.

Don't say: Is very hot in the Sudan.

✓ *Say:* **It**'s very hot in the Sudan.

Use the pronoun **it** as the subject of an impersonal verb.

268 Omission of the pronoun subject from the principal clause.

Don't say: When he saw the teacher, stood up.

✓ *Say:* When he saw the teacher, **he** stood up.

In a sentence beginning with an adverbial clause, express the personal pronoun as the subject of the main clause.

269 Omission of the personal pronoun after a quotation.

Don't say: 'I'm learning English,' said.

✓ *Say:* 'I'm learning English,' **he** said.

After a quotation, express the personal pronoun as the subject of the reporting verb.

270 The object of the transitive verb omitted.

Don't say: I asked her for some paper, but she had not.

✓ *Say:* I asked her for some paper, but she had **none/didn't have any**.

As a rule, every transitive verb must have an expressed object: here, **none** (equivalent to *not* ***any***) is the object of **had**.

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271 Omission of the direct object when there are two objects.
Don't say: I asked him for some ink, and he gave me.
✓ *Say:* I asked him for some ink, and he gave me **some.**

Some transitive verbs, like **give, bring, send, tell, buy, show,** must have two expressed objects, direct and indirect: here, **some** is the direct object of **gave**.

272 The object of the verb **enjoy** omitted.
Don't say: I enjoyed during the holidays.
✓ *Say:* **I enjoyed myself** during the holidays.
Or: **I enjoyed my holidays.**

Don't follow the verb **enjoy** by a preposition. It must always have an object, which may either be a reflexive pronoun or a noun.

Note: We say **I had a good time**, as this is an idiomatic expression, but we can't say *I enjoyed my time*. We must specify: *I enjoyed my time* ***in Greece***.

273 Omission of the noun after an adjective.
Don't say: The unfortunate was shot dead.
✓ *Say:* The **unfortunate man** was shot dead.

The noun that comes after an adjective can't be understood; it must be expressed

Note: Omit the noun after an adjective only when the adjective is used **as a noun in the plural**: ***The poor*** *envy* ***the rich***.

274 Omission of the word **and** between numbers.
Don't say: Eight thousand thirty-seven.
✓ *Say:* Eight thousand **and** thirty-seven.

Use the conjunction **and** to connect **hundred**, **thousand**, **million** to a number of tens or units.

275 Omission of the word **or** between numbers.
Don't say: I've only two, three friends.
✓ *Say:* I've only **two or three** friends.

We must always insert the conjunction **or** between numbers like this: **two or three men, five or six pages, eight or ten days.**

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276 Omission of the word **old** from age.
Don't say: My sister is fifteen years.
✓ *Say:* My sister is **fifteen years old.**

Note: We can also say: *My sister is* ***fifteen years of age,*** or simply, *My sister is* ***fifteen***.

277 *For this* used instead of **for this reason.**
Don't say: For this he wants to leave.
✓ *Say:* **For this reason** he wants to leave.

The phrase **for this** is incorrect. Say **for this reason** or **for that reason**. Also **owing to that** or **because of that**.

278 *Better* used instead of **had better.**
Don't say: Better go home at once.
✓ *Say:* **You'd better go** home at once.

The correct phrase is **had better**. **You had better go** means **It would be a good thing for you to go.**

279 *Up* and *down* used instead of **upstairs** and **downstairs.**
Don't say: He's up, he's down.
✓ *Say:* He's **upstairs,** he's **downstairs.**

He's up means he's out of bed. He's **upstairs** (**downstairs**) means he's on the upper (lower) floor of the building.

280 *Throw it* used instead of **throw it away.**
Don't say: It's dirty, throw it.
✓ *Say:* It's dirty, **throw it away.**

Throw it means to throw a thing at someone or somewhere, such as a ball. **Throw it away** means to get rid of it by throwing it aside.

281 *I don't think* used instead of **I don't think so.**
Don't say: I don't think.
✓ *Say:* **I don't think so.**

I don't think means I don't use my brains, while **I don't think so** means I am not of that opinion.

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282 *Before yesterday*, etc., used instead of **the day before yesterday,** etc.
Don't say: Lynne arrived before yesterday.
✓ *Say:* Lynne arrived **the day before yesterday.**

The phrases *before yesterday, after tomorrow, after next week* are incorrect. Say instead, **the day before yesterday, the day after tomorrow, the week after next.**

283 *Thank you* used instead of **No, thank you.**
Don't say: Thank you (if you want to refuse an offer).
✓ *Say:* **No, thank you.**

Note: Use **thank you** to accept an offer. It generally means **Yes, please.**

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Unnecessary words

Unnecessary prepositions

The words below do not require a preposition to go with them because they have within them the meaning of the preposition.

284 **Answer** (= **reply to**).
Don't say: Please answer to my question.
✓ *Say:* Please **answer my question.**

Note: The noun **answer** takes **to**: *His **answer to** my question was wrong.*

285 **Approach** (= **come near to**).
Don't say: Don't approach to that house.
✓ *Say:* Don't **approach that house.**

286 **Ask** (= **put a question to**).
Don't say: I asked to the teacher about it.
✓ *Say:* I **asked the teacher** about it.

287 **Attack** (= **go and fight against**).
Don't say: They attacked against the enemy.
✓ *Say:* They **attacked the enemy.**

Note: We say, **to make an attack on**: *They **made an attack on** the ~~enemy~~.*

288 **Comprise** (= **consist of**).
Don't say: The book comprises of five chapters.
✓ *Say:* The book **comprises** five chapters.
Or: The book **is comprised of** five chapters.

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289 **Enter** (= **go into**).
Don't say: We entered into the classroom.
✓ *Say:* We **entered the classroom.**

Note: We enter **into** a conversation, a debate, or a discussion.

290 **Finish** (= **come to the end of**).
Don't say: I've finished from my work.
✓ *Say:* I've **finished my work.**

291 **Leave** (= **depart from**).
Don't say: Brian left from England last week.
✓ *Say:* Brian **left England** last week.

292 **Obey** (= **act according to**).
Don't say: We should obey to our teachers.
✓ *Say:* We should **obey our teachers.**

293 **Allow (to)** or **let** (= **give permission to**).
Don't say: The driver allowed/let to John (to) sit in the front seat.
✓ *Say:* The driver **allowed/let** John (to) sit in the front seat.

Note: **Permit** has a similar meaning to **let**, though it's used in more formal situations: *The teacher doesn't **permit** us to talk in class.*

294 **Reach** (= **arrive at**).
Don't say: We reached at the school early.
✓ *Say:* We **reached the school** early.

295 **Resemble** (= **be similar to**).
Don't say: Does she resemble to her father?
✓ *Say:* Does she **resemble her father?**

Note: **resemblance** takes **to** or **between**. *She bears no **resemblance to** her father. There is no **resemblance between** them.*

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296 **Tell** (= **say to**).
Don't say: I told to him to come at once.
✓ *Say:* **I told him** to come at once.

297 **Behind** (= **at the back of**).
Don't say: Edward hid behind of a large tree.
✓ *Say:* Edward hid **behind a large tree.**

298 **Inside** (= **in the interior of**).
Don't say: The boys went inside of the room.
✓ *Say:* The boys went **inside the room.**

299 **Outside** (= **on the exterior of**).
Don't say: They stood outside of the door.
✓ *Say:* They stood **outside the door.**

300 **Round** (= **on all sides of**).
Don't say: The earth goes round of the sun.
✓ *Say:* The earth goes **round the sun.**

Note: **Around** is similar in meaning and use to **round**.

(See Exercises 86 and 87 on page 174.)

Unnecessary articles

301 Wrong use of *the* with proper nouns.
Don't say: The Sarah will go to the England.
✓ *Say:* **Sarah** will go to **England.**

Don't use the definite article with proper nouns.

Note: Generally place **the** before the names of rivers, seas, oceans, bays, gulfs, mountain ranges, groups of islands, and countries or provinces consisting of an adjective and a noun. We say: **the** Nile, **the** Mediterranean, **the** Atlantic, **the** Bay of Biscay, **the** Persian Gulf, **the** Alps, **the** Dodecanese, **the** United States, **the** Central Provinces of India.

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302 Wrong use of *the* with proper nouns in the possessive.
Don't say: The Euripides' tragedies are famous.
✓ *Say:* **Euripides'** tragedies are famous.

Don't use the definite article with proper nouns in the possessive case.

Note: If the name ends in an **s** or **x** or is difficult to pronounce with the extra syllable **'s** we omit the final s. *Maria Callas' voice is divine.*

303 Wrong use of *the* with abstract nouns.
Don't say: The bravery is a great virtue.
✓ *Say:* **Bravery** is a great virtue.

Abstract nouns, **if used in a general sense**, can't take the article.

Note: Abstract nouns, used in a particular sense, use the article: ***The bravery of the Spartans*** *was renowned.*

304 Wrong use of *the* with material nouns.
Don't say: The gold is a precious metal.
✓ *Say:* **Gold** is a precious metal.

Don't use any article with material nouns, **if used in a general sense**.

Note: Material nouns, used in a particular sense, require the definite article ***The coal from the Midlands*** *is exported to many countries.*

305 Wrong use of *the* with plural nouns used in a general sense.
Don't say: The dogs are faithful animals.
✓ *Say:* **Dogs** are faithful animals.

Omit the definite article before common nouns in the plural if **used in a general sense**.

306 Wrong use of *the* with names of languages.
Don't use: Tim speaks the English very well.
✓ *Say:* **Tim speaks English** very well.

Never use the definite article before the names of languages.

Note: We can say: *He speaks* ***the English language*** *very well*

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307 Wrong use of *the* with names of meals.
Don't say: We'll start after the breakfast.
✓ *Say:* We'll start **after breakfast.**

Don't use the definite article before the names of meals, **breakfast, lunch, dinner,** or **supper** unless you are referring to a particular meal: ***The*** *lunch they provided was excellent.*

308 Wrong use of *the* with names of games.
Don't say: My favourite game is the football.
✓ *Say:* My favourite game is **football.**

Don't use an article before the names of games like **football, hockey, tennis, cricket, volley-ball, basket-ball.**

309 Wrong use of *the* with names of diseases.
Don't say: The cholera is a dreadful disease.
✓ *Say:* **Cholera** is a dreadful disease.

As a rule, don't use the definite article before the names of diseases.

Note: The indefinite article is needed with common names of illnesses: *I was suffering from* ***a cold*** *(****a fever, a cough, a headache****).*

310 Wrong use of *the* with names of colours.
Don't say: The green is a beautiful colour.
✓ *Say:* **Green** is a beautiful colour.

Don't use the definite article before the names of colours **when used as nouns.**

311 Wrong use of *the* with the names of the senses.
Don't say: The sight is one of the five senses.
✓ *Say:* **Sight** is one of the five senses.

Don't use an article before the names of the five senses: **sight, smell, hearing, taste** and **touch.**

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312 Wrong use of *the* with names of days and months.
Don't say: The Sunday can be a day of prayer.
The December is the last month.
✓ *Say:* **Sunday** can be a day of prayer.
December is the last month.

Don't use the definite article before the names of days and months.

Note: We say **the** Sunday before last, **the** December of 1940, etc.

313 Wrong use of *the* with **man** denoting the human race.
Don't say: The man is born a sinner.
✓ *Say:* **Man** is born a sinner.

Use **man**, denoting the human race, without the definite article. Also, **mankind** requires no article: *Disease is the enemy of* ***mankind***.

314 Wrong use of *the* with **school**.
Don't say: My sister goes to the school.
✓ *Say:* My sister **goes to school.**

To go to school means **to be a student**, while **to go to the school**, means **to visit the school**.

Note: Similarly, **to leave school** means **to stop being a student** and **to leave the school** means **to go away from** the school premises.

315 Wrong use of *the* with **church**.
Don't say: On Sunday I go to the church.
✓ *Say:* On Sunday **I go to church**.

To go to church means **to go and pray**, while **to go to the church** means **to go and visit the church.**

Note: Similarly, distinguish between **go to bed** and **go to the bed, go to prison** and **go to the prison, go to market** and **go to the market, go to hospital** and **go to the hospital, sit at table** and **sit at the table**.

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316 Wrong use of *the* with **nature**.
Don't say: The nature is beautiful in spring.
✓ *Say:* **Nature** is beautiful in spring.

Note: Use the definite article if **nature** is used in other meanings: *It is in **the nature** of a dog to be faithful.*

317 Wrong use of *the* with **society**.
Don't say: A thief is a danger to the society.
✓ *Say:* A thief is a danger to **society**.

Note: Use the definite article if **society** is used (1) in a particular sense: ***The society** of the Greeks was based on freedom;* (2) in the sense of companionship: *I enjoy **the society** of my friends.*

318 Wrong use of *the* in the phrase **in future** (= from now on).
Don't say: You must be careful in the future.
✓ *Say:* You must be careful **in future**.

Note: **In the future** means in the time to come: *Nobody knows what will happen **in the future**.*

319 Wrong use of *the* after **whose**.
Don't say: The boy whose the father is ill has left.
✓ *Say:* The boy **whose father** is ill has left.

Don't use the article after the relative determiner **whose,** because it takes the place of the article.

320 Wrong use of the indefinite article before **work**, etc.
Don't say: Gillian has found a work at the bank.
✓ *Say:* Gillian has **found work** at the bank.

Don't use the indefinite article before such words as **work, fun, health, permission**.

(See Exercise 17 on page 144.)

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Have another look at ...

Definite article

As a rule, nouns in English take no article when used *in a general sense*, but if they're used *in a particular sense* the article is needed. Note the difference in the use or omission of the article:

1 With plural nouns:
Horses are strong animals.
The horses in the field belong to the farmer.

2 With abstract nouns:
Wisdom is a great virtue.
The wisdom of Solomon was famous.

3 With material nouns:
Water is necessary to life.
The water in the kitchen is hot.

4 With days, months, and seasons:
Summer is a hot season
The summer of '99 was very hot.

5 With names of languages:
English is spoken all over the world.
The English she speaks is not correct.

6 With names of meals:
Breakfast is at eight o'clock.
The breakfast I had this morning was delicious.

7 With names of colours:
Blue is my favourite colour.
The blue in that picture has faded.

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Use of the infinitive

Mistakes are frequently made by using the infinitive without ***to*** *after the following verbs, which do not require it.*

321 **Can + infinitive without *to*.**
Don't say: My mother can to swim very well.
✓ *Say:* My mother **can swim** very well.

Note: Always write the negative form **cannot** as one word. Alternatively, the short form **can't** can be used informally.

322 **Could + infinitive without *to*.**
Don't say: I could not to see you yesterday.
✓ *Say:* I **could not/couldn't see** you yesterday.

323 **May + infinitive without *to*.**
Don't say: May I to visit you next weekend?
✓ *Say:* **May I visit** you next weekend?

324 **Might + infinitive without *to*.**
Don't say: He might to come in the morning.
✓ *Say:* He **might come** in the morning.

325 **Must + infinitive without *to*.**
Don't say: I must to see her at her office.
✓ *Say:* I **must see** her at her office.

326 **Let + infinitive without *to*.**
Don't say: Tom's father would not let him to go out.
✓ *Say:* Tom's father would not **let him go** out.

327 **Make (to force) + infinitive without *to*.**
Don't say: You can't make Emma to understand.
✓ *Say:* You can't **make Emma understand**.

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328 **See + infinitive without *to*.**
Don't say: They saw him to leave the house.
✓ *Say:* They **saw him leave** the house.

Note: *They saw him **leaving** the house* is also correct.

329 **Watch + infinitive without *to*.**
Don't say: I watched the girls to play hockey.
✓ *Say:* I **watched the girls** play hockey.

Note. *I watched the girls **playing** hockey* is also correct.

330 **Hear + infinitive without *to*.**
Don't say: We heard him to speak in English.
✓ *Say:* We **heard him speak** in English.

Note. *We heard him **speaking** in English* is also correct.

331 **Feel + infinitive without *to*.**
Don't say: I could feel her heart to beat.
✓ *Say:* I could **feel her heart beat.**
Or: I could **feel her heart beating.**

Note. *If the verbs **make, see, watch, hear, feel,** are used in the passive,* **to** must be used. *He was seen **to leave** the house ; He was heard **to speak** in English.*

(See Exercise 65 on page 165.)

Miscellaneous examples

332 Wrong repetition of subject.
Don't say: My little brother he is at school.
✓ *Say:* **My little brother** is at school.

Never repeat the subject by using a pronoun after the noun. **My little brother** and **he** denote the same person. Therefore, use one or the other as subject, but not both.

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333 Wrong repetition of subject in a compound sentence.
Don't say: I went to the market and I bought fruit.
✓ *Say:* I went to the market and bought fruit.

In a compound sentence, express the same subject once only and don't repeat it before each verb, unless the sentence is long and complicated.

334 Wrong repetition of subject after an adjectival clause.
Don't say: David, who is a careless pupil, he lost his book.
✓ *Say:* David, who is a careless pupil, **lost his book.**

335 Wrong repetition of subject after a non-finite verb phrase.
Don't say: Karen and Tom, having signed the register, they left the church.
✓ *Say:* **Karen and Tom,** having signed the register, **left the church.**

336 Wrong use of personal pronoun in a relative clause.
Don't say: The book which I lost it was new.
✓ *Say:* The book **which I lost** was new.

Don't use a personal pronoun as well as a relative in the relative clause **if they both refer to the same noun**. In the first sentence both **which** and **it** refer to **book**.

337 Wrong repetition of object.
Don't say: The doctor I know him very well.
✓ *Say:* **I know the doctor** very well.

In the sentence given, the words **doctor** and **him** denote one and the same object. Therefore, use either **doctor** or **him**, but not both in the same sentence.

In general we don't put the object before the verb so the word order in *The doctor I know him very well* is also wrong.

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338 Wrong repetition of object with infinitive.
Don't say: I bought an English book to read it.
✓ *Say:* I bought an English book **to read**.

Don't repeat an object with an infinitive of *purpose* **if the verb takes an object**.

(For Sections 332–338 see Exercise 20 on page 146.)

339 Wrong use of *that* in direct speech.
Don't say: She said that, 'I'm sure to pass.'
✓ *Say:* **She said,** 'I'm sure to pass.'

We can't use **that** in direct speech, i.e. when we repeat the words that some other person has spoken without any change.

Note. In indirect speech we say: ***He said that he was sure to pass.***

340 Using a double comparative.
Don't say: He's more stronger than John.
✓ *Say:* He's **stronger** than John.

Double comparatives are incorrect. *more stronger* ought to be only **stronger**. However, we can say **much stronger**.

341 Misuse of adjectives that can't be compared.
Don't say: My work is more perfect than his.
✓ *Say:* My work is **superior** to his.
Or: My work is **better** than his.

Certain adjectives can't be compared: **perfect, unique, preferable, supreme, right, correct,** etc.

342 *Return back* used instead of **return**.
Don't say: She has returned back to school.
✓ *Say:* She has **returned** to school

Don't use the word **back** with **return**, because **return** means **to come back**

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343 *Begin from* used instead of **begin**.
Don't say: Exams begin from Thursday.
✓ *Say:* Exams **begin on Thursday.**

A thing can **begin** only at a point of time. The word can't be used to apply to the whole time during which a thing is being done.

344 *Consider as* used instead of **consider**.
Don't say: Robert considers me as his best friend.
✓ *Say:* Robert **considers me his best friend**.

Don't use **as** after the word **consider**. We say ***He regards me as his best friend*** or ***Robert considers me to be his best friend.***

345 *For to* used instead of **to**.
Don't say: I came here for to learn English.
✓ *Say:* I came here **to learn** English.

346 *From where* used instead of **where**.
Don't say: From where can I buy a good watch?
✓ *Say:* **Where** can I buy a good watch?

Where means **at what place**, while **from where** denotes the point of origin
***From where** do tourists come?*

347 *And etc.* used instead of **etc.**
Don't say: I, you, we, and etc. are pronouns.
✓ *Say:* I, you, we, **etc.**, are pronouns.

Etc. is the short form of **et cetera**, a Latin phrase meaning **and other things**. The combination **and etc.** is wrong because it would mean **and and other things**.

Note: However, students are advised to avoid using **etc.** in an essay and to use phrases such as **and other things**, **and so on** instead.

348 *So ... so that* instead of **so ... that.**
Don't say: I'm so tired so that I can't go.

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✓ *Say:* I'm **so tired that** I can't go.

When **so** or **such** is completed by a clause of result, introduce the clause by **that** and not by **so that**.

349 *From now and on* used instead of **from now on**.
Don't say: From now and on I'll study hard.
✓ *Say:* **From now on** I'll study hard.

The phrase *from now and on* is incorrect. Say, **from now on**.

350 *Although/Though ... yet* used instead of **although/though**.
Don't say: Although it's raining, yet he'll go.
✓ *Say:* Although it's raining, **he'll go**.

Although (**though**) is the conjunction introducing the subordinate clause, and a second one (**yet** or **still**) isn't required.

351 *Go to home* used instead of **go home**.
Don't say: When school is over I go to home.
✓ *Say:* When school is over **I go home**.

The expression *I go to home* is wrong. Say, ***I go home.***

352 Using *far* with a phrase of definite distance.
Don't say: Mary lives two miles far from here.
✓ *Say:* Mary lives **two miles from here.**

When we use a phrase of definite distance (like **two miles**) in a sentence, don't use the word **far**. We can say, Mary lives ***two miles away***.

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Misplaced words

Wrong position of adverbs

353 The adverb of definite time misplaced.
Don't say: I last night went to the cinema.
✓ *Say:* I went to the cinema **last night**.

Adverbs or adverbial phrases of definite time, like **yesterday, today, tomorrow, last week, two months ago,** are usually placed at the end of the sentence. If we want to emphasise the time, we put the adverb at the beginning: ***Yesterday*** *I was very busy.*

Note: If there is more than one adverb of definite time in a sentence, put the more exact expression before the more general: *He was born* ***at two o'clock in the morning on April 12th 1942.***

354 The adverb of indefinite time misplaced.
Don't say: They come always to school by bus.
✓ *Say:* They **always come** to school by bus.

Place adverbs of indefinite time, like **ever, never, always, often, seldom, soon, sometimes** and the adverbs **almost, scarcely, hardly, nearly, even,** before the principal verb.

Note: With the vero **to be** place the adverb of indefinite time **after** the verb: *They* ***are always*** *beautifully dressed.*

355 The adverb of time placed before the adverb of place.
Don't say: The builders will be tomorrow here.
✓ *Say:* The builders will be **here tomorrow.**

When using an adverb of time and an adverb of place together in a sentence, the adverb of place must come first.

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356 The adverb misplaced with a transitive verb.
Don't say: Janet wrote carefully her essay.
✓ *Say:* Janet wrote her essay **carefully**.

With a transitive verb, the adverb generally comes after the object.

Note: If, however, the object is long, the adverb may come after the transitive verb: *She wrote **carefully** all the essays she had to do.*

357 The adverb **enough** misplaced.
Don't say: Is the room enough large for you?
✓ *Say:* Is the room **large enough** for you?

Place the adverb **enough** after the word it qualifies and not before.

Note: When **enough** is an adjective it comes before the noun: *We have **enough food** for six people.*

358 **Not** misplaced with a compound verb.
Don't say: I should have not gone ...
✓ *Say:* I should **not** have gone ...

Position **not** in a compound verb after the first auxiliary.

Note: With the present or perfect participle, place **not** at the beginning: ***Not** having set the alarm, he was late for work. **Not** being rich, he couldn't afford it.*

359 **Not** misplaced with the negative infinitive.
Don't say: I told Liz to not come on Monday.
✓ *Say:* I told Liz **not to come** on Monday.

Position **not** in the negative infinitive immediately before the word **to**, and not after it.

(See Exercises 66 and 67 on pages 165–166.)

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Miscellaneous examples

360 The subject of the sentence misplaced

Don't say: Last week visited our school a man.

✓ *Say:* **A man** visited our school last week.

In most English sentences place the subject **first**, the verb next, then the object with the rest following.

361 The subject misplaced in questions.

Don't say: You were at the cinema yesterday?
They'll come with us tomorrow?

✓ *Say:* **Were you** at the cinema yesterday
Will they come with us tomorrow?

In interrogative sentences place the subject after the verb. If the tense is compound, the subject comes after the auxiliary, and the rest follows.

Note: Exception to this rule is occasionally made in spoken English, but students are advised to follow the rule.

362 The subject misplaced in questions beginning with an interrogative word.

Don't say: Why you were absent last Friday?

✓ *Say:* Why **were you** absent last Friday?

In questions beginning with an interrogative word like **what, when, where, how,** place the verb before the subject as in all questions.

(For Sections 361–362 see Exercise 35 on page 153.)

363 The subject misplaced after **never,** etc.

Don't say: Never I have heard of such a thing.

✓ *Say:* Never **have I heard** of such a thing.

When **never, seldom, rarely, neither, nor, not only, no sooner,** are placed at the beginning of a complete clause, the verb must come before the subject as in a question.

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364 *All ... not* used instead of **Not all.**

Don't say: All people are not hard-working.

✓ *Say:* **Not all** people are hard-working.

The first sentence is wrong because it makes *all* people lazy

Note. Similarly, *Everybody doesn't like dancing* should be **Not everybody** likes dancing.

365 The subject misplaced in indirect questions.

Don't say: The teacher asked me what games did I play?

✓ *Say:* The teacher asked me what games **I played.**

In indirect questions follow the usual order of words: subject first and then verb.

(See Exercise 37 on page 154.)

366 The direct object misplaced.

Don't say: He touched with his hand the ball.

✓ *Say:* He **touched the ball** with his hand.

The object of a transitive verb generally comes **directly after the verb**

367 The indirect object misplaced.

Don't say: I showed to her some of my stamps.

✓ *Say:* I showed some of my stamps **to her.**

If the indirect object is preceded by a preposition, place it after the direct object

Note: The indirect object usually comes first **without a preposition**: *I showed* ***her*** *some* ***of*** *my stamps.*

368 The qualifying adjective misplaced.

Don't say: My uncle has a garden very large.

✓ *Say:* My uncle has a very **large garden.**

Put the adjective immediately before the noun it qualifies.

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Have another look at ...

Questions

Questions can be formed in three ways:
1 By putting the verb before the subject. Only use this method with the following twenty-one verbs:
am, is, are, was, were; have, has, had; shall, should; will, would; can, could; may, might; must; need; dare; ought; used.
Examples: Are you ready? Can you write well?
Will he come tomorrow? May I go now?

2 By using *do, does, did*, followed by the subject and then the infinitive (without *to*). Use this form with all verbs except the twenty-one given above. The word order is:
Do (does, did) + SUBJECT + INFINITIVE
Examples: Do you come here every day? Does the child learn English? Did they go to the theatre?

3 By using question words. The question word always begins the question, but the verb must be put before the subject as in questions of types 1 and 2.
Examples: Why are you late? When did you come? Where is it? Whom did you see? Which book do you want?
If the question word is the subject of the sentence, put the verb *after* the subject:
Who wrote the letter? Whose dog bit the man?

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369 The past participle misplaced.
Don't say: The ordered goods haven't arrived.
✓ *Say:* The **goods ordered** haven't arrived.

The goods ordered is a shortened form of **The goods which have been ordered.**

370 The relative clause misplaced.
Don't say: A girl has a pony who is in our class.
✓ *Say:* A girl **who is in our class** has a pony.

Put the relative clause immediately after the noun to which it refers.

Note: Enclose a relative clause that may be omitted between commas: *My brother George, **who is in another class**, has a new bicycle.* A relative clause that can't be omitted is **not** enclosed within commas: *The boy **who spoke to me** is my brother.*

371 The conjunction misplaced in a time clause.
Don't say: Emma when she arrived the boat had already gone.
✓ *Say:* **When Emma arrived** the boat had already gone.

Place the conjunction introducing an adverbial clause of time at the beginning of a clause.

372 Correlative conjunctions misplaced.
Don't say: Paul neither speaks English nor French.
✓ *Say:* Paul speaks **neither** English **nor** French.

Place correlative conjunctions (that is, conjunctions used in pairs, like **neither ... nor, not only ... but also**) before words of the same part of speech.

373 The ordinal numeral misplaced.
Don't say: I've read the two first chapters.
✓ *Say:* I've read the **first two** chapters.

Place ordinal numerals before cardinal numerals. There can't be two **first** chapters, only one. Similarly, we must say, *The **last** two (three, etc.)*, and not *The two (three, etc.) last.*

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374 The indefinite article misplaced with **such**.
Don't say: I never met a such good man before.
✓ *Say:* I never met **such a** good man before.

Place the indefinite article **a** or **an** after **such**: **such a good man.**

375 The definite article misplaced with **half**.
Don't say: The half year is nearly finished.
✓ *Say:* **Half the year** is nearly finished.

Half the year is shortened form of *half* ***of*** *the year.*

376 *The most* used instead of **most of the**.
Don't say: The most of girls are not present.
✓ *Say:* **Most of the** girls are not present.

The phrase *the most* ***of*** is incorrect. Say, **most of the**.

377 The apostrophe (') misplaced with contractions.
Don't write: Did'nt, has'nt, is'nt, are'nt, etc.
✓ *Write:* **Didn't, hasn't isn't, aren't,** etc.

(See Exercises 39 and 40 on pages 155–156.)

378 Mentioning oneself first.
Don't say: Only I and my mother are present.
✓ *Say:* Only **my mother and I** are present.

English idiom requires that when a person is speaking of himself/herself and others, he/she must mention the other person or persons first and leave himself/herself last.

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Have another look at ...

Correct order of words

1 Subject 2 Verb 3 Object

1 The object is usually placed immediately after the verb.
Example: I speak English very well.

2 The indirect object usually comes before the direct object *without a preposition.*
Example: I gave him the money.

3 An expression of time comes after an expression of place.
Example: We stayed there all day.

4 Place adverbs of time and degree, such as *always, often, never, nearly, hardly, scarcely,* before the verb, or between the auxiliary and the verb.
Examples: I *never* see that man; *or* I have *never* seen that man.

Note: With the verb **to be** place the adverb after the verb: *He is never late.*

5 In indirect questions the subject comes first and then the verb.
Example: I want to know where they went.

6 In compound verbs with two auxiliaries, place *not* after the first one.
Example: She could *not* have been there.

7 In the negative infinitive, *not* comes before *to*.
Example: I told him *not to go* there.

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Confused words

Prepositions often confused

379 **To** and **At**.

(a) To.

Don't say: We come at school every morning.

✓ *Say:* We **come to** school every morning.

(b) At.

Don't say: Someone is standing to the door.

✓ *Say:* Someone **is standing at** the door.

Use **to** to express motion from one place to another, use **at** to denote position

(See Exercise 77 on page 170.)

380 **To** and **Till**.

(a) To.

Don't say: We walked till the river and back.

✓ *Say:* We walked **to the river** and back.

(b) Till.

Don't say: I'll stay here to next month.

✓ *Say:* I'll stay here **till next month**.

Use **to** with distance, and **till** (**until**) with time

381 **In** and **At**.

(a) In.

Don't say: Liam has a flat at Paris.

✓ *Say:* Liam has a flat **in** Paris.

We use **in** to describe the physical location of something as part of a larger thing or place

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(b) At.

Don't say: My mother is staying in 66 Argyle Street.

✓ *Say:* My mother is staying **at** 66 Argyle Street.

We use **at** when we're talking about an address, a public place or building (a bus stop, the Post Office, the library etc.) and cases in which the location is *irrelevant* but what we do there is what matters (school, the dentist, dance class etc.)

(See Exercise 78 on page 170.)

382 **In** and **Into**.

(a) In.

Don't say: Gemma spent all the day into her room.

✓ *Say:* Gemma spent all the day **in** her room.

(b) Into.

Don't say: Richard came in the room and sat down.

✓ *Say:* Richard came **into** the room and sat down.

In denotes position inside something, while **into** denotes motion or direction towards the inside of something.

Note Always write the preposition **into** as one word.

(See Exercise 79 on page 171.)

383 **On, At, In.** (Time.)

(a) On.

Don't say: My uncle will arrive at Saturday.

✓ *Say:* My uncle will arrive **on Saturday.**

(b) At.

Don't say: I usually get up on seven o'clock.

✓ *Say:* I usually get up **at seven o'clock**.

(c) In.

Don't say: She goes for a walk at the afternoon.

✓ *Say:* She goes for a walk **in the afternoon.**

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(1) Use **on** with the days of the week or month: **on Friday, on March 25, on New Year's Day**. (2) Use **at** with the exact time: **at four o'clock, at dawn, at noon, at sunset, at midnight.** (3) Use **in** with a period of time: **in April, in winter, in 1945, in the morning**. Also **at night** and **by day**.

(See Exercise 80 on page 171.)

384 **For** and **At.** (Price.)

(a) For.

Don't say: I bought a book at fifty pence.

✓ *Say:* I bought a book **for fifty pence.**

(b) At.

Don't say: I can't buy it for such a high price.

✓ *Say:* I can't buy it **at such a high price.**

Use **for** if the actual sum is mentioned: use **at** if the actual sum isn't given.

Note: *If the weight or measure follows the price, use* ***at*** *with the actual sum: That velvet is available* ***at*** *£5 a metre.*

385 **Between** and **Among.**

(a) Between.

Don't say: There was a fight among two boys.

✓ *Say:* There was a fight **between two boys.**

(b) Among.

Don't say: Divide the apple between you three.

✓ *Say:* Divide the apple **among you three.**

Use **between** for two only. Use **among** for more than two.

(See Exercise 81 on page 172.)

386 **Beside.**

Don't say: Charlie was standing just besides me.

✓ *Say:* Charlie was standing just **beside** me.

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387 *Except* for **Besides/As well as**

Don't say: I have other books except these.

✓ *Say:* I have other books **besides/as well as** these (= in addition to these).

Note: **Except** means to leave out. *Everyone was present **except** John.*

388 *By* for **With**.

Don't say: The man shot the bird by a gun.

✓ *Say:* The man shot the bird **with a gun**.

When you want to show the means or the instrument with which the action is done, use **with**. **By** denotes the doer of the action. *The bird was shot **by the man**.*

Note: For following take **by** and not **with**: **by** hand, **by** post, **by** phone, **by** one's watch, **by** the hour, **by** the dozen, **by** the metre.

389 *From* for **By**.

Don't say: Mary was punished from her father.

✓ *Say:* Mary **was punished by** her father.

Use **by** (not **from**) after the passive form to show the doer of the action.

390 *From* for **Of** or **In**.

Don't say: He's the tallest from all the boys.

✓ *Say:* He's **the tallest of** all the boys.

Or: He's **the tallest** boy **in the class**.

Precede adjectives (or adverbs) in the superlative degree by **the** and follow them by **of** or **in**.

391 *For* for **About**.

Don't say: The teacher spoke for bad habits.

✓ *Say:* The teacher **spoke about** bad habits.

Don't use **for** in the sense of **about**. The chief use of **for** is to convey the idea of being in favour of. If we say that the teacher *spoke **for** bad habits* it's like saying that he/she spoke in favour of bad habits!

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392 *Since* for **For.**

Don't say: She's lived here since two years

✓ *Say:* She's lived here **for two years.**

Place the preposition **for** before words or phrases denoting a period of time: **for three days, for six weeks, for two years, for a few minutes, for a long time.** Use it with any tense except the present.

Note: **For** is often omitted. We can say: **I've been here for two years** or **I've been here two years.**

393 *From* for **Since.**

Don't say: Ian's been ill from last Friday.

✓ *Say:* Ian's been ill **since last Friday.**

Place the preposition **since** before words or phrases denoting a point in time: **since Monday, since yesterday, since eight o'clock, since Christmas.** When we use **since,** the verb is usually in the present perfect tense, but it may be in the past perfect: *I was glad to see Tom. I* ***hadn't seen him since last Christmas.***

Note: **From** can also denote a point in time, but it must be followed by **to** or **till**: *He works* ***from*** *eight o'clock* ***till*** *one o'clock without a break.*

394 *After* for **In.**

Don't say: I may be able to go after a week.

✓ *Say:* I may be able to go **in a week.**

Or: I may be able to go **in a week's time.**

When speaking of a period of time in the future, use **in,** and not **after**. Here **in** means **after the end of.**

395 *In* for **Within.**

Don't say: I'll come back in an hour – **if you mean before the end of an hour.**

✓ *Say:* I'll come back **within an hour.**

In means **after the end of, within** means **before the end of.**

(See Exercises 82 and 83 on pages 172–173.)

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Have another look ...

Use of certain prepositions

Prepositions of Place

TO and AT

Use TO for movement from one place to another.
Example: I *walk to* school every day.

Use AT to denote position or rest.
Example: He's *waiting at* the door.

IN and INTO

IN denotes position or rest inside something.
Example: The pencil *is in* the box.

INTO denotes movement towards the inside of.
Example: They *walk into* the room.

Prepositions of Time

AT, IN, ON

Use AT with the exact time.
Example: She arrived *at 8 o'clock* in the morning.

Use ON with days and dates.
Examples: *On Sunday* we go to church. My birthday is *on the third of December.*

Use IN *with a period of time.*
Example: *In summer* the weather is warm.

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Verbs often confused

396 **Shall** and **Will.**

(a) **To express simple futurity:**

In the first person:

Don't say: I will go tomorrow if it's fine.

✓ *Say:* I **shall** go tomorrow if it's fine.

In the second person:

Don't say: She tells me you shall go tomorrow.

✓ *Say:* She tells me you **will/'ll** go tomorrow.

In the third person:

Don't say: He shall go if he has permission.

✓ *Say:* He **will/'ll** go if he has permission.

(b) **To express something more than simple futurity:**

In the first person:

Don't say: I have determined that I shall go.

✓ *Say:* I have determined that I **will/'ll** go.

In the second person:

Don't say: You will/'ll go out if you are good.

✓ *Say:* You **shall** go out if you are good.

In the third person:

Don't say: My mind is made up: he will/'ll go.

✓ *Say:* My mind is made up: he **shall** go.

To form the simple future, use **shall** with the first person and **will** with the second and third persons. **Will** in the first person denotes resolution or personal determination, and **shall** in the second and third persons denotes either a command or a promise.

Note: **Should**, the past tense of **shall**, and **would**, the past tense of **will**, have the same differences of meaning and use as the present forms **shall** and **will**. *I was afraid that I **should** fail, I promised that I **would** help him.*

(See Exercise 41 on page 156.)

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397 **Shall** and **May.**

Distinguish between:

(a) **May** I shut the door? *and*

(b) **Shall** I shut the door?

***May** I shut the door?* Means that I wish the door closed and I ask your permission to shut it. ***Shall** I shut the door?* Means that I want to know whether **you** wish the door closed.

398 **Say** and **Tell.**

Don't say: He told, 'I will/'ll go home.'
He told that he'd go home.

✓ *Say:* He **said**, 'I will/'ll go home.'
He **said** that he'd go home.

Use **to say** (1) when referring to a person's actual words, and (2) in indirect speech **if the sentence doesn't contain an indirect object.**

Note: Common idioms with **say** and **tell**:
Say a prayer. Who **says**? I must **say**! You can **say** that again! If you **say** so. **Tell** the truth. **Tell** a lie. **Tell** a story. **Tell** the time. **Tell** your fortune. **Tell** someone your name.

(See Exercise 42 on pages 156–157.)

399 **Make** and **Do.**

(a) Make.

Don't say: The carpenter did a large table.

✓ *Say:* The carpenter **made** a large table.

(b) Do.

Don't say: You must make your work carefully.

✓ *Say:* You must **do** your work carefully.

To make primarily means to construct or manufacture something, while **to do** means to accomplish a thing.

Note: Common exceptions with **make** and **do**. (a) To **make** a mistake, to **make** a promise, to **make** a speech, to **make** an excuse, to **make** haste, to **make** fun of, to **make** progress, to **make** a noise, to **make** a bed (= to prepare the bed for sleeping on). (b) To **do** good, to **do** evil, to **do** your best, to **do**

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your duty, to **do** someone a favour, to **do** wrong, to **do** a puzzle, to **do** business, to **do** away with, to **do** gymnastics, to **do** exercises.

(See Exercise 43 on page 157.)

400 **Lie** and **Lay.**

(a) Lie.

Don't say: I'm going to lay down for an hour.

✓ *Say:* I'm going **to lie down** for an hour.

(b) Lay.

Don't say: Please lie the exam papers on the desk.

✓ *Say:* Please **lay** out the exam papers on the desk.

Lie (= **to rest**) is an intransitive verb and never has an object. **Lay** (= **to put**) is a transitive verb and always requires an object. Their principal parts are **lie, lay, lain,** and **lay, laid, laid.**

Note: **Lie, lied, lied** is to tell an untruth: *He has **lied** to me.* **Lay, laid, laid** also means to produce eggs: *The hen has **laid** an egg.* (Idiom: **Lay the table** is to prepare the table for a meal.)

(See Exercise 44 on page 157.)

401 **Sit** and **Seat.**

(a) Sit.

Don't say: We seat at a desk to write a letter.

✓ *Say:* We **sit** at a desk to write a letter.

(b) Seat.

Don't say: He sat the passengers one by one.

✓ *Say:* He **seated** the passengers one by one.

Use **sit** as an intransitive verb. **Seat** is a transitive verb and requires an object. Very often the object of **seat** is a reflexive pronoun: ***He seated himself** near the fire.* The principal parts of the two verbs are: **sit, sat, sat,** and **seat, seated, seated.**

Note: Don't confuse **sit** with **set**, which usually means **to place**. Common idioms with **set**: **to set the table, to set on fire, to set off** (or **out**), **to set a trap, to set a clock, to set a price, to set your heart on, to set free, to set an example, to set a broken bone, to set to work** (= to start work).

(See Exercise 45 on page 158.)

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402 **Rise** and **Raise.**

(a) Rise.

Don't say: Val raises very early in the morning.

✓ *Say:* Val **rises** very early in the morning.

(b) Raise.

Don't say: She rose their salaries too often.

✓ *Say:* She **raised** their salaries too often.

Rise is an intransitive verb and means to go up, stand up, or get out of bed. *It doesn't require an object.* **Raise** *is a transitive verb and means to lift up* **something**. Their principal parts are: **rise, rose, risen,** and **raise, raised, raised.**

Note: **Arise** is often used for **rise**, but it is better to use **arise** only in the sense of **begin**: *A quarrel (a discussion, an argument, a difficulty, etc.) may* **arise**. This is formal but is still used.

(See Exercise 46 on page 158.)

403 **Like** and **Love.**

Don't say: I like you! Will you marry me?

✓ *Say:* I **love** you! Will you marry me?

Both verbs can be used for people and things; the only difference is one of degree. **Love** is much stronger than **like.**

404 **Stay** and **Remain.**

(a) Stay.

Don't say: We remained in a very good hotel.

✓ *Say:* We **stayed** in a very good hotel.

(b) Remain.

Don't say: Not many figs have stayed on the tree.

✓ *Say:* Not many figs have **remained** on the tree.

Here, **to stay** means to live for a short time as a guest or a visitor, and **to remain** means to be left after part has been taken or destroyed.

Note: Use either verb when the meaning is to continue in the same place or condition: *I'll* **stay** *(or* ***remain****) at home till tomorrow.* **Remain** is more formal.

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405 **Hanged** and **Hung.**

(a) Hanged.

Don't say: No-one has been hung in Britain since 1964.

✓ *Say:* No-one has been **hanged** in Britain since 1964.

(b) Hung.

Don't say: We hanged the picture on the wall.

✓ *Say:* We **hung** the picture on the wall.

When the reference is to killing a person or animal by hanging, we use the form **hanged**. In other cases, the form is **hung**. The principal parts of the two verbs are: **hang, hanged, hanged; hang, hung, hung.**

(See Exercise 50 on page 160.)

406 **Wear** and **Put on.**

(a) Wear.

Don't say: Kathy always puts on black shoes.

✓ *Say:* Kathy always **wears** black shoes.

(b) Put on.

Don't say: I wear my clothes in the morning.

✓ *Say:* I **put on** my clothes in the morning.

Wear means to have upon the body as a garment or as an ornament. **To put on** denotes a simple act.

Note: **To dress** has nearly the same meaning as **to put on**, but the object of **dress** is a person and not a thing: *He **dressed himself** and went out, The mother **dressed** her **baby***

(See Exercise 47 on pages 158–159.)

407 **Tear** and **Tear up.**

(a) Tear.

Don't say: John tore up his coat on a nail.

✓ *Say:* John **tore** his coat on a nail.

(b) Tear up.

Don't say: Philip was angry and tore the letter.

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✓ *Say:* Philip was angry and **tore up** the letter.

To tear means to divide along a straight or irregular line, sometimes by accident. **To tear up** means to destroy by tearing to pieces.

Note: The word **up** is often used with verbs to express the idea of greater completeness: *burn up, drink up, dry up, cut up, eat up, shut up, use up.*

408 **Grow** and **Grow up.**

(a) Grow.

Don't say: These flowers grow up very quickly.

✓ *Say:* These flowers **grow** very quickly.

(b) Grow up.

Don't say: When I grow I'll be a doctor.

✓ *Say:* When I **grow up** I'll be a doctor.

To grow means to become bigger, **to grow up** means to become an adult

Note: Other meanings of **grow**: (1) to occur naturally in the ground: *Rice **grows** in Egypt*, (2) to cause to grow: *We **grow** flowers in our garden*; (3) to allow to grow. *He **grew** a beard*; (4) to become: *The nights **grow** cold in winter*

409 **Pick** and **Pick up.**

(a) Pick.

Don't say: We picked up flowers in the garden.

✓ *Say:* We **picked** flowers in the garden.

(b) Pick up.

Don't say: The naughty boy picked a stone.

✓ *Say:* The naughty boy **picked up** a stone.

To pick fruit or flowers means to pull them away with the fingers, **to pick up** means to lift up from the ground. The important element is that what is picked up isn't attached

410 **Deal with** and **Deal in.**

(a) Deal with.

Don't say: This book deals in common errors.

✓ *Say:* This book **deals with** common errors.

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(b) Deal in.

Don't say: A bookseller deals with books.

✓ *Say:* A bookseller **deals in** books.

To deal with means to have to do with, **to deal in** means to buy and sell.

Note: **To deal with** also means to take action on a matter: *The headmaster will **deal with** that question.*

411 **Interfere in** and **Interfere with.**

(a) Interfere in.

Don't say: Don't interfere with my private business!

✓ *Say:* Don't interfere **in** my private business!

(b) Interfere with.

Don't say: Paul is always interfering in the equipment.

✓ *Say:* Paul is always interfering **with** the equipment.

Interfere in means to concern yourself with something which you shouldn't **Interfere with** means to do some damage or be a nuisance to someone or something.

412 **Borrow** and **Lend.**

(a) Borrow.

Don't say: I want to lend a book from you.

✓ *Say:* I want to **borrow** a book from you.

(b) Lend.

Don't say: Will you please borrow me a book?

✓ *Say:* Will you please **lend** me a book?

To borrow is to **get** something from someone, and **to lend** is to **give** something to someone.

(See Exercise 51 on page 160.)

413 **Steal** and **Rob.**

(a) Steal.

Don't say: Someone has robbed all her money.

✓ *Say:* Someone has **stolen** all her **money.**

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(b) Rob.

Don't say: Some men stole a bank last night.

✓ *Say:* Some men **robbed a bank** last night.

The object of **steal** is the thing taken by the thief, such as money, a watch, a bicycle, etc., while the object of **rob** is the person or place from whom (or which) the thing is taken, such as a man, a house, or a bank.

(See Exercise 52 on page 160.)

414 **Take revenge** and **Avenge.**

Don't say: I must avenge myself for what he did to me!

✓ *Say:* I must **take revenge** for what he did to me!

Note: **Avenge** and **revenge oneself** are now only found in literary English:. We usually use **take revenge (on).** We might also say: *He must **have his revenge**.*

415 **Convince** and **Persuade.**

Don't say: I am persuaded of Robin's innocence.

✓ *Say:* I am **convinced** of Robin's innocence.

Persuade and **convince** have very similar meanings and are mostly interchangeable in modern English. *Delia **persuaded** me to take the exam = Delia **convinced** me to take the exam.* Except in the case of **to be convinced of something** meaning to believe something.

Note. Care must be taken not to confuse **persuade** with **pursued**, the past tense of **pursue** (= to follow).

416 **Refuse** and **Deny.**

(a) Refuse.

Don't say: Sarah denied to take the money.

✓ *Say:* Sarah **refused** to take the money.

(b) Deny.

Don't say: John refused that he'd done it.

✓ *Say:* John **denied** that he'd done it.

To refuse means not to take what is offered or not to do what one is asked to do.. **To deny** means to answer in the negative or to say that a statement isn't true.

(See Exercise 53 on page 160.)

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417 **Discover** and **Invent.**

(a) Discover.

Don't say: America was invented by Columbus.

✓ *Say:* America was **discovered** by Columbus.

(b) Invent.

Don't say: Edison discovered the gramophone.

✓ *Say:* Edison **invented** the gramophone.

To discover is to find that which existed before but was unknown, and **to invent** is to create that which didn't exist before.

418 **Take place** and **Take part.**

(a) Take place.

Don't say: The meeting will take part soon.

✓ *Say:* The meeting will **take place** soon.

(b) Take part.

Don't say: I'll take place in the meeting.

✓ *Say:* I'll **take part** in the meeting.

To take place means to happen or to be held, while **to take part** means to be involved in.

419 **Made from** and **Made of.**

(a) Made from.

Don't say: The bowl is made of glass.

✓ *Say:* The bowl is made **from** glass.

(b) Made of.

Don't say: The statue is made from marble.

✓ *Say:* The statue is made **of** marble.

We usually use **of** when you can still recognise the original material. We use **from** when the original materials are unrecognisable. In most cases either is possible.

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420 *Let* for **Rent** and *Hired out* for **Hire**.

(a) Rent.

Don't say: I let the house from Mr Jones.

✓ *Say:* I **rent** the house from Mr Jones.

Note: To **rent** something is to pay to use it, usually for a long period of time: **a house, a car, a piano** etc. To **let** something is to allow someone to pay you for the use of something that belongs to you.

(b) Hire.

Don't say: I hired out a surf board when I was in America.

✓ *Say:* I **hired** a surf board when I was in America.

Note: To **hire** something is to pay to use it, usually for a short time, with one single payment: **a suit, a bicycle, a rowing boat** etc. To **hire out** is to offer something for someone else to hire.

421 *Win* for **Earn**.

Don't say: She wins her living by hard work.

✓ *Say:* She **earns** her living by hard work.

To earn means to receive in return for work, **to win** is to obtain as a result of fighting, competition, gambling, etc.

Note: The verb **to gain** may be used with either meaning: **to gain one's living** or **to gain a victory, a prize,** etc.

422 *Substitute* for **Replace with**.

Don't say: They substituted gold with paper money.

✓ *Say:* They **replaced** gold **with** paper money.

We **replace** one thing **with** another, but we **substitute** one thing **for** another. The two phrases mean the reverse of each other: *You **replace** gold **with** paper money. You **substitute** paper money **for** gold.*

423 *Correct* for **Repair** or **Mend**.

Don't say: Some men are correcting the road.

✓ *Say:* Some men are **repairing** the road.

To correct is to make something right: **to correct** mistakes, a composition, a translation, one's pronunciation, etc. **To repair** or **to mend** is to put in good condition after being damaged: to **repair** or **mend** a road, clothes, shoes, etc.

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Note: **To repair a watch** is to put it in good condition again, but **to correct a watch** is to set it to the right time.

424 *Dust* for **Cover with dust.**

Don't say: A sandstorm dusted our clothes.

✓ *Say:* A sandstorm **covered** our clothes **with dust.**

To dust doesn't mean to cover with dust, but to remove dust from. *After sweeping, she **dusted** the furniture.*

425 *Please* for **Ask** or **Thank.**

Don't say: I pleased him to do me a favour;
or: I pleased him for his lovely present.

✓ *Say:* I **asked** him to do me a favour;
and: I **thanked** him for his lovely present.

To please means to give pleasure to: *I worked hard to **please** my teacher.*

426 *Could* for **Was able to.**

Don't say: Because Laura worked hard she could finish the job in time.

✓ *Say:* Because Laura worked hard she **was able to** finish the job in time.

If the meaning is *managed to* or *succeeded in doing,* use **was able to,** and not **could**.

427 *Learn* for **Teach.**

Don't say: Graham learned us how to play hockey.

✓ *Say:* Graham **taught** us how to play hockey.

Teach means to give instruction, **learn** means to receive instruction: *He **taught** me English, and I **learned** it quickly.*

(See Exercise 54 on page 161.)

428 *Win* or **Beat.**

Don't say: We've always won your team.

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✓ *Say:* We've always **beaten** your team.

To win is to get something you wanted, **to beat** is to overcome an opponent: *The girls **beat** the boys, and **won** the prize.*

Remember: the principal parts of each verb: **beat, beat, beaten,** and **win, won, won.**

(See Exercise 55 on page 161.)

429 *Accept* for **Agree.**

Don't say: The teacher accepted to go with us.

✓ *Say:* The teacher **agreed** to go with us.

Accept means to take something that is offered to you. *Maria **accepted** the bunch of flowers.* It also means to believe something you're told: *Ken **accepted** his explanation.* **Agree to** means to do what one is asked to do: *David **agreed to** come to London on Monday,* but **agree with** means to have the same opinion as someone else. *The Long family never **agree with** each other.*

Note: We agree **with** a person, but **to** a thing. *I **agree with** Luke, but I can't **agree to** this plan.*

430 *Leave* for **Let.**

Don't say: Penny didn't leave me to get my book.

✓ *Say:* Penny didn't **let** me get my book.

Let means to allow. **Leave** means to abandon or to go away from: *Do you **leave** your books at school?*

(See also Sections 436 and 447.)

431 *Bring* for **Take.**

Don't say: The astronauts are bringing plants to the moon.

✓ *Say:* The astronauts are **taking** plants to the moon.

Using **bring** or **take** depends on where the speaker or doer is. We use **bring** for things coming to where we are and **take** for things going somewhere else: ***Take** these cakes to your grandmother and **bring** (back) some flowers from her garden.*

Note: **To fetch** means to go somewhere else and come back with something: *Please **fetch** me a glass of water* (= go and come back with a glass of water).

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432 *Drown* for **Sink.**

Don't say: The ship drowned in the ocean.

✓ *Say:* The ship **sank** in the ocean.

To be drowned refers to living things, and means to die in water. **to sink** refers to people or things, and means to go down to the bottom of water

433 *See* for **Look.**

Don't say: Neil was seeing out of the window.

✓ *Say:* Neil was **looking** out of the window.

To see is to notice with the eyes, but **to look** is to direct the eyes in order to see: *I **looked** up and **saw** the plane*

(See Exercise 56 on page 161.)

434 *Hear* for **Listen.**

Don't say: I was hearing her CDs.

✓ *Say:* I was **listening** to her CDs.

To listen to may also mean to think carefully about what someone says: *Gerry always **listens to** his mother.*

(See Exercise 57 on pages 161–162.)

435 *Remember* for **Remind.**

Don't say: Please remember me to give it back.

✓ *Say:* Please **remind** me to give it back.

To remember is to have in mind: *I **remember** what you told me.* **To remind** is to make a person remember something

436 *Leave* for **Let go.**

Don't say: Leave the other end of the string.

✓ *Say:* **Let go of** the other end of the string.

Leave isn't usually used in the sense of **let go**, but you will hear the idiom **leave go** in very informal English to mean **let go**

(See also sections 430 and 447.)

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437 *Sleep* for **Go to Bed.**

Don't say: I'll sleep early tonight.

✓ *Say:* I'll **go to bed** early tonight.

To ge to bed denotes the act of lying down on a bed in preparation for going to sleep. We can say that a person **went to bed** at nine o'clock, but that he didn't **sleep** until eleven o'clock. Then he **slept** soundly. **Go to sleep** means to fall asleep. *He **went to sleep** while he was in the cinema.*

438 *Be found* for **Be.**

Don't say: The man was found in his office.

✓ *Say:* The man **was** in his office.

In English, the verb **be found** generally means **be discovered**: *Diamonds **are found** in Africa and in India.* Therefore, **He was found in his office** would suggest that the man had hidden himself in his office and was later **discovered.**

439 *Be with* for **Have.**

Don't say: My English book is with my brother.

✓ *Say:* **My brother has my English book.**

Avoid using **be with** in the sense of **have**. **Be with** means to be together or in company of: *He is **with** his parents.*

440 *Take* for **Get.**

Don't say: Clare took a good mark in chemistry.

✓ *Say:* Clare **got** a good mark in chemistry.

To take means to obtain something intentionally or by force: ***I took** a book from the library; The army **took** the city.* **To get** or **to receive** means to obtain something which is given such as a gift, a letter, money, or a mark in an exam.

441 *Like* for **Want**, etc.

Don't say: Do you like to see my collection?

✓ *Say:* Do you **want** to see my collection?

Do you like to do something? means do you enjoy doing it as a habitual action. **Do you want to do something?** means do you wish to do it **now**.

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Note: ***I would/'d like*** means I want: ***I would/'d like*** *(= **I want**) to play tennis today.* ***Would you like*** *(= **do you want**) to go for a walk with me?* **Would/'d like** is more polite than **want.**

(See Exercise 58 on page 162.)

442 *Know* for **Learn,** etc.

Don't say: Dan went to school to know English.

✓ *Say:* Dan went to school to **learn** English.

Use **know** when **learning** is finished: *She **knows** how to swim.* Similarly, avoid using **know** to mean **find out** or **realise.**

443 *Read* for **Study.**

Don't say: Lucy is reading algebra in her room.

✓ *Say:* Lucy is **studying** algebra in her room.

To study means to try to learn, **to read** doesn't imply any effort. A student **studies** English, maths, history and other subjects, he/she **reads** a story, a letter, or a newspaper. *She is **reading** for a degree* is also correct.

(See Exercise 59 on page 162.)

444 *Learn* for **Study.**

Don't say: Kevin is learning at Gordon College.

✓ *Say:* Kevin is **studying** at Gordon College.

The expression **I learn at (Gordon College,** etc.) is incorrect. Say **I study at (Gordon College,** etc.) or **I am a student at (Gordon College,** etc.).

445 *Take* for **Buy.**

Don't say: I went to the baker's to take bread.

✓ *Say:* I went to the baker's to **buy** bread.

Never use **take** in the sense of **buy**.

446 *Take out* for **Take off.**

Don't say: Chris took out his hat and coat.

✓ *Say:* Chris **took off** his hat and coat.

The opposite of **put on** is **take off,** and not **take out.**

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447 *Leave* for **Give up,** etc
Don't say: I've now left football.
✓ *Say:* I've now **given up** football.
Or: I've now **stopped** playing football.

Never use **leave** in the meaning of **give up**, or **stop** something.

(For sections 430, 436 and 447 see Exercise 48 on page 159.)

448 *Sympathise* for **Like.**
Don't say: I don't sympathise him very much.
✓ *Say:* I don't like **him** very much.

Sympathise isn't synonymous with **like**. **To sympathise with** means to share some feeling (usually of sorrow) with another person: *I **sympathise with** you in your sorrow.*

449 *Put* for **Keep.**
Don't say: Do you put your money in the bank?
✓ *Say:* Do you **keep** your money in the bank?

It's better to use **keep** for a more or less permanent resting place, and **put** for a temporary one.

450 *Care about, Care for* for **Take care of.**
Don't say: Oliver cares about (cares for) his brother's investments.
✓ *Say:* Oliver **takes care of** his brother's investments.

Care about means to like and be concerned about something or someone. **Take care of** means to look after someone or something: *You should **take care of** your children,* or do something to remedy a problem: *I think I should **take care of** that broken pane of glass.* **Care for** means to look after: *I **cared for** you when you were ill.* **Care for** can also mean to be fond of someone or something: *William really **cares for** geraniums,* though this use is rather old-fashioned.

Note: Avoid also such expressions as: (1) He doesn't care for my advice, (2) He doesn't care for his work, (3) He took no care of him, (4) No one cared for him during his illness. Say: (1) **He pays no attention to my advice,** (2) **He takes no care over his work,** (3) **He took no notice of him,** (4) **No one took care of him during his illness.**

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451 *Let* for **Make (= to force).**

Don't say: The examiner let me sit quietly until everyone had finished.

✓ *Say:* The examiner **made** me sit quietly until everyone had finished.

Don't use **let**, in the sense of **make,** meaning **to force**.

452 *Flown* for **Flowed.**

Don't say: The river has flown over its banks.

✓ *Say:* The river has **flowed** over its banks.

Flown is the past participle of **fly**, the past participle of **flow** (= to move as water) is **flowed**. The principal parts of the two verbs are: **fly, flew, flown – flow, flowed, flowed.**

Note: **Flee, fled, fled** is formal but we still use it to mean to run away: *We **flee** from danger.* **Float, floated, floated** means to stay on the surface of water or other liquid: *Ships **float** on the water.*

(See Exercise 49 on page 159.)

453 *Fall* for **Fell.**

Don't say: John fall down and broke his leg.

✓ *Say:* John **fell** down and broke his leg.

The past tense of this verb is **fell**, not **fall**. It's principal parts are: **fall, fell, fallen.**

Note: **Fell, felled, felled** means to knock or cut down: *The wood-cutter **felled** a large tree.*

(See Exercise 60 on page 162.)

454 *Found* for **Find.**

Don't say: Rosie tried to found her lost book.

✓ *Say:* Rosie tried **to find** her lost book.

To find is a very common verb meaning to get back a thing lost. It's principal parts: *find, found, found.*

Note: There is, however, another verb **to found**, meaning to establish: *He **founded** the school fifty years ago.*

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Have another look at ...

Use of will and shall

I'll/will/shall	You'll/will	He/she/it'll/will
We'll/will/shall	You'll/will	They'll/will

The short form *'ll* can be used for both *will* and *shall*. We usually use the long form in writing and the short in speech, but when we are writing informally we also use the short form.

The future auxiliary *will* has several different meanings:
1 It can be used for things which we expect to happen:
He('ll) will speak to you about it tomorrow.

2 It can be used as a conditional with an *if* or *whether* clause:
Jane will give you a lift if you need one.

3 We use *will* or *shall* for requests and offers:
Will you help me sort out these books?

4 When *will* is stressed it often means that someone insists on or persists in doing something:
Barry will keep handing in his homework late.

5 *Shall* is always used in the first person in the question form:
Shall I leave the door open? Shall we have lunch now?

6 *Shall* is sometimes used in modern English with the first person (I or we) when we are speaking or writing formally:
We shall never forget your kindness.

Shall isn't generally used in other contexts nowadays, though it used to be quite common.

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Adverbs often confused

455 **Very** and **Too.**

(a) Very.

Don't say: It's too hot in Rome in the summer.

✓ *Say:* It's **very** hot in Rome in the summer.

(b) Too.

Don't say: It's now very hot to play football.

✓ *Say:* It's now **too** hot to play football.

Very simply makes the adjective or adverb stronger. **Too** means more than enough, or so much that something else happens as a result.

(See Exercise 68 on page 166.)

456 **Very** and **Much.**

(a) Very.

Don't say: He's a much strong man.
It's a much interesting book.

✓ *Say:* He's a **very** strong man.
It's a **very** interesting book.

(b) Much.

Don't say: He's very stronger than I am.

✓ *Say:* He's **much** stronger than I am.

Use **very** with adjectives and adverbs in the positive, and with present participles used as adjectives like interesting. Use **much** with comparatives.

(See Exercise 69 on page 167.)

457 *Too much* for **Very much.**

Don't say: She likes the cinema too much.
He's too much stronger than I am.

✓ *Say:* She likes the cinema **very much.**
He's **very much** stronger than I am.

Use **very much** instead of **much** for greater emphasis. **Too much** denotes an

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excessive quantity or degree. *She ate **too much**, and felt ill.*

(See Exercise 70 on page 167.)

458 *Before* for **Ago.**

Don't say: I saw your friend before two weeks.

✓ *Say:* I saw your friend **two weeks ago.**

We use **ago** in counting from the time of speaking to a point in the past: **half an hour ago, three days ago, four months ago, five years ago, a long time ago.** We use **before** in counting from a distant to a nearer point in the past: Napoleon died in 1821, he had lost the battle of Waterloo six years **before**.

Note: When we use **ago**, the verb is always in the simple past tense. *He **came** five minutes ago.*

459 *Hardly* for **Hard.**

Don't say: She rubbed her eyes hardly.

✓ *Say:* She rubbed her eyes **hard.**

Hard means **severely. Hardly** means **not quite** or **scarcely**: *The baby can **hardly** walk.*

(See Exercise 71 on page 168.)

460 *No so* for **Not very.**

Don't say: I hear that he's not so rich.

✓ *Say:* I hear that he's **not very** rich.

We can't use **not so** in the sense of **not very**. The expression *He's **not so** rich* implies a comparison: *He's **not so** rich **as** you are.*

461 *Just now* for **Presently,** etc.

Don't say: The messenger will arrive just now.

✓ *Say:* The messenger will arrive **presently.**

If we are speaking of a near and immediate future time, we must use **presently, immediately, in a minute,** or **soon**. **Just now** refers to present or past time, and not to future time: *He's not at home **just now*** (= at this moment), *He left **just now*** (= a little time ago).

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462 *Presently* for **At present.**

Don't say: His uncle is in London presently.

✓ *Say:* His uncle is in London **at present.**

At present and **presently** are not synonymous. **At present** means **now**, but **presently** means **soon**: *She will come back **presently** (= soon).*

463 *Scarcely* for **Rarely.**

Don't say: Zoe scarcely comes to see me now.

✓ *Say:* Zoe **rarely** comes to see me now.

Scarcely isn't synonymous with **rarely**. **Rarely** means **not often, scarcely** means **not quite**: *I had **scarcely** finished when he came*

464 *Lately* for **Late.**

Don't say: Last night I went to bed lately.

✓ *Say:* Last night I went to bed **late.**

The opposite of **early** is **late,** not **lately. Lately** means **in recent times:** *I haven't been there **lately.***

Adjectives often confused

465 **Many** and **Much.**

(a) Many.

Don't say: My brother hasn't much books.

✓ *Say:* My brother hasn't **many** books.

(b) Much.

Don't say: Is there many dust in the room?

✓ *Say:* Is there **much** dust in the room?

Use **many** with plural nouns: **many** books *or* **many** boys. Use **much** with uncountable nouns: **much** water *or* **much** bread.

Note: In affirmative sentences **many** and **much** are generally replaced by **a lot (of), a great deal (of), plenty (of), a good deal (of), a good many (of), a great number (of), a large quantity (of),** etc.

(See Exercise 9 on page 141.)

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466 **Few** and **A few.**

(a) Few.

Don't say: Although the question was easy, a few boys were able to answer it.

✓ *Say:* Although the question was easy, **few** boys were able to answer it.

(b) A few.

Don't say: Although the question was difficult, few boys were able to answer it.

✓ *Say:* Although the question was difficult, **a few** boys were able to answer it.

Few means **not many** and emphasises the smallness of the number. It is distinguished from **a few,** which means **at least some.**

467 **Little** and **A little.**

(a) Little.

Don't say: He took a little exercise and wasn't very fit.

✓ *Say:* He took **little** exercise and wasn't very fit.

(b) A little.

Don't say: She took little exercise and felt much better.

✓ *Say:* She took **a little** exercise and felt much better.

Little means **not much** and emphasises the smallness of the amount. It's distinguished from **a little** which means **at least some.**

(For sections 466–467 see Exercise 10 on page 141.)

468 **Each** and **Every.**

(a) Each.

Don't say: She gave an apple to every of the children.

✓ *Say:* She gave an apple to **each** of the children.

(b) Every.

Don't say: Each child had an apple.

✓ *Say:* **Every** child had an apple.

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Use **each** for one of two or more things, taken **one by one.** Never use **every** for two, but always for more than two things, taken **as a group**. **Each** is more individual and specific, but **every** is the more emphatic word.

Note: **Each** and **every** are always singular: ***Each*** *(or* ***every****) one of the twenty boys* ***has*** *a book.*

469 **His** and **Her.**

(a) His.

Don't say: John visits her aunt every Sunday.

✓ *Say:* **John** visits **his** aunt every Sunday.

(b) Her.

Don't say: Ann visits his uncle every Sunday.

✓ *Say:* **Ann** visits **her** uncle every Sunday.

In English, possessive adjectives (and pronouns) agree with the person **who possesses,** and not with the person or thing possessed. When the possessor is masculine, use **his**, and when the possessor is feminine, use **her**.

(See Exercise 13 on page 142.)

470 **Older (oldest)** and **Elder (eldest).**

(a) Older, Oldest.

Don't say: This girl is elder than that one.
This girl is the eldest of all

✓ *Say:* This girl is **older** than that one.
This girl is the **oldest** of all.

(b) Elder, Eldest.

Don't say: My older brother is called John.
My oldest brother is not here.

✓ *Say:* My **elder** brother is called John.
My **eldest** brother is not here.

Older and **oldest** are applied to both people and things, while **elder** and **eldest** are applied to people only, and most frequently to related people.

Note: **Elder** can't be followed by **than**: *Jane is* ***older*** *(not* ***elder****) than her sister.*

(See Exercise 8 on page 140 and Exercise 15 on page 143.)

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471 **Interesting** and **Interested.**

(a) Interesting.

Don't say: I've read an interested story.

✓ *Say:* I've read an **interesting** story.

(b) Interested.

Don't say: Are you interesting in your work?

✓ *Say:* Are you **interested** in your work?

Interesting refers to the thing which arouses interest, while **interested** refers to the person who takes an interest in the thing.

(See Exercise 14 on page 143.)

472 **Wounded** and **Injured** or **Hurt.**

Don't say: Jack was wounded in a car accident.

✓ *Say:* Jack was **injured** in a car accident.

People are **injured** or **hurt** as a result of an accident or a fight, but people are **wounded** in wars and battles.

473 **Farther** and **Further.**

Don't say: Turn the page for farther instructions.

✓ *Say:* Turn the page for **further** instructions.

Note: Use **further** to mean both **greater distance** and **more of something**. We only use **farther** for distances: *I live a bit **farther** away than you*. Don't use it to mean **more**. We use **further** for both meanings in modern English.

474 *A* for **An.**

Don't say: A animal, a orange, a hour.

✓ *Say:* **An** animal, **an** orange, **an** hour.

Use **an** instead of **a** before a vowel or a silent **h** (as in **hour, heir, honest**). Before a long **u** or a syllable having the sound of **you**, we use **a** (not **an**): **a** union, **a** European (but **an uncle**).

475 *One* for **A (n)**

Don't say: Adam found one ring in the street.

✓ *Say:* Adam found **a** ring in the street

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Don t use the numeral **one** instead of the indefinite article **a** or **an**. Use **one** only where the number is emphatic: *He gave me **one** book instead of two.*

476 *Some* for **Any.**

(a) Some.

Don't say: Louis has got any milk.

✓ *Say:* Louis has got **some** milk.

(b) Any.

Don't say: There aren't some books on the shelf.

✓ *Say:* There aren't **any** books on the shelf.

We usually use **some** for affirmative phrases: *She's got **some** chicken,* and ***any*** in negative and interrogative phrases: *Ian hasn't bought **any** food today. Have you bought **any** food?* We sometimes use **some** in questions: *Would you like **some** soup?*

(See Exercise 12 on page 142.)

477 *Less* for **Fewer.**

Don't say: They have less books than I have.

✓ *Say:* They have **fewer** books than I have.

Less denotes amount, quantity, value, or degree, **fewer** denotes number. We may have **less** water, **less** food, **less** money, **less** education, but **fewer** books, **fewer** letters, **fewer** friends.

Note: We say ***less** than (five, six, etc.) pounds* because the pounds are considered as a sum of money and not as a number of coins.

478 *This* for **That.**

Don't say: Look at this dog across the street!

✓ *Say:* Look at **that** dog across the street!

This is used to indicate something physically close to the speaker. In the case of abstract things we use **this** for things which are most immediately present: ***This** is a lovely song! I'll help you do it **this** time.* When we talk about more than one thing we use **this** for the closer or more immediate and **that** for the further away or more remote in time. If we're only talking about one thing we usually use **that**. *What's **that** noise? **That's** a nice coat! Don't do **that**!*

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479 *Latter* for **Later.**

Don't say: She got to school latter than I did.

✓ *Say:* She got to school **later** than I did.

Later refers to time. **Latter** refers to order and means the second of two things just mentioned: *Alexandria and Cairo are large cities. The **latter** has a population of over a million.* The opposite of **latter** is **former**.

480 *Last* for **Latter.**

Don't say: Sir Walter Scott and Charles Dickens are both excellent writers, but I prefer the last.

✓ *Say:* Sir Walter Scott and Charles Dickens are both excellent writers, but I prefer the **latter**.

The latter means the second of two people or things which have been mentioned. **The last** refers to a series of more than two.

481 *Last* for **Latest.**

Don't say: What's the last news from the Palace?

✓ *Say:* What's the **latest** news from the Palace?

Latest is the last up to the present. **Last** is the final one: ***Z** is the **last** letter of the alphabet.*

482 *Small, Big* for **Young, Old.**

Don't say: I'm two years smaller than you.
She's three years bigger than me.

✓ *Say:* I'm two years **younger** than you.
She's three years **older** than me.

If reference is to age, say **young** or **old. Small** and **big** usually refer to size: *He is **big** (or **small**) for his age.*

Note: **Great** refers to the importance of a person or thing: *Napoleon was a **great** man, Homer's Iliad is a **great** book.* Use **great** with words like **distance, height, length, depth**. *There is a **great** distance between the earth and the moon.* Informally, use **great** to mean something nice or good: *We watched a **great** concert last night.*

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483 *High* for **Tall.**

Don't say: My elder brother is six feet high.

✓ *Say:* My elder brother is six feet **tall.**

We generally use **tall** with people, and it's the opposite of **short**. Use **high** when referring to trees, buildings, or mountains, and it's the opposite of **low**.

484 *Beautiful* for **Handsome** or **Good-looking.**

Don't say: He's grown into a beautiful young man.

✓ *Say:* He's grown into a **handsome** young man.

We usually say that a man is **handsome** or **good-looking**, and that a woman is **beautiful, lovely, good looking** or **pretty**.

485 *Sick* or **Ill.**

Don't say: He's been sick for over a year.

✓ *Say:* He's been **ill** for over a year.

To be ill means to be in bad health. **To be sick** means to vomit. We sometimes use sick idiomatically to mean feeling ill: *The smell made me **sick**.*

Note: We can also use **sick** before certain nouns. The **sick room, a sick note, sick leave**. We use the plural noun the **sick** to mean ill people: *Angela worked with the **sick** on the streets of Birmingham.*

(See Exercise 11 on page 142.)

486 *Clear* for **Clean.**

Don't say: You should keep your hands clear.

✓ *Say:* You should keep your hands **clean.**

Clean is the opposite of **dirty**. **Clear** means transparent or unclouded: **clear** water, a **clear** sky.

487 *Angry* for **Sorry.**

Don't say: I was angry to hear of her death.

✓ *Say:* I was **sorry** to hear of her death.

Sorry is the opposite of **glad. Angry** means **annoyed** or **enraged**: *He was **angry** when a boy hit him in the face.*

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488 *Nervous* for **Angry.**

Don't say: Our teacher is very nervous today.

✓ *Say:* Our teacher is very **angry** today.

Nervous means to be easily frightened or upset and can be a temporary or permanent condition. **Angry** describes someone's mood at a given moment.

Nouns often confused

489 **House** and **Home.**

Don't say: You should go to your house now.

✓ *Say:* You should go **home** now.

Take care not to say **my house, his house,** or **your house** when you should say **home**. A **house** is any building used for dwelling in, and **home** is the particular house in which someone is living.

Note: **Home** may also denote one's own country. When an Englishman abroad says: *I'm going **home** this summer* he means going to England.

(See Exercise 4 on pages 138–139.)

490 **Story** and **History.**

(a) Story.

Don't say: She told me an interesting history.

✓ *Say:* She told me an interesting **story**.

(b) History.

Don't say: We study the story of the Romans.

✓ *Say:* We study the **history** of the Romans.

A **story** is an account of events which may or may not be true. **History** is a systematic record of past events.

491 **Habit** and **Custom.**

(a) Habit.

Don't say: Telling lies is a very bad custom.

✓ *Say:* Telling lies is a very bad **habit.**

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(b) Custom.

Don't say: The Chinese have strange habits.

✓ *Say:* The Chinese have strange **customs**.

A **habit** belongs to the individual, but a **custom** belongs to a society or country.

(See Exercise 5 on page 139.)

492 **Cause of** and **Reason for.**

(a) Cause of.

Don't say: What's the reason for a sandstorm?

✓ *Say:* What's the **cause of** a sandstorm?

(b) Reason for.

Don't say: You have a good cause of coming.

✓ *Say:* You have a good **reason for** coming.

A **cause** is that which produces a result. A **reason** is that which explains or justifies a result.

493 **Scene** and **Scenery.**

(a) Scene.

Don't say: The TV crew arrived at the scenery.

✓ *Say:* The TV crew arrived at the **scene.**

(b) Scenery.

Don't say: The scene in Cyprus is beautiful

✓ *Say:* The **scenery** in Cyprus is beautiful.

A **scene** refers to one particular place, while **scenery** refers to the general appearance of the country.We don't use **scenery** in the plural.

494 **Centre** and **Middle.**

(a) Centre.

Don't say: Stand in the middle of the circle.

✓ *Say:* Stand in the **centre** of the circle.

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(*b*) Middle.
Don't say: He was in the centre of the street.
✓ *Say:* He was in the **middle** of the street.

Centre is the point that is equidistant from the edge of a circle. **Middle** is the area equidistant from two sides: **middle of the road, middle of the room, middle of the page,** etc.

495 **Shade** or **Shadow.**
(*a*) Shade.
Don't say: I like to sit in the shadow.
✓ *Say:* I like to sit in the **shade.**

(*b*) Shadow.
Don't say: The dog saw his shade in the water.
✓ *Say:* The dog saw his **shadow** in the water.

Shade is a place sheltered from the sun. **Shadow** is a shade of a distinct form as of a tree, a man, a dog, etc.

496 **Customer** and **Client.**
(*a*) Customer.
Don't say: That grocer has plenty of clients.
✓ *Say:* That grocer has plenty of **customers.**

(*b*) Client.
Don't say: That lawyer has plenty of customers.
✓ *Say:* That lawyer has plenty of **clients.**

A person can be a **customer** at a shop, but a **client** of a lawyer, a bank, etc.

497 *Stranger* for **Guest.**
Don't say: They had some strangers last night.
✓ *Say:* They had some **guests** last night.

A **guest** is usually a friend who comes to our house for a visit, while a **stranger** is a person unknown to us.

Note. A **foreigner** is a person from another country and speaking a foreign language

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498 *Travel* for **Journey.**

Don't say: Our travel to Wales was lovely.

✓ *Say:* Our **journey** to Wales was lovely.

Travel is a verb, used to describe any type of movement from one place to another. **Journey** is the noun but we also use (**take a**) trip for having a short journey: *We **took** a trip to the seaside last Sunday.* We also use **travelling** as a noun: *Tim loves **travelling**.* We use a possessive pronoun with **travels** as an idiom. *Jenny is off on her **travels** again.*

Note: We use the noun **travel** (1) in a general sense: *She loves **travel**.* (2) in the plural: *He has written a book about his **travels**.*

499 *Foot* for **Leg.**

Don't say: I hurt my foot – **if the injury is anywhere above the ankle.**

✓ *Say:* I hurt my **leg.**

Leg is the part of the body from the hip down to the ankle, and **foot** is the part below the ankle. (**Hand** must also be carefully distinguished from **arm**.)

Note: The **leg** of a chair, a table, a bed; the **foot** of a hill, a wall, a ladder, a page.

500 *Finger* for **Toe.**

Don't say: I hurt a finger of my right foot.

✓ *Say:* I hurt a **toe** of my right foot.

Fingers are on the hand, and **toes** *are* on the foot.

501 *Poetry* for **Poem.**

Don't say: I have a poetry to learn by heart.

✓ *Say:* I have a **poem** to learn by heart.

Poetry is the form of literature dealing with poems. A **poem** is one piece of poetry.

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502 *Theatre* for **Play.**

Don't say: Sarah is going to see a theatre tonight.

✓ *Say:* Sarah is going to see a **play** tonight.

A **theatre** is a building in which plays are acted, not the **play** itself.

503 *Play* for **Game.**

Don't say: They had a nice play of football.

✓ *Say:* They had a nice **game** of football.

Avoid using **play** in the sense **game. Play** means **amusement**: *He is fond of **play**.*

504 *Dress* for **Suit.**

Don't say: My elder brother has a new dress.

✓ *Say:* My elder brother has a new **suit.**

Only girls and women wear **dresses**; anyone can wear **suits** (a jacket with trousers or a skirt). **Clothes** is a general word: *John (or Mary) is wearing new **clothes.***

Note: We say *a man **in full evening dress**,* or ***morning dress*** for traditional, formal clothes.

505 *Individual* for **Person/People**.

Don't say: There were five individuals in the shop.

✓ *Say:* There were five **people** in the shop.

Use **individual** with a single person as opposed to the group: *The **individu** must act for the good of the community.*

506 *Men* for **People.**

Don't say: All the streets were full of men.

✓ *Say:* All the streets were full of **people.**

Use **people** and not **men** when the reference is to human beings in gener

507 *Woman* for **Wife.**

Don't use: The man took his woman with him.

✓ *Say:* The man took his **wife** with him.

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In English, these two words are carefully distinguished: **wife** is the woman in a marriage. Both husbands and wives can be referred to as partners.

508 *Cost* for **Price.**

Don't say: What's the cost of this watch?

✓ *Say:* What's the **price** of this watch?

Price is the amount of money paid by the customer. **Cost** is the amount paid by the shopkeeper. We can say ***How much does it cost?***

Note: **Value** is the usefulness or importance of something. *The **value** of milk as a food, the **value** of education.* **Face value** is the amount printed on a piece of paper money or on a postage stamp.

509 *Air* for **Wind.**

Don't say: The strong air blew her hat away.

✓ *Say:* The strong **wind** blew her hat away.

Air is what we breathe, and **wind** is what makes the leaves of the trees move.

510 *Ground* for **Floor.**

Don't say: When I entered the room, I saw a book on the ground.

✓ *Say:* When I entered the room, I saw a book on the **floor.**

The **floor** is the part of the room on which we walk. **The ground** is outside the house.

511 *Place* for **Room.**

Don't say: Is there place for me on the bus?

✓ *Say:* Is there **room** for me on the bus?

Don't use **place** in the sense of **room**, which means here **unoccupied space.**

512 *Organ* for **Instrument.**

Don't say: What other organ can you play?

✓ *Say:* What other **instrument** can you play?

The organ is a particular musical **instrument** used in some churches to accompany the singing of hymns. Don't use **organ** to denote any other musical instrument

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513 *Appetite* for **Desire,** etc.
Don't say: I've no appetite at all to study.
✓ *Say:* I've no **desire** at all to study.

Appetite is generally used with food. For study, work, or play we use such words as **desire**, **disposition**, and **inclination**.

(See also Exercise 6 on page 139.)

Confusion of number

The following can't be used in the plural:

514 **Advice.**
Don't say: Nick gave me some good advices.
✓ *Say:* Nick gave me some good **advice.**

Note: When we mean only one thing we say **a piece of advice:** *Let me give you a* ***piece of advice***.

515 **Information.**
Don't say: Can you give me any informations?
✓ *Say:* Can you give me any **information**?

Note: When we mean only one thing we say **an item or a bit of information**: *He gave me a useful* ***item of information.***

516 **Furniture.**
Don't say: Furnitures are often made of wood.
✓ *Say:* **Furniture** is often made of wood.

Note: **Furniture** is a singular noun and always takes a singular verb and pronoun. **A piece of furniture** means one thing only.

517 **Luggage.**
Don't say: Her luggages are at the station.
✓ *Say:* Her **luggage** is at the station.

Note: **Baggage**, another word for **luggage,** can't be used in the plural either: *The* ***baggage*** *is ready for the train.*

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518 **Damage.**

Don't say: The fire caused many damages.

✓ *Say:* The fire caused much **damage**.

Note: The plural form **damages** denotes money paid to make good a loss: *The insurance company paid the man **damages.***

519 **Work.**

Don't say: Today I've many works to do.

✓ *Say:* Today I've a lot of **work** to do.

Note: The plural form **works** means a factory or the writings of an author: *The **works** of Shakespeare are many, I visited the steel **works.***

520 **Character.**

Don't say: The school builds good characters.

✓ *Say:* The school builds good **character.**

Note: The plural form **characters** denotes the letters of the alphabet or the people in a book or play.

521 **Hair.**

Don't say: That man has long hairs.

✓ *Say:* That man has long **hair.**

Note: When we use **hair** to denote a single thread, the plural form is **hairs**: *I found two long **hairs** in my food.*

522 **Bread.**

Don't say: Breads are sold at the baker's.

✓ *Say:* **Bread** is sold at the baker's.

Note: We can say **a loaf of bread** and **loaves of bread:** *I bought **a loaf** (two, three, etc., **loaves**) **of bread.***

523 **Fish.**

Don't say: Yesterday we had fishes for dinner.

✓ *Say:* Yesterday we had **fish** for dinner.

Note: **Fish** as food or in bulk (= large numbers) is always singular. We rarely use the plural form (**fishes**) which denotes fish individually: *I caught three small **fishes.***

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524 **Fruit.**

Don't say: We didn't have many fruits this summer.

✓ *Say:* We didn't have much **fruit** this summer.

Note: We rarely use the plural form **fruits** which means different kinds of fruit: *Cyprus produces oranges, apricots, and other **fruits***

525 **Grass.**

Don't say: The dog lay down on the grasses.

✓ *Say:* The dog lay down on the **grass.**

526 **Dozen.**

Don't say: I want to buy three dozens eggs.

✓ *Say:* I want to buy three **dozen** eggs.

Note: (A dozen = 12): *I'd like to buy a **dozen** eggs.* When **dozen** isn't preceded by a numeral (like **three**) or by **a** we use the plural form: *There were **dozens** of eggs.*

527 **Hundred,** etc.

Don't say: The town has fifty thousands people.

✓ *Say:* The town has fifty **thousand** people.

Note. **Hundred, thousand,** and **million** take the plural form if they're not preceded by a numeral or by **a**: ***Thousands** of people were present.*

528 **Sheep.**

Don't say: Ten sheeps are grazing the field.

✓ *Say:* Ten **sheep** are grazing in the field.

Note: **Sheep, deer, salmon,** and a few other nouns have the same form for singular and plural. We say **one sheep** or **ten sheep.**

529 **Knowledge.**

Don't say: Karen has good knowledges of history.

✓ *Say:* Karen has a good **knowledge** of history.

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530 **Progress.**

Don't say: Tom has made great progresses.

✓ *Say:* Tom has made great **progress.**

531 **Thunder** and **Lightning.**

Don't say: There were thunders and lightnings.

✓ *Say:* There was **thunder** and **lightning.**

Note: When only one thing is meant we say *a* ***clap*** *of thunder* and *a* **flash** or ***bolt*** *of lightning.*

532 **Machinery.**

Don't say: They're now using new machineries.

✓ *Say:* They're now using new **machinery.**

Note: **Machinery** is a singular noun and always takes a singular verb and pronoun. We can say a **piece of machinery** or **pieces of machinery.**

533 **Mathematics,** etc. + **singular verb.**

Don't say: Mathematics are not easy to learn.

✓ *Say:* **Mathematics is** not easy to learn.

Note: The names of sciences and subjects ending in **-ics** (like **mathematics, physics, politics, gymnastics**) generally take a singular verb.

534 **Money + singular verb.**

Don't say: All her money are kept in the bank.

✓ *Say:* All her **money is** kept in the bank.

Note: **Money** is a singular noun and always takes a singular verb and pronoun.

535 **News + singular verb.**

Don't say: I'm glad that the news are good.

✓ *Say:* I'm glad that the **news is** good.

Note: **News**, though plural in form, always takes a singular verb. If only one thing is meant we say **a piece or an item of news**. *This is a good* ***piece of news.***

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536 **Scissors,** etc. + **plural verb.**
Don't say: The scissor is lying on the table.
✓ *Say:* The **scissors are** lying on the table.

Note: All names of things consisting of two parts (like **scissors, trousers, spectacles, shears, pliers**) take a plural verb. We can say: ***a pair of*** *(**scissors,** etc.)* ***is*** ...

537 **People + plural verb.**
Don't say: There is lots of people in the cinema.
✓ *Say:* There **are** lots of **people** in the cinema.

Note: **People,** meaning **nation,** is singular. The plural is **peoples:** *The Greeks are a brave **people**, The **peoples** of Europe are often engaged in war.*

538 **Clothes + plural verb.**
Don't say: Your cloth is very fashionable.
✓ *Say:* Your **clothes are** very fashionable.

Note: **Cloth,** meaning the material of which clothes are made, is singular, and has a plural form **cloths** (without the **e**): *She cleaned the table with a **cloth**. Merchants sell different kinds of **cloths**.*

539 **Riches + plural verb.**
Don't say: All her riches was stolen.
✓ *Say:* All her **riches were** stolen.

Note: **Riches** is a plural noun and always takes a plural verb.

540 **Wages + plural verb.**
Don't say: Keith complains that his wage is low.
✓ *Say:* Keith complains that his **wages are** low.

Note: **Wages** is a plural noun and takes a plural verb. We say: *a living **wage***.

541 **Billiards.**
Don't say: Billiard is a very difficult game.
✓ *Say:* **Billiards** is a very difficult game.

Note: **Billiards, draughts, darts** are always plural, but are followed by verbs in the singular.

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542 Misuse of the adjective in the plural.
Don't say: The rich have a duty to help the poors.
✓ *Say:* The rich have a duty to help the **poor**.

Note: Adjectives can't take the plural form, even when they're used as nouns in the plural.

543 Misuse of **as well as** with a plural verb.
Don't say: Tom as well as Mark are coming.
✓ *Say:* Tom **as well as** Mark **is** coming.

Two singular nouns joined by **as well as** require the verb to be singular.

544 Misuse of **all** (= everything) with a plural verb.
Don't say: Nothing's left; all are lost.
✓ *Say:* Nothing's left; **all is** lost.

All meaning **everything**, takes a singular verb, **all** meaning **everybody**, takes a plural verb: ***All** of us **are** present.*

545 Misuse of the plural before **kind** or **sort**.
Don't say: I don't like these kind of games.
✓ *Say:* I don't like **this kind** of game.
Or: I don't like games of **this kind.**

Note: The demonstrative word (**this/that** etc.) must agree with its noun. In the example, **kind** is singular and so **this** must agree with it.

546 Misuse of the plural with the name of a language.
Don't say: English are easier than German.
✓ *Say:* **English is** easier than German.

Names of languages are singular and always take a singular verb.

547 Misuse of **one** and parts of **one** with the singular.
Don't say: I read it in one and a half hour.
✓ *Say:* I read it in **one and a half hours.**

In English, use the plural with anything greater than one, even if it's less than two.

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Have another look at . . .

Singular and plural

1 We generally form the plural of nouns by adding *-s*, *-es* or, when the noun ends in consonant *y*, *-ies* to the singular:

book	church	knife	city	journey
books	churches	knives	cities	journeys

2 The following nouns have irregular plurals:

Singular	*Plural*
man	men
woman	women
child	children
ox	oxen
tooth	teeth
foot	feet
goose	geese
mouse	mice

3 We don't use some nouns in the plural:
advice, information, knowledge, news, progress, work, money, luggage, furniture, scenery, machinery or *item*.

Note: When only one thing is meant, we say *a piece of advice* (*information, news, work, money, furniture, luggage, machinery*).

4 We don't use some nouns in the singular:
people, riches, clothes, wages, trousers, scissors, spectacles.

Note: We often use names of things consisting of two parts with the word *pair*: *a pair of trousers* (*scissors, spectacles*, etc.).

5 Some nouns have the same form for the singular as for the plural: *sheep, deer, salmon*.

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548 Misuse of the singular with a collective noun of plurality.

Don't say: The class was divided in its opinion.

✓ *Say:* The class **were** divided in **their opinions.**

A collective noun usually takes a singular verb, but when it denotes the individual members of the group and not the group as a whole use a plural verb.

549 **The number** and **A number.**

(a) The number.

Don't say: The number of pupils are increasing.

✓ *Say:* **The number** of pupils **is** increasing.

(b) A number.

Don't say: A number of pupils is absent today.

✓ *Say:* **A number** of pupils **are** absent today.

When we precede **number** by **the** it denotes a **unit** and is singular. When it's preceded by **a** it means **several** or **many** and is plural.

550 Misuse of *This* for **These.**

Don't say: This errors are sometimes made by foreigners.

✓ *Say:* **These** errors are sometimes made by foreigners.

This changes to **these** if the noun that follows is in the plural.

Note: Also avoid the use of **this** instead of the personal pronoun. *John had the book but he gave this to his brother* should be *John had the book but he gave **it** to his brother.*

551 Misuse of *There is* for **There are.**

Don't say: There is some girls waiting outside.

✓ *Say:* **There are** some **girls** waiting outside.

There is changes to **there are** if the noun that follows is the plural.

552 Misuse of *You was* for **You were.**

Don't say: You was very foolish to do that.

Say: **You were** very foolish to do that.

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Was is singular and **were** is plural, but with the pronoun **you**, even when it's singular in meaning, we always use **were**.

Note: In conditions and wishes we can use **were** with the singular: *If I **were** you, I'd go, I wish I **were** rich.*

153 Misuse of *life*, etc., for **lives**, etc.

Don't say: Many people lost their life at sea.

✓ *Say:* Many people lost their **lives** at sea.

In English, we use words like **life, heart, soul, body, mind** in the plural when they refer to more than one person.

154 Agreement of number between noun and verb.

Don't say: A large supply of toys are expected.

✓ *Say:* A large **supply** of toys **is** expected.

When the subject is singular, the verb must be singular and when the subject is plural, the verb must also be plural. Take care when a plural noun comes between a singular subject and its verb, as in the example above.

(See Exercises 1 and 2 on pages 137–138.)

Confusion of parts of speech

155 **As** and **Like**.

Don't say: You don't look as your mother.

✓ *Say:* You don't look **like your mother**.

As is a conjunction, and is usually followed by a noun or pronoun in the nominative case. **Like** isn't a conjunction, but an adjective which behaves like a preposition in being followed by a noun or pronoun in the objective case.

(See Exercise 89 on page 176.)

156 **So** and **Such.**

(a) So.

Don't say: It's such small that you can't see it.

✓ *Say:* It's **so small** that you can't see it.

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(b) Such.
Don't say: I've never seen a so large animal before.
✓ *Say:* I've never seen **such** a large **animal** before.

So is an adverb, and must qualify an adjective or another adverb. **Such** is an adjective and must qualify a noun.

557 **No** and **Not.**
(a) No.
Don't say: I've not made any mistakes in dictation.
✓ *Say:* I've made **no mistakes** in dictation.
(b) Not.
Don't say: I have made no any mistakes in dictation.
✓ *Say:* I have**n't** (= have **not**) made **any** mistakes in dictation.

We use **no** meaning **not any**, as an adjective to qualify the noun. If the noun is already qualified by an adjective, like **any, much, enough,** we must use the adverb **not**.

Note: We only use **no** as an adverb before a comparative: *I have **no more** to say.*

(See Exercise 90 on page 176.)

558 **Fool** and **Foolish.**
(a) Fool.
Don't say: Anne said to me, 'You're fool.'
✓ *Say:* Anne said to me, 'You're **a fool**.'
(b) Foolish.
Don't say: Anne said to me, 'You're a foolish.
✓ *Say:* Anne said to me, 'You're **foolish**.

Fool is a noun, and requires the article when we use it with the verb **to be**. **Foolish** is an adjective, and can't be used with the article after the verb **to be**.

Note: **A fool** or **a foolish person** doesn't mean an insane person, but one who acts thoughtlessly. We tend to use **silly** or **stupid** instead of **foolish** in modern usage.

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559 Misuse of **due to** as a preposition.
Don't say: William came late due to an accident.
✓ *Say:* William came late **because of** an accident.

Don't use **due to** as a preposition meaning **because of**. **Due**, as an adjective here, is used correctly only when it qualifies some noun: *His delay was **due to** an accident*

560 Misuse of **rest** as an adjective.
Don't say: I spent the rest day at home.
✓ *Say:* I spent **the rest** of the day at home.

Here, **rest** is a noun, and we can't use it as an adjective in the meaning of **what's left**.

561 Misuse of **miser** as an adjective.
Don't say: Jill loved money; she was miser.
✓ *Say:* Jill loved money; she was a **miser**.

Miser is a noun, and we can't use it as an adjective. The adjective is **miserly**: *She was **miserly**.*

562 Misuse of **opened** as an adjective.
Don't say: I found all the windows opened.
✓ *Say:* I found all the windows **open**.

The adjective is **open**. The past participle is **opened**: *Somebody has **opened** all the windows*

563 Misuse of **friendly** as an adverb.
Don't say: Andrew behaves friendly.
✓ *Say:* Andrew behaves **in a friendly way**.

The adverbial form is **in a friendly way**. **Friendly** is an adjective: *a **friendly** game, to have **friendly** relations with one's neighbours, etc.*

564 Misuse of **truth** as an adjective.
Don't say: Is it truth that Diana's very ill?
✓ *Say:* **Is it true** that Diana's very ill?

Truth isn't an adjective but a noun. The adjective is **true**, and we use it with no article between it and the verb **to be**.

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565 Misuse of **plenty** as an adjective.
Don't say: Mike had plenty work to do.
✓ *Say:* Mike had **plenty of work** to do.

Plenty isn't an adjective, but a noun meaning a large number or amount. The adjective is **plentiful**: *Oranges are cheap now because they are **plentiful**.*

566 Misuse of **coward** as an adjective.
Don't say: She said, 'You are a coward boy.'
✓ *Say:* She said, 'You are **a coward**.'

Coward (= one without courage) is the noun. The adjective is **cowardly**.

567 Misuse of **others** as an adjective.
Don't say: The others boys aren't here.
✓ *Say:* The **other** boys aren't here.

Others isn't an adjective but a pronoun. The adjective is **other** (without the s). We can say: *The **others aren't here**,* omitting the noun **boys**.

568 Misuse of *died* for **dead**.
Don't say: I think his grandfather is died.
✓ *Say:* I think his grandfather is **dead**.

Died is the past tense of **die**. The adjective is **dead**

(See Exercise 91 on page 177.)

569 Misuse of *shoot* for **shot**.
Don't say: I had a good shoot at the goal.
✓ *Say:* I had a good **shot** at the goal.

Shoot (in football) is the verb. The noun is **shot**

570 Misuse of *it's* for **its**.
Don't write: The bird was feeding it's young.
✓ *Write:* The bird was feeding **its** young.

The possessive adjective **its** is correctly written without the apostrophe. So also **hers, ours, yours, theirs** take no apostrophe.

(See Exercise 92 on page 177.)

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571 Misuse of *hot* as a noun.
Don't say: There's much hot this summer.
✓ *Say:* It's **very hot** this summer.

Hot is an adjective only, and we can't use it as a noun. The noun is **heat**.

572 Misuse of *pain* as a verb.
Don't say: I pain my leg *or* My leg is paining.
✓ *Say:* There's (*or* **I've got**) **a pain** in my leg.

We generally use **pain** as a noun, and precede it by **have** or **feel**.

573 Misuse of *worth* as a verb.
Don't say: My bicycle worths £150.
✓ *Say:* My bicycle **is worth** £150.

Worth isn't a verb, but an adjective.

574 Misuse of *able* as a verb.
Don't say: The poor man doesn't able to pay.
✓ *Say:* The poor man **isn't able** to pay.

Able is an adjective, and we can't use it as a verb.

575 Misuse of *afraid* as a verb.
Don't say: John doesn't afraid of anybody.
✓ *Say:* John's not **afraid** of anybody.

Afraid isn't a verb but an adjective, and we generally use it with the verb **to be**.

576 Misuse of *weight* as a verb.
Don't say: Have you weighted the letter?
✓ *Say:* Have you **weighed** the letter?

Weight is a noun and we can't use it as a verb. The verb is **weigh** (*without* the **t**).

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577 Misuse of *good* for **well**.
Don't say: The goalkeeper plays very good.
✓ *Say:* The goalkeeper **plays** very **well.**

Good is an adjective only, and we can't use it as an adverb

(See Exercise 93 on pages 177–178.)

578 Misuse of adjective for adverb.
Don't say: The little girl sang beautiful.
✓ *Say:* The little girl **sang beautifully.**

We use an **adverb**, and not an adjective, to qualify a verb.

Note After verbs such as **look, feel, sound, taste, smell** use an adjective instead of an adverb: *Sugar tastes **sweet** (not **sweetly**).*

579 Misuse of *after* for **afterwards**, etc.
Don't say: After we went home for dinner.
✓ *Say:* **Afterwards** we went home for dinner.

After is a preposition and we must use it with an object. **Afterwards, then, after that** are adverbs of time and we can use them alone.

580 *And the two*, etc., used for **both**, etc.
Don't say: I've seen and the two of them.
✓ *Say:* I've seen **both** of them.

Never say **and the two** instead of **both**. Also avoid **and the three, four,** etc. Say, **all three, four,** etc.

581 Misuse of *and* for **also** or **too.**
Don't say: Let me do and the next exercise.
✓ *Say:* Let's **also** do the next exercise.
Or: Let me do the next exercise **too.**

And is a conjunction, and can only join similar forms of speech: *He came **and** sat down.* We can't use it instead of the adverbs **also** and **too**.

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582 Misuse of *and* for **even**.

Don't say: She doesn't trust and her friends.

✓ *Say:* She doesn't trust **even** her friends.

And is a conjunction only, and we can't use it instead of the adverb **even**.

583 Misuse of *loose* for **lose**.

Don't say: Be careful not to loose your money.

✓ *Say:* Be careful not to **lose** your money.

Lose (with one **o**) is the common verb meaning **not to be able to find**. **Loose** (with double **o**) is an adjective meaning **unfastened, free**: *The horse was **loose** in the field.*

584 Misuse of *past* for **passed**.

Don't say: I past by your house yesterday.

✓ *Say:* I **passed** by your house yesterday.

Past isn't a verb. The past tense and past participle of the verb **to pass** is **passed**.

Note: We can use **past** as a noun, *Don't think of the **past***; an adjective, *The **past** week was warm*; a preposition, *We walked **past** the church*; an adverb, *The train went **past**.*

(See Exercises 94 and 95 on page 178.)

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Exercises

The following Exercises, which provide ample drill on the commonest mistakes dealt with in this book, are arranged under the headings of the various parts of speech.

TO THE STUDENT:
You'll need a separate exercise book to write your answers to many of these exercises.

Nouns

Confusion of number (Sections 514–554)

Exercise 1

Give the correct number, **is** or **are**, in the following:

1 The news I've received _____ good.
2 Where _____ the money?
3 His trainers _____ worn out.
4 Maths _____ my poorest subject.
5 Riches _____ sought after by all.
6 Our furniture _____ getting old.
7 This pair of scissors _____ not sharp.
8 Eating fish _____ very healthy.
9 The number of mobile phones _____ increasing.
10 The sheep _____ grazing in the field.

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Exercise 2

Correct the following sentences, giving reasons for your corrections:

1 Her advices were very wise.
2 You was the first to do it.
3 The class wasn't able to agree.
4 I've many works to do this morning.
5 The thunders and lightnings frightened the little girl.
6 I've more than two dozens of books at home.
7 The poors say that riches does not make a man happy.
8 She waited at the terminal for her luggages.
9 You should go and have your hairs cut, they're too long.
10 I'm waiting for more informations about this matter.

Exercise 3

Write sentences showing whether the following nouns can be used in the singular or in the plural:

1 news
2 money
3 advice
4 riches
5 dozen
6 knowledge
7 spectacles
8 gymnastics
9 furniture
10 damage

Nouns often confused (Sections 489–513)

Exercise 4

Use **house** or **home** in these sentences:

1 I live in a _____.
2 My _____ is in Cyprus.
3 Many _____ are being built this year.

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4 East or West, _____ is best.
5 The _____ was sold for £150,000.

Exercise 5

Use **habit** or **custom** in these sentences:

1 You should get into the _____ of brushing your teeth after meals.
2 It's the _____ of many people to pray for rain.
3 He has a _____ of biting his nails.
4 Smoking isn't a good _____.
5 The _____ of showing hospitality to strangers is ancient.

Exercise 6

Fill in the blanks with one of the nouns in brackets:

1 The ancient _____ of Greece is an interesting subject. (*story, history*)
2 His _____ was swollen and he couldn't get his shoe on. (*foot, leg*)
3 The strong _____ spoilt the game. (*wind, air*)
4 Mr Brown is my lawyer and I've been his _____ for many years. (*customer, client*)
5 We've been given a long _____ to learn by heart. (*poem, poetry*)
6 She can play the violin and other _____. (*organs, instruments*)
7 The _____ of Switzerland is very beautiful. (*scene, scenery*)
8 There wasn't much _____ anywhere. (*shade, shadow*)
9 The ship was sunk in the _____ of the Atlantic. (*middle, centre*)
10 The students will do a _____ at the end of the year. (*theatre, play*)

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Adjectives

Comparative or superlative (Sections 151–156, 470)

Exercise 7

Rewrite the following with the correct adjectives in brackets:

1 He's the (*strong*) boy in the whole school.
2 Of the two sisters, Mary is the (*beautiful*).
3 Ann is the (*young*) of four sisters.
4 John is the (*old*) of all my friends.
5 This is the (*good*) novel I've ever read.
6 Which do you think is (*good*), tea or coffee?
7 Iron is the (*useful*) of all metals.
8 The Nile is the (*long*) river in Africa.
9 Which of the two girls is (*tall*)?
10 David is (*bad*) than his brother.

Exercise 8

Correct the following, giving reasons for your corrections:

1 Alexandria is smaller from Cairo.
2 New York is the larger city in the United States.
3 He's the better student from all.
4 John is more stronger than his brother.
5 My handwriting is more bad than my sister's.
6 Which is the heaviest you or I?
7 Which of these three girls is the elder?
8 This boy's manners are more good than his brother's.
9 Which of the girls is the taller in the class?
10 Mount Everest is the higher mountain of the world.

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Adjectives often confused (Sections 465–488)

Exercise 9

Use **many** or **much** in these sentences:

1 He hasn't _____ money.
2 Have they _____ books?
3 There isn't _____ food in the house.
4 Does she take _____ interest in it?
5 I haven't _____ time.
6 Are there _____ pupils absent today?
7 How _____ does this book cost?
8 _____ rain has fallen on the mountains.
9 He doesn't know _____ English.
10 Too _____ people went to the concert.

Exercise 10

Use **few** or **a few, little** or **a little** in these sentences:

1 As he has _____ books, he isn't able to study.
2 Will you have _____ tea?
3 He's very ill, there's _____ hope for him.
4 There are _____ apples in the bowl, help yourself to some.
5 _____ people study Latin nowadays.
6 He can't afford it as he only has _____ money left.
7 As she didn't speak clearly, _____ people understood what she said.
8 _____ people will admit their faults.
9 We must save _____ money for our journey home.
10 I have _____ friends in London who will help me.

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Exercise 11

Use **ill** or **sick** in these sentences:

1 She was suddenly taken _____.
2 The meat was bad, and made everybody _____.
3 He went to the hospital to visit the _____.
4 The _____ man died yesterday.
5 When we're _____ we go to the doctor.
6 Those who are in bad health are said to be _____.
7 The _____ and the wounded were taken to hospital.
8 He's _____ with a bad cold.
9 When I travel by boat I'm always _____.
10 She felt _____ and left in the middle of the game.

Exercise 12

Use **some** or **any** in these sentences:

1 I've got _____ new CDs at home.
2 There aren't _____ flowers in the garden.
3 Have you _____ brothers in this school?
4 Did you buy _____ stamps at the post office?
5 Have I got _____ e-mails this morning?

Exercise 13

Use **his** or **her** in these sentences:

1 The father told _____ daughter to come back.
2 She gave the money to _____ uncle's neighbour.
3 He sent a letter to _____ niece.
4 The woman lost _____ son.
5 The grandfather gave a nice gift to _____ daughter's eldest son.

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Exercise 14

Use **interesting** or **interested** in these sentences:

1 I'm _____ in English.
2 Was the film _____ last night?
3 The book is _____ from beginning to end.
4 She's a most _____ lady.
5 Are you _____ in computers?

Exercise 15

Fill in the blanks with one of the adjectives in brackets:

1 He sat down and said nothing _____. (*farther, further*)
2 Is that the _____ edition of *The Times*? (*last, latest*)
3 Wash your hands if they're not _____. (*clean, clear*)
4 A prize was given to _____ one of the two best pupils. (*each, every*)
5 She knows _____ words than her brother. (*less, fewer*)
6 Several people were _____ when the train ran off the track. (*wounded, injured*)
7 Jane is _____ than her cousin. (*higher, taller*)
8 Tom is three years old, he's too _____ to go to school. (*small, young*)
9 James is my _____ brother. (*older, elder*)
10 My sister Emma is _____ than I am. (*older, elder*)

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The articles
(Sections 247–254, 301–320)

Exercise 16

Fill in the blanks with **a** or **an** where necessary.

1 Swimming is _____ great fun.
2 The plane made _____ terrible noise.
3 What sort of _____ man is he?
4 My aunt made _____ fortune in America.
5 He saved up more than _____ thousand pounds.
6 The train left half _____ hour ago.
7 She's made _____ great progress in English.
8 She's _____ clever girl.
9 He tried without success to find _____ work.
10 Vitamins are necessary for _____ good health.

Exercise 17

Fill in the blanks with **the** where necessary:

1 My little brother will go to _____ school next year.
2 My father left _____ school many years ago.
3 _____ red, _____ blue, and _____ green are beautiful colours.
4 _____ cotton of Egypt is exported to many countries.
5 _____ Nile flows into _____ Mediterranean.
6 What time is _____ lunch?
7 She can speak _____ French.
8 She speaks _____ German better than _____ English.
9 _____ flies are harmful insects.
10 The boy was sent to _____ post office to post a letter.

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Pronouns

Relative pronouns (Sections 144–146)

Exercise 18

Put relative pronouns in each of the following:

1 That's the boy _____ came yesterday.
2 The man to _____ I spoke is my brother.
3 The girl _____ mother is ill has left school.
4 This is the pen _____ I bought.
5 I can't repeat all _____ I heard.
6 He's a boy _____ I know you can trust.
7 She's the girl _____ we thought had been ill.
8 He's the tallest man _____ I ever saw.
9 She's the same _____ she's always been.
10 I like to help those _____ I love and _____ I know love me.

Interrogative pronouns (Sections 149–150)

Exercise 19

Put interrogative pronouns in each of the following:

1 _____ do you find easier to learn, English or French?
2 _____ were you talking about? (*the cinema*)
3 _____ is this book? (*my uncle's*)
4 _____ of the two players do you like better?

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5 _____ do you think I wanted? (*your brother*)
6 _____ of the three boys spoke?
7 _____ did you say won the prize?
8 _____ is he, do you suppose? (*a lawyer*)
9 _____ of your brothers works in the bank?
10 _____ is the number of your house?

Repetition of subject or object (Sections 332–338)

Exercise 20

Rewrite the following sentences, leaving out unnecessary pronouns and making other necessary changes:

1 The prizes they were given to the boys.
2 The girl she said nothing.
3 The teacher gave us an exercise to do it.
4 He went home and he got his book.
5 The book which it is on the table is mine.
6 Students who are good at their lessons they get good marks.
7 She gave us a football to play with it.
8 The people, having seen the game, they went away.
9 The headmaster I have seen him just now.
10 The scorpion it has a sting in its tail.

Miscellaneous examples

Exercise 21

Correct the following sentences, giving reasons for your corrections:

1 One should mind his own business.
2 The most of the people are fond of the cinema.

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3 This is the boy which is always late.
4 I speak English better than him.
5 She told her mother all what had been said.
6 This cake is for you and myself.
7 I want to give me your book, please.
8 Is a very good girl.
9 It is them.
10 I and Stephen are friends.

Verbs

Sequence of tenses (Sections 107–110)

Exercise 22

Put the verbs in brackets into the tenses required:

1 I thought that he (*can*) run much faster.
2 The boy said that he (*begin*) his work tomorrow.
3 She says she (*understand*) French very well.
4 The teacher said, 'London (*be*) the largest city in the world.'
5 The teacher said that London (*be*) the capital of England.
6 I was sure that he (*will*) succeed.
7 I asked her if she (*want*) anything.
8 They say that he (*will*) pass the exam.
9 She told me that she (*feel*) very tired.
10 The boy worked hard so that he (*may*) not fail in the exam.

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Exercise 23

Complete the following, using a verb in the required tense:

1 Laura told me that she _____.
2 I asked him whether he _____.
3 James said that he _____.
4 Our teacher taught us that _____.
5 Sarah gave me a promise that she _____.
6 The boys said that _____.
7 I knew that she _____.
8 I asked him to wait until _____.
9 I thought that she _____.
10 He didn't come when _____.

Use of the wrong tense (Sections 111 – 133)

Exercise 24

Supply the correct tense, **Simple Present** or **Present Continuous**, in the following:

1 I (*to go*) to school every day.
2 He (*to go*) to the school now.
3 Look! They (*to come*) towards us.
4 Now I (*to hear*) her clearly.
5 Every morning I (*to take*) a walk by the river.
6 The sun (*to rise*) in the east and (*to set*) in the west.
7 The teacher (*to watch*) me when I (*to write*).
8 We (*to go*) to the cinema this evening.
9 I (*to read*) English now.
10 People (*to use*) umbrellas when it (*to rain*).

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Exercise 25

Supply the correct tense, **Simple Past Tense** or **Past Continuous**, in the following:

1 When I (*come*) in, it (*rain*).
2 Many years ago people (*travel*) on horseback.
3 I (*meet*) him as I (*go*) home.
4 He (*go*) to another school last year.
5 My father (*play*) football in his youth.
6 We (*eat*) our dinner when he (*come*) to visit us.
7 In the past he (*smoke*) a great deal.
8 They (*shout*) when the teacher (*enter*) the room.
9 Last year he (*study*) very hard.
10 While he (*play*) football he (*lose*) his watch.

Exercise 26

Supply the correct tense, **Simple Past Tense** or **Present Perfect**, in the following:

1 He (*come*) back last week.
2 I just (*finish*) my work.
3 I (*live*) in London last year.
4 The bell (*ring*) five minutes ago.
5 I (*see*) the Pyramids of Egypt.
6 He (*write*) the book in 1936.
7 She (*be*) ill with fever since last Saturday.
8 The ship (*arrive*) yesterday.
9 I (*stay*) at my uncle's last night.
10 I (*deposit*) the money in the bank.

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Exercise 27

Supply the correct tense, **Simple Past Tense** or **Past Perfect**, in the following:

1 I (*want*) to see you yesterday.
2 He (*tell*) me that he (*see*) me the day before yesterday.
3 There (*be*) a strong wind last night.
4 The girl (*find*) the book which she (*lose*).
5 When I (*run*) a mile, I (*be*) very tired.
6 The tourist (*talk*) about the countries she (*visit*).
7 When I (*be*) a boy I (*study*) music.
8 The Romans (*speak*) Latin.
9 After he (*finish*) his work he (*go*) to bed.
10 She (*sleep*) an hour when I (*wake*) her.

Exercise 28

Complete the following, using the correct tense:

1 We'll go for a picnic, if _____.
2 I'll visit the Pyramids when _____.
3 Some people talk as if _____.
4 Since he came here _____.
5 You would have passed if _____.

Exercise 29

Rewrite the following with the verbs in brackets in the correct tense:

1 After he (*finish*) his work he (*go*) home.
2 I (*study*) English for two years.
3 I (*finish*) my work this morning.
4 I (*do*) my homework before Tom (*call*) for me.
5 He said he (*will*) go to the cinema.
6 I not (*see*) her since Wednesday.
7 I (*speak*) to her five minutes ago.

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8 I (*study*) grammar last year.
9 She always (*whisper*) during the lesson.
10 The courier (*come*) back.

Exercise 30

Correct the following sentences, giving reasons for your corrections:

1 Richard said that he is working hard.
2 How long did you waited for me yesterday?
3 She speaks English very well, but I'm not sure whether she can speaks French too.
4 He is on the team for two years.
5 I have seen her yesterday at church.
6 What do you do now? – I do my project.
7 I use to get up early.
8 Paul acts as if he is a rich man.
9 I'll speak to him as soon as he will come.
10 I told Jill to come with us, but she says that she isn't feeling well.

Third person singular (Sections 242, 243)

Exercise 31

Put the following into the third person singular, present tense:

1 I always do my homework carefully, but Mike never _____.
2 Karen's friends often go fishing, but she never _____.
3 I haven't got a new computer, but Rosie _____.
4 Simon has tickets for the match, but Bruce _____.
5 She walks to work every day, but her husband _____.

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6 We comb and brush our hair, but our sister _____.
7 Robin has a broken arm, but Carol _____.
8 I haven't got time for breakfast, but my sister _____.
9 I sit and talk to my friends, but my mother _____.
10 I go to school by bike, but my friend _____.

Exercise 32

Fill the blanks with the right word, **don't** or **doesn't**, in the following:

1 I _____ think so.
2 John _____ know how to swim.
3 He _____ play football well.
4 It _____ matter what they say.
5 Some pupils _____ take good care of their books.
6 _____ you know where I live?
7 Why _____ you try?
8 Teachers _____ like lazy pupils.
9 Lucy _____ speak English very well.
10 _____ be afraid of the dog!

Questions and negations

(Sections 104–105, 256, 361–362)

Exercise 33

Rewrite the following sentences *(a)* as questions, *(b)* as negative sentences:

1 He went home.
2 You told me to wait.
3 I made a mistake.
4 She broke the window.

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5 She opened the document.
6 He speaks English.
7 He bought a new calculator.
8 She found her disk.
9 Mary came late.
10 He knew the answer.

Exercise 34

Answer the following questions *(a)* in the affirmative, *(b)* in the negative, using complete sentences:

1 Did you buy a new printer?
2 Does John often swim across the river?
3 Did you find the book that you lost?
4 Does she always ring the bell?
5 Did he go to London last year?
6 Did she teach you anything?
7 Did you know the answer to the problem?
8 Does he speak many languages?
9 Do you think it will rain?
10 Did they catch the thief?

Exercise 35

Correct whatever is wrong with the following questions:

1 You were at the cinema last night?
2 At what time did she came yesterday?
3 You will go home next week?
4 He has returned from leave?
5 Does she speaks French?
6 You have some good news for me?
7 He can drive a car?
8 You heard about the accident?
9 Why she comes here every day?
10 When the post will come?

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Question phrases

(Section 164)

Exercise 36

Complete the following, adding question phrases:

1 She sings well, _____?
2 He can't swim, _____?
3 You play the piano, _____?
4 It's cool today, _____?
5 It isn't warm today, _____?

Indirect questions
(Section 365)

Exercise 37

Change the following into indirect questions:

1 I asked him, 'How much did you pay for your bicycle?'
I asked him how much he ...
2 She asked her guest, 'Do you want tea or coffee?'
She asked her guest if she ...
3 I asked him, 'What's your idea?'
I asked him what his ...
4 We asked them, 'Where are you going?'
We asked them where ...
5 They asked the assistant, 'What's the price of this PC?'
They asked the assistant what ...
6 He asked me, 'Did you ring the bell?'
He asked me if ...
7 The tourist asked us, 'Which is the way to the airport?'
The tourist asked us which ...

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8 The teacher asked me, 'Why are you crying?'
The teacher asked me why ...
9 My father asked me, 'Why are you so late?'
My father asked me why ...
10 She asked me, 'How long does it take to get there?'
She asked me how ...

Double negative (Section 167)

Exercise 38

Rewrite the following sentences correctly:

1 I couldn't find him nowhere.
2 There isn't no one here who knows her name.
3 I didn't see nobody there.
4 He didn't tell me nothing.
5 He isn't neither wise nor good.
6 You will not find the box nowhere.
7 We didn't give him nothing.
8 I don't know nothing.
9 He didn't speak to no one in the room.
10 Nobody never saw him without his stick.

Contractions (Section 377)

Exercise 39

Write the words which each of the following contractions stand for:

1 don't	3 aren't	5 wasn't	7 couldn't	9 we'll
2 doesn't	4 isn't	6 can't	8 haven't	10 you've

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Exercise 40

Write contractions for the following:

1 would not	4 I will	7 it is	9 shall not
2 I am	5 had not	8 will not	10 must not
3 I have	6 he is		

Verbs often confused (Sections 396–454)

Exercise 41

Put **shall or will** in the following:

1 Tomorrow _____ be Sunday.
2 All right, I _____ come.
3 You _____ not leave this room until you finish your work.
4 You _____ find your books on the table.
5 _____ I bring my books with me?
6 He _____ go to school this year.
7 No! I _____ never do that.
8 I _____ write a few letters tomorrow.
9 I _____ do it whether they like it or not.
10 'We _____ be as quiet as mice,' promised the children.

Exercise 42

Use the correct form of **say** or **tell** in the following:

1 He always _____ the truth.
2 Simon _____, 'I'll go tomorrow.'
3 She _____ nothing.
4 They _____ that she is ill.
5 He _____ that he'd go the next day.

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6 I _____ him that I'd go with him.
7 She _____ to me, 'I'm not feeling well.'
8 What's he _____ ing?
9 Don't _____ lies.
10 Amy _____ me that she would go home.

Exercise 43

Use the correct form of **make** or **do** in the following:

1 Some of the best cheeses are _____ in France.
2 He _____ his best to help me.
3 Have you _____ your homework?
4 I have only _____ one mistake.
5 If you take this medicine, it'll _____ you good.
6 _____ whatever you like.
7 What were you _____ing when I came in?
8 Did you _____ your homework carefully?
9 Don't _____ a noise.
10 They often _____ fun of her at school.

Exercise 44

Use the correct form of **lie** or **lay** in the following:

1 I'll go and _____ down.
2 The book was _____ing on the floor.
3 He _____ down to rest.
4 She told the dog to _____ down.
5 The hen has _____ an egg.
6 How long have you _____ in bed?
7 She _____ to the teacher.
8 He ordered his troops to _____ down.
9 I _____ the book on the table.
10 Yesterday she _____ in bed until midday.

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Exercise 45

Use the correct form of **sit, seat,** or **set** in the following:

1 Please _____ down.
2 Please _____ yourself.
3 Please be _____.
4 The sun _____ in the west.
5 The boat will _____ twelve people.
6 The old man was _____ing by the fire.
7 _____ the vase on the table.
8 The dog was _____ing on the chair.
9 The teacher _____ the boys as they came in.
10 I once _____ in that famous chair.

Exercise 46

Use the correct form of **rise** or **raise** in the following:

1 Prices _____ during the war.
2 He promised to _____ her salary.
3 The balloon _____ in the sky.
4 The sun _____ at six o'clock.
5 He _____ his hat to the teacher.
6 The box is too heavy, I can't _____ it.
7 She _____ from her seat and left the room.
8 I _____ very early in the morning.
9 The teacher told him not to _____ his voice.
10 We had _____ from table before she came in.

Exercise 47

Use the correct form of **wear, put on,** or **dress** in the following:

1 She often _____ a green coat.
2 I _____ my coat and went out.
3 The mother _____ the child.
4 She _____ a beautiful dress at the dance.

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5 It takes him a long time to _____ his clothes.
6 He _____ a red tie yesterday.
7 She never _____ brown shoes.
8 Mary _____ herself and went to the party.
9 I'll _____ my new dress at the wedding.
10 When he came in he was _____ing his coat.

Exercise 48

Use the correct form of **let, let go, leave,** or **give up** in the following:

1 _____ your books here.
2 Does your father _____ you go swimming?
3 Please _____ my room.
4 I have _____ music lessons.
5 Where have you _____ your pen?
6 Mother will not _____ me go.
7 His old friends _____ him.
8 Please _____ of my hand.
9 Someone always _____ the door open.
10 _____ me go, too.

Exercise 49

Use a correct form of **fly, flow,** or **flee** in the following:

1 The plane _____ over the city.
2 The birds have _____ north for the summer.
3 He _____ from danger.
4 The water _____ all day.
5 The flies _____ through the window.
6 The Nile _____ into the Mediterranean.
7 He _____ from London to New York.
8 The prisoner has _____ from his guard.
9 Birds _____.
10 The wild horses _____ from the men.

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Exercise 50

Use **hung** or **hanged** in the following:

1 He was found guilty and _____.
2 Mother _____ the clothes up to dry.
3 The picture _____ on the wall.
4 The criminal was _____.
5 She _____ his jacket up.

Exercise 51

Use the correct form of **borrow** or **lend** in the following:

1 May I _____ your pen?
2 Please _____ me your book.
3 From whom did you _____ the money?
4 He'll _____ you his knife.
5 You should avoid _____ing things from others.

Exercise 52

Use the correct form of **steal** or **rob** in the following:

1 They _____ the house and fled.
2 Someone has _____ his money.
3 'I've been _____,' cried the lady.
4 When the bank was _____, the thieves escaped.
5 The cat will _____ the dog's food.

Exercise 53

Use a correct form of **refuse** or **deny** in the following:

1 He _____ to do the work.
2 Clare _____ that she'd seen him.
3 Do you _____ that you broke the window?
4 I _____ to take the money.
5 I asked her to come with us, but she _____.

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Exercise 54

Use a correct form of **learn** or **teach** in the following:

1 She _____ her friends the new game.
2 Will you _____ me how to swim?
3 He _____ his lessons quickly.
4 My teacher _____ me English.
5 Susan wanted to _____ to drive.

Exercise 55

Use the correct form of **win** or **beat** in the following:

1 We were sure to _____.
2 I can _____ him at chess.
3 The trophy was _____ by our school.
4 We've _____ your team several times.
5 We've always _____.

Exercise 56

Use the correct form of **see** or **look** in the following:

1 We can't _____ in the dark.
2 Don't _____ out of the window.
3 Did you _____ that film?
4 When he _____ through the open window, he _____ it on the table.
5 The blind can't _____.

Exercise 57

Use a correct form of **hear** or **listen** in the following:

1 I _____ carefully but _____ nothing.
2 He can't _____ very well.
3 I was _____ing to the music.

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4 The deaf can't _____.
5 Let's _____ to my new CD.

Exercise 58

Use the correct form of **like** or **want** in the following:

1 I _____ to go to Athens next year.
2 Children _____ to play computer games.
3 Do you _____ to come with me for a drive?
4 She always _____ to get up early.
5 Do you _____ to play tennis this afternoon?

Exercise 59

Use a correct form of **read** or **study** in the following:

1 My father _____ *The Times*.
2 The boy is _____ing for the exam.
3 When I finish _____ing geography, I'll _____ the letter.
4 She _____ a lot, but she doesn't _____ for her exams.
5 When the students had _____ the exam paper, they were advised to _____ the questions again.

Exercise 60

Use **fall** or **fell** in the following:

1 Did the child _____ from the chair?
2 The plane _____ into the sea.
3 He _____ down and broke his leg.
4 In winter the leaves _____ from the trees.
5 You'll _____ if you're not careful.

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Exercise 61

In the following sentences, choose the correct word from those in brackets:

1 Who (*discovered, invented*) the telephone?
2 The judge was (*persuaded, convinced*) that the man was guilty.
3 When will the meeting (*take place, take part*)?
4 He (*took, received*) a prize for his success.
5 It's not wise to (*interfere with, interfere in*) family quarrels.
6 He (*is, is found*) at the school in the morning.
7 At what time do you (*sleep, go to bed*)?
8 She didn't (*accept, agree*) to go.
9 How does that man (*win, earn*) his living?
10 Please (*remember, remind*) me to give you the change.

Un-English expressions (Sections 186–222)

Exercise 62

Correct the following sentences, giving the correct idiom:

1 Few people will admit that they have wrong.
2 Every day I put my watch with the school clock.
3 Will there be a game today afternoon?
4 He brought a good example.
5 Slowly, slowly, don't make a noise.
6 The teacher didn't put us a new lesson.

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7 Come down from the bicycle.
8 When do you make your bath?
9 I have much work, I need an hour to finish it.
10 Many young people drink cigarettes.

Misuse of the infinitive (Sections 75–103)

Exercise 63

Put a suitable gerund in the following:

1 Do this without _____ any mistakes.
2 We don't enjoy _____.
3 He succeeded in _____ the door.
4 I can't prevent you from _____.
5 It's no use _____ about everything.
6 She stopped _____ in class.
7 I was busy _____ ready for dinner.
8 It's worth _____ well.
9 I'm thinking of _____ to London next year.
10 It's no use _____ over spilt milk.

Exercise 64

Make sentences of your own, using a gerund after each of the following:

1 avoid	4 finish	7 interested	9 insist
2 instead of	5 tired	8 worth	10 can't help
3 stop	6 prevent		

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The infinitive without *to*
(Sections 321–331)

Exercise 65

Make sentences of your own, using an infinitive after each of the following verbs:

1 can	3 may	5 must	7 make	9 hear
2 could	4 might	6 let	8 see	10 feel

Adverbs

Wrong position of adverbs
(Sections 353–359)

Exercise 66

Rewrite the following sentences, placing the adverbs or adverbial phrases in the right position:

1 I can speak very well English.
2 I like very much music.
3 A beginner can't speak correctly English.
4 The teacher explained very well the problem.
5 Michael recorded with his video camera the concert.
6 He put into his pocket the money.
7 He likes very much tea.
8 She learnt by heart the poem.
9 I received from my aunt a nice present.
10 He shut quickly the book.

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Exercise 67

Correct the following sentences, giving reasons for your corrections:

1 I always am on time.
2 It rains seldom in the desert.
3 We went yesterday there.
4 I'm not enough tall.
5 He begged the teacher to not punish him.
6 I could have not arrived sooner.
7 She will have not finished her work by tomorrow.
8 I prefer usually coffee to tea.
9 They are leaving for London this evening at seven o'clock.
10 Peter yesterday did not come to school.

Adverbs often confused (Sections 455–464)

Exercise 68

Give the correct adverb, **very** or **too**, in these sentences:

1 It's _____ cold today.
2 He's _____ old to work.
3 I can't drink that coffee, it's _____ strong.
4 Sugar is _____ sweet.
5 These trainers are _____ small for me.
6 The Eiffel Tower is _____ high.
7 Concorde flies _____ fast.
8 My little brother is _____ young to go to school.
9 I felt _____ tired to study.
10 He's _____ rich, he's a millionaire.

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Exercise 69

Give the correct adverb, **very** or **much**, in these sentences:

1 I'm _____ sorry that you can't come.
2 I was _____ pleased to meet him.
3 She was _____ frightened of failing in English.
4 It was a _____ amusing game.
5 I feel _____ tired.
6 He plays _____ better than his brother.
7 Her essay is _____ worse than yours.
8 It's a _____ interesting book.
9 I was _____ interested to hear what Becky said.
10 We're _____ surprised at the news.

Exercise 70

Give the correct adverb, **very much** or **too much**, in these sentences:

1 I like oranges _____.
2 Thank you _____.
3 I can't study here, there's _____ noise.
4 £25 is _____ for that book.
5 He ate _____ and felt sick.
6 I was _____ awake when the baby started crying.
7 She talks _____, she's a chatterbox.
8 I'm _____ obliged to you.
9 She was _____ interested in the subject.
10 She helped us _____.

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Exercise 71

Give the correct adverb, **hard** or **hardly**, in these sentences:

1 The country was hit very _____ by the drought.
2 I _____ know how to thank you for your kindness.
3 He's _____ recovered from his illness.
4 If you work _____, perhaps you'll succeed.
5 Think _____ before you come to a decision.

Exercise 72

Make five sentences of your own, using the word **ago**.

Prepositions

Using the wrong preposition (Sections 1–74)

Exercise 73

Fill in the blanks with suitable prepositions:

1 I wasn't pleased _____ her.
2 Cats are afraid _____ dogs.
3 Look _____ this new book.
4 We're proud _____ our country.
5 He feels ashamed _____ his low marks.
6 We arrived _____ the station late.
7 She's very different _____ her sister.
8 Are you satisfied _____ your bicycle?
9 I'm not accustomed _____ life in a hotel.
10 Many people complain _____ their low wages.

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Exercise 74

Rewrite the following sentences, using the correct prepositions:

1 He was accused for lying.
2 I'm surprised from the news.
3 I'm interested for football.
4 Water is composed from oxygen and hydrogen.
5 Are you sure for his honesty.
6 She's very good in English.
7 When is he leaving to England?
8 That depends entirely from you.
9 She was dressed with a yellow dress.
10 He did his best to comply to the requirements.

Exercise 75

Write sentences, using the following words with suitable prepositions:

aim	boast	insist	marry
deprive	die	different	fail
repent	succeed	good	interested
afraid	used	look	satisfied
pleased	ashamed	depend	prefer

Exercise 76

Make sentences of your own, showing clearly the difference between the following:

1 arrive at/arrive in
2 angry with/angry at
3 pleased with/pleased at
4 look at/look for

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5 write with/write in
6 divide in/divide into
7 die of/die from
8 disappointed in/disappointed of
9 sit at/sit on
10 tired of/tired with

Prepositions often confused (Sections 379–395)

Exercise 77

Use **to** or **at** in these sentences:

1 He goes _____ the supermarket every morning.
2 Anne stood _____ the window.
3 Simon is _____ school.
4 I met him _____ the airport.
5 I'm going _____ a party tonight.
6 I enjoyed myself _____ the party.
7 The tourist stayed _____ the Palace Hotel.
8 After his illness, he returned _____ work.
9 I saw Lucy _____ the cinema.
10 Please wait for me _____ the gate.

Exercise 78

Use **in** or **at** in these sentences:

1 There are skyscrapers _____ New York.
2 I live _____ a small village.
3 I spent my childhood _____ Greece.
4 My friend was born _____ Ceylon.
5 He studied _____ Oxford.
6 She lives _____ Luxor _____ Egypt.

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7 It's more expensive living _____ London than _____ Brighton.
8 He lives _____ Paris.
9 Diamonds are found _____ Kimberley _____ South Africa.
10 He lives here _____ Hong Kong.

Exercise 79

Use **in** or **into** in these sentences:

1 The fish swim _____ the river.
2 The man jumped _____ the pool.
3 They were standing _____ the room.
4 We're _____ the classroom now.
5 There's a bird _____ the cage.
6 We walked _____ the next room.
7 The children are playing _____ the field.
8 He poured the water _____ the jug.
9 She dived _____ the sea.
10 The river flows _____ the sea.

Exercise 80

Use **at, in** or **on** in these sentences.

1 He was born _____ 1978.
2 _____ winter the weather is cold.
3 _____ Christmas Day I received a lot of presents.
4 We reached Cairo _____ nine o'clock.
5 The train arrived _____ night.
6 There's a holiday _____ the 11th of December.
7 People return from work _____ five o'clock.
8 _____ July the weather is warm.
9 _____ the afternoon I went for a walk.
10 The train will arrive _____ Tuesday _____ eleven o'clock _____ the morning.

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Exercise 81

Use **between** or **among** in these sentences:

1 The work was shared _____ all of them.
2 He divided the money _____ his three children.
3 He hid _____ the trees.
4 The President walked _____ the two lines of soldiers.
5 _____ all those children, he didn't have a single friend.
6 There was a fight _____ the two gangs.
7 The ball passed _____ the goal posts.
8 We are _____ friends.
9 His subject was 'Life _____ the Eskimos.'
10 The cake was divided _____ the two girls.

Exercise 82

In the following sentences, choose the correct preposition in brackets:

1 He's been ill (*from, since*) last Friday.
2 You've sold your car (*at, for*) a good price.
3 I sold my bicycle (*at, for*) forty pounds.
4 I expect to return (*after, in*) a week.
5 I can wait (*to, till*) next Tuesday.
6 We draw lines (*by, with*) a ruler.
7 She's been absent (*since, for*) a month.
8 They spoke (*for, about*) the weather.
9 He worked (*with, by*) candle light.
10 You can send the parcel (*with, by*) post.

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Exercise 83

Write sentences of your own to show clearly the difference between the following pairs of prepositions:

1 between/among
2 to/till
3 in/into
4 to/at
5 for/at (price)
6 with/by
7 for/since
8 for/about
9 in/within
10 at/in

Omission of prepositions (Sections 223–241)

Exercise 84

Supply the prepositions omitted in the following:

1 Somebody is knocking the door.
2 I'm searching my lost book.
3 He said me, 'I won't come.'
4 She explained the difficult words him.
5 She never listens her mother.
6 I replied his letter at once.
7 Would you like me to send it you?
8 I'm too busy, I can't wait you.
9 I asked his phone number.
10 She pointed the ship in the distance.

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Exercise 85

Make sentences of your own, using suitable prepositions after the following:

1 ask	4 listen	7 search	9 wait
2 explain	5 remind	8 speak	10 wish
3 knock	6 say		

Unnecessary prepositions (Sections 284–300)

Exercise 86

Use each of the following in a separate sentence:

1 answer	4 enter	7 behind	9 outside
2 attack	5 reach	8 inside	10 around
3 approach	6 tell		

Exercise 87

Fill in the blanks with prepositions where necessary:

1 Let's play outside _____ the house.
2 She's searching _____ her Walkman.
3 I waited _____ him outside the cinema.
4 We entered _____ a long discussion.
5 I taught my dog to obey _____ me.
6 He entered _____ the house by the back door.
7 Twins resemble _____ each other.
8 The poor always wish _____ riches.
9 I told _____ him the truth.
10 I promised to write _____ my mother.

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Conjunctions

Miscellaneous examples

Exercise 88

Correct the following sentences, giving reasons for your corrections:

1 The book is neither green or red.
2 He can't speak English and French.
3 It costs two, three pounds.
4 She not only spoke loudly, but also clear.
5 He ate and the three oranges.
6 I counted one hundred seven people.
7 She wants to learn and French.
8 He said that, 'You'll be sorry for it.'
9 I don't know if I'll be able to go.
10 From now and on I will work hard.

Answers to exercise

1 Section 181
2 Section 184
3 Section 275
4 Section 372
5 Section 580
6 Section 274
7 Section 581
8 Section 339
9 Section 178
10 Section 349

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Confusion of parts of speech (Sections 555–584)

Exercise 89

Fill each blank with the correct word: **as** or **like**.

1 Act _____ a gentleman!
2 He does _____ he pleases.
3 She behaved _____ a baby.
4 She looks _____ her mother.
5 Do _____ he does.
6 Play the game _____ she does.
7 He dances _____ Fred Astaire.
8 You walk _____ she does.
9 He acted just _____ the rest.
10 He speaks _____ an Englishman.

Exercise 90

Fill each blank with the correct word: **no** or **not**.

1 I have _____ time to play.
2 She has _____ a good memory.
3 He had _____ reason to be angry.
4 There is _____ enough furniture in this room.
5 Your plan is _____ different from mine.
6 I had _____ patience with him.
7 There were _____ fewer than a thousand people.
8 There is _____ furniture in this room.
9 She has _____ enough money.
10 I want _____ more, thank you.

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Exercise 91

Fill in the blanks with the correct word: **died** or **dead**.

1 Her grandfather is _____.
2 She _____ of old age.
3 The _____ leaves fell from the trees.
4 Her aunt is _____, she _____ many years ago.
5 The soldier _____ for his country.
6 The _____ horse is lying in the field.
7 They _____ a cruel death.
8 The flowers have _____.
9 The soldier _____ from his wounds.
10 Dinosaurs _____ out millions of years ago.

Exercise 92

Fill each blank with the correct word: **it's** or **its**.

1 The bird has broken _____ wing.
2 I fear _____ going to rain.
3 _____ almost nine o'clock.
4 I think _____ yours.
5 The tree will soon lose _____ leaves.
6 _____ time to go home.
7 Every river has _____ source.
8 _____ a long time until Christmas.
9 An animal will often die for _____ young.
10 _____ too late to go now.

Exercise 93

Fill each blank with the correct word: **good** or **well**.

1 Mary did her work _____.
2 She speaks _____ English.
3 I did _____ in the exam.
4 She looks _____ today.

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5 It's _____ to be with friends.
6 He did _____ work.
7 She didn't seem _____.
8 Has he done _____ in his training?
9 I'm quite _____.
10 She speaks very _____.

Exercise 94

Fill each blank with the correct word: **past** or **passed**.

1 The _____ month was wet.
2 He _____ his exam.
3 The ball _____ between the goal posts.
4 The bullet whistled _____ my ear.
5 Several months have _____ since he left.
6 Forget the _____.
7 The plane flew _____.
8 It's half _____ eight.
9 She _____ the salt to the guest.
10 The door was open when I walked _____ .

Exercise 95

Rewrite these sentences, choosing the correct word in brackets:

1 This thing (*is, does*) not worth more than five pounds.
2 (*After, then*) he shut the door and went to bed.
3 He (*is, does*) not able to speak English correctly.
4 Don't be (*fool, foolish*).
5 He's a (*fool, foolish*).
6 Flowers smell (*sweet, sweetly*).
7 She's so proud that she doesn't (*and, even*) greet her friends.
8 The mother (*weighed, weighted*) her baby.
9 I want to learn (*and*) other languages (*too*).
10 Is it (*truth, true*)?

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GENERAL EXERCISE *

* The numbers in the brackets refer to the sections in which the mistakes are explained.

Correct whatever is wrong in the following:

1 Why you are studying the English? (362, 306)
2 John reads good, isn't it? (577, 164)
3 Why you not say the truth? (362, 206)
4 Will I go at the post-office? (396, 379)
5 How to make this problem, sir? (132, 399)
6 Is she more better than me? (340, 153, 137)
7 I've written him last week. (114, 241)
8 I past my time too well to the hotel. (584, 455, 379)
9 Let me to try to do this and me. (326, 581)
10 I have never seen a so good film. (374, 556, 263)
11 He's not ate nothing these two days. (112, 167)
12 When I sleep I take out my shoes. (437, 446)
13 He didn't obeyed to their advices. (104, 292, 514)
14 She's going each morning to the school. (121, 468, 315)
15 He works in the office since five years. (117, 392)
16 How you are going with your piano lessons? (362, 218)
17 Can you to come for dinner today evening? (321, 219)
18 My brother he's found in the first class. (332, 438)
19 It does not worth to say lies about it. (573, 97, 398)
20 I made all which I could for helping him. (399, 145, 165)
21 It's two years now since she left from England. (118, 291)
22 Please return back to shut the light. (342, 208)
23 Avoid to make these sort of mistakes. (86, 545)
24 Myself and my sister will not be present. (141, 378)

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25 He got down from his bicycle and spoke me.
(193, 236)
26 He travelled with the train from the Alexandria.
(13, 301)
27 She wouldn't take fewer than hundred pounds.
(477, 250)
28 The two first pages of my book has been lost.
(373, 554)
29 The knife was laying on the table where I lay it. (400)
30 That punishment will learn him to do not do it again.
(427, 359)
31 You neither work at school or at your house.
(181, 372, 489)
32 I can't understand because he don't speak clear.
(243, 578)
33 The man which you saw him yesterday is very rich.
(144, 336)
34 She said that she's never not gone at London.
(107, 167, 379)
35 I think to go to home for to spend the holidays.
(83, 351, 345)
36 The office is open on the morning at Saturday. (383)
37 It's two years since I began to study the English.
(117, 306)
38 She told that she was at England before three years.
(398, 381, 458)
39 He was angry at me because I said him he has wrong.
(6, 398, 107, 187)
40 When I went to home I found that the money was disappeared. (351, 160)
41 He said to me that he is not satisfied from his teacher.
(398, 107, 59)
42 She told that she can't remember nothing about it.
(398, 107, 167)

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43 I and he intend to leave to England after two weeks. (378, 44, 394)

44 I am knowing the answer but cannot say it in the English. (120, 306)

45 I rang two times, but I could not make no one to hear. (168, 167, 327)

46 They bought a new house when the baby was born which it cost all their savings. (370, 336)

47 When he will return back, I shall say him everything. (126, 342, 398)

48 I am much pleased to inform you that I have reached to this station yesterday. (456, 114, 294)

49 The British Isles are consisted from England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. (301, 19)

50 The English is not only difficult to write it, but also to speak it. (306, 372, 338)

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