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
Common Mistakes in English with Exercises

by T. J. Fitikides, B.A., F.I.L.

Senior English Master
The Pancyprian Gymnasium, Nicosia

Author of Key Words for Easy Spelling
Lessons in Greek-English Translation

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

Longman
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 typefaces 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part</th>
<th>Chapter Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Part 1</td>
<td>Misused forms</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Using the wrong preposition</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Misuse of the infinitive</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Use of the wrong tense</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Miscellaneous examples</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 2</td>
<td>Incorrect omissions</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Omission of prepositions</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 3</td>
<td>Unnecessary words</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unnecessary propositions</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unnecessary articles</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Use of the infinitive</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Miscellaneous examples</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 4</td>
<td>Misplaced words</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wrong position of adverbs</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Miscellaneous examples</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 5</td>
<td>Confused words</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prepositions often confused</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Verbs often confused</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adverbs often confused</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adjectives often confused</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nouns often confused</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Confusion of number</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Confusion of parts of speech</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exercises</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Index</td>
<td>182</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Have another look at...
Prepositions after certain words 14
Use of the gerund 19
Use of certain tenses 27
Negatives 37
Third person singular, simple present 50
Indefinite article 53
Verb TO BE 55
Definite article 68
Questions 79
Correct order of words 82
Use of certain prepositions 88
Use of will and shall 106
Singular and plural 130
Irregular verbs in everyday use
bear to lie 198-199
light to write 200-201

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
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.

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.
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 ashamed) of my teacher, say: I'm shy of my teacher.

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; by 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.
Part 1

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 (i.e. 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.

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).
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.

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.
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).

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.
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 pride in. A craftsman takes 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.

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 in 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.
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, dress 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

67 Suspect of, not for.
   Don't say: I suspect Kate of 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.
Part 1

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.

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.
(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 (¼ 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?

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.
Part 1

Misused forms

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.

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.
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.

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 might 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.
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 as its parts.

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

Don't say: You ought to have 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 completed 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 itself we must use the present perfect tense. When somebody says, I have seen the Parthenon, he or she is not thinking so much of the past act of seeing it, as of the present result of that past action.

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.

119 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.
Part 1

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 had 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.

---

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.*
Part 1

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.)

Misused forms

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.
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, etc. Where 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 conversation: 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.

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 hiself 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 hiself and theirselves.
143 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.

144 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).

145 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.

146 *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 whom: The girl that you were speaking to is Nigerian.

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

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
Part 1

 parentheses. In sentence (b) whom is the object of I saw, do you think is a parentheses.

(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 laugh.** The more we write, the happier our tutor becomes.

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 disappearered 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.
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 rather 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/ill 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?
2. They aren't on holiday, are they?
3. You speak English, don't you?
4. You don't speak French, do you?

(See Exercise 36 on page 154.)

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 is 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 ...
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.*

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).

Misused forms

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.
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.

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 negative 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 and 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 both 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.
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.

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.
Part 1

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

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** 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**.
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.

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.)
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?

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.’
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.

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.
Har a 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.

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 regular 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 nose.

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

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.
Part 2

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.) must have a preposition after it.

Incorrect omissions

Have another look at ...

Verb TO BE

Present Tense I am/am, you are/are, he (she, it) is/are; We, you, they are/are.
Past Tense I was, you were, he (she, it) was; We, you, they were.
Future Tense I, you, he (she, it) will/will; We, you, they will/will.
Present Perfect I, you, have/you been, he (she, it) has/has been; We, you, they have/you been.
Past Perfect I, you, he (she, it) had/had been; We, you, they had/had been.
Future Perfect I, you, he (she, it) will/will have been; We, you, they will/will 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.
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.

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:* It's 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.
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 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*.

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*. 
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.

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.
Unnecessary words

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.

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 Bodecanese, the United States, the Central Provinces of India.
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.

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.
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.

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.

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.)
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.

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 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.
Part 3

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 *beating*.

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.

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 is: *The doctor I know him very well* is also wrong.
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.)

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

For to used instead of to.

Don't say: I came here for to learn English.
✓ Say: I came here to learn English.

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?

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 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.

So ... so that instead of so ... that.

Don't say: I'm so tired so that I can't go.
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 emphasize 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 verb 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.
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.

---

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.

---

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.

---

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.)

---

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.)

---

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,** or **no sooner,** are placed at the beginning of a complete clause, the verb must come before the subject as in a question.
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.

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?
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.

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.
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.

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.
Part 5

(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 into 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.

(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 among two boys.
✓ 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.
Part 5

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 door of the action. The bird was shot by the man.

Note: The 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 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.

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.)
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.

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.)
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 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 noise, to make a bed (= to prepare
   the bed for sleeping on), etc. To do good, to do evil, to do your best, to do

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. (Compare 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, 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.)
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 does not 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.

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 a killing a person or an 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.
Part 5

✓ Say: Philip was angry and tore up the letter.
To tear means to divide along a straight or irregular line, sometimes by
scidem: 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.
(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 or 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.
(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: I 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. Delta persuaded me to take the exam = Delta 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.)

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 from when you can still recognise the original material. We use from when the original materials are unrecognisable. In most cases either is possible.
Part 5

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.

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 pleaded 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.
Part 5

✓ 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. Mona 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).

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.)
437 Sleep for Go to Bed.
  Don't say: I'll sleep early tonight.
✓ Say: I'll go to bed early tonight.
  To go 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.

Confused words

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 realize.

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.
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 of his work. (3) He took no notice of him. (4) No one took care of him during his illness.

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.
Flowed 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 fled 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. Its 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.
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 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.

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
Part 5

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).

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.)
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 emphasizes 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 emphasizes 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.

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.

*His* and *her* are always singular. *Each* (or *every*) one of the twenty
boys has a book.

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 eldest 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.)
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.* Do not use it to mean more. 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, 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.

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 **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**!
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.

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**. **Clean** 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.
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.

(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.
(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.

---

**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 for as of a tree, a man, a dog, etc.

---

**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 clients.

✔ 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.

---

**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.

---

**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**.

---

**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.

---

**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.

---

**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.
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 **individual** 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 general.

507 **Woman for Wife.**

DON'T USE: The man took his woman with him.

✓ SAY: The man took his **wife** with him.

---

**Confused words**

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.
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 individual 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 general.

507 Woman for Wife.
   Don’t use: The man took his woman with him.
✓ Say: The man took his wife with him.

Confused words

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.
Confused words

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 (in large numbers) is always singular. We rarely use the plural form (**fishes**) which denotes fish individually. I caught three small **fishes**.
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.

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.
Confused words

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.
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.

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 is 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.
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 s). She cleaned the table with a cloth. Merchants sell different kinds of clothes.

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.

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.
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.

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 are 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: These 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: 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 in 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.
Confused words

(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 haven’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.

Confusion of parts of speech

555 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.)

556 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.

130
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, 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.

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 is one without courage. The noun 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.)
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).

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.
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: a preposition, We walked past the church: an adverb, The train went past.

(See Exercises 94 and 95 on page 178.)

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.
Exercises

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.
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)
Exercises

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.

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.
Exercises

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.

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)
Exercises

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?
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.

Exercises

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?
Exercises

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.

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 you my 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.
Exercises

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).

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.
Exercises

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.
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.
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 ____.
Exercises

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?

Exercises

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.
Exercises

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 ... 

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.

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
Exercises

Exercise 40
Write contractions for the following:

1. would not
2. I am
3. I have
4. I will
5. had not
6. he is
7. it is
8. will not
9. shall not
10. must not

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.
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.
10. Yesterday she _____ in bed until midday.
Exercises

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 _____ by the fire.
7. _____ the vase on the table.
8. The dog was _____ 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 the 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.
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 _____ 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.
Exercises

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 ______.

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.
Exercises

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.

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.
Exercises

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 an infinitive 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

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.
Exercises

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 much, 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.

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 ______ 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 ______.
Exercises

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.

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>aim</th>
<th>boast</th>
<th>insist</th>
<th>marry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>deprive</td>
<td>die</td>
<td>different</td>
<td>fail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>repent</td>
<td>succeed</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>interested</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>afraid</td>
<td>used</td>
<td>look</td>
<td>satisfied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pleased</td>
<td>ashamed</td>
<td>depend</td>
<td>prefer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
Exercises

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.

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.
Exercises

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.

Exercise 83

Write sentences of your own to show clearly the difference between the following pairs of prepositions:

1. between/among 6. with/by
2. to/till 7. for/since
3. in/into 8. for/about
4. to/at 9. in/within
5. for/at (price) 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.
Exercises

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.

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 5 Section 580 8 Section 339
2 Section 184 6 Section 274 9 Section 178
3 Section 275 7 Section 581 10 Section 349
4 Section 372

174
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.

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.
Exercises

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, another) languages (too).
10 Is it (truth, true)?

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 are you 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)
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)
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)
Index

The numbers refer to sections. Entries in italics show incorrect forms.

A

a, for an, 474
(a(n), wrongly omitted, before singular noun, 247; after to be, 248; after half, 249;
before hundred and thousand, 250; from certain expressions, 251 (note);
wrongly used before work, etc., 320
a day, etc., for one day, etc., 169
a few, for few, 466,
a friend of him, 140
t little, for little, 467
a number, misuse of singular after, 549
a such, 374
able, use of 77 (note); misuse as verb, 574
absorbed at, 1
accept, for agree, 429
according to my opinion, 173
accuse for, 2
accustomed with, 3
Adjective, noun wrongly omitted after, 273; use of, in the plural, 273 (note); not admitting of comparison, 341; position of, 368; misuse of, in the plural, 542 (note);
misuse of for Adverb, 378
Adverb, misplacing of, of

Definite time, 353; of
Indefinite time, 354; of place, 355; with transitive verb, 356
advices, 514
afraid, misused as verb, 575
afraid from, 4
after, for in, 394; for afterwards, etc., 579
after tomorrow, 282
afternoon, wrongly preceded by an, 169
ago, use of, 458
agreement of noun and verb in number, 554
g Agree with, to, 429 (note)
aim against, 5
air, go by, 13 (note); for wind, 509
alarmed at/by, 66 (note)
all, misused as plural, 544
All ... not, 364
all which, all what, 145
almost, position of, 354
also, for either, 183; use of, 581
although ... yet, 350
always, position of, 354
amazed at/by, 66 (note)
among, for between, 385
and, for or, 184; wrongly omitted between numbers, 274; for also or to, 581; for even, 582
and etc., 347

183
and the two, etc., 580
angry, for sorry, 487
angry against, 6
annoyed with, at, 6 (note 2)
answer to, 284
anxious about, for, 7
any, for either, 179; use of, 476
anything which, 145
Apostrophe, position of, with
contractions, 377
appeal to, 180 (note)
appetite, for desire, etc., 513
approach to, 285
arise, use of, 402 (note)
around of, 300 (note)
arive to, 8
arrive in, use of, 8 (note)
Article, wrongly omitted before
a singular noun, 247
as and like, 555
as I think, 173 (note)
as if, or as though, misuse of
Present tense after, 128
as usually, 172.
as well as, misuse of plural
with, 543
ashamed of, misuse of, 9 (note)
ask, for ask for, 223
ask to, 286
astonished at, by, 66 (note)
at, denoting direction, 5 (note)
at, for to, 379
at (price), instead of for, 384
at (time), use of, 383
at and in, (place), 381
at the end, for in the end, 174
attack against, 287
avenge, for take revenge, 414
avoid, misuse of infinitive after,
86
await, use of, 239 (note)
bad at, 36 (note 1)
badly, 517 (note)
be found, for be, 438
be with, for have, 439
beautiful, for handsome, 484
before, wrongly omitted in
comparisons, 263; for ago,
458
before yesterday, 282
begin, often used with gerund
89 (note)
begin from, 343
believe, 297
believe, to, 10
beside and believe in, 10
(note)
beside 386
better, for had better, 278
between, misuse of subject
pronoun after, 138
between and among, 385
bicycle, go on a, 13 (note)
big, for old, 482
billiard, 541
bind to, 69 (note)
boast for, 11
boat, go by, 13 (note)
body, for bodies, 553
borrow and lend, 412
both, misuse of, in negation,
182
breath, 522
bring an example, 209
bring for take, 431
bus, go by or on a, 13 (note)
get on or off a, 193 (note)
by for with, 388; idioms with,
388 (note)
can, third person wrongly used
after 106; for could, in
subordinate clause, 110
can to, 321
can’t help (= can’t avoid),
misuse of infinitive after, 86
(none)
capable of, misuse of infinitive
after, 77
car, go by, or in a, 13 (note)
care for, for take care of, 450
careful for, 12
catch by, 68 (note)
cause of and reason for, 492
center and middle, 494
certain of, 65 (note)
characters, for character, 520
charge with, 2 (note)
church, misuse of article
before, 315
cinema, the wrongly omitted
before, 254
clear, for clean, 486
clever at, 36 (note 1)
client, for customer, 496
cloth and cloths, 538 (note)
clothes, use of, 504; misuse as
singular, 538
come down from a horse, etc.,
193
Comparative, misuse of from
after, 153; for Superlative,
154; omission of other after,
262; double, 340
complain for, 14
comply with, 17 (note)
composed from, 15
compose, of 288
Condition, improbable, 130;
counterfactual/impossible 131
confidence to, 16
come with, 17
correct for, 18
Conjunction, position of, in
time clause, 371; correlative,
372
consider as, 344
consist, wrongly used in the
passive, 19 (note)
consist from, 19
content with, 59 (note)
convince and persuade, 415
correct, for repair, 423
cost, for price, 508
could, for was able to, 426
could to, 322
country, misuse of, 177
covered by, 20
coward, misuse as adjective,
566
cure from, 21
cure (n) for, 21 (note)
custom, for habit, 491
customer and client, 496
cut one’s hair, 214
D
damages, for damage, 518
day, wrongly preceded by a,
169
deal with and deal in, 410
delighted with, 59 (note)
deny, for refuse, 416
depend from, 22
dependent on, 39 (note)
derive from, 23
did, misuse of Past tense after,
104; omission of, in
question, 256
die from illness, 24
die, prepositions with 24 (note)
died, for dead, 568
different than, 25
disappointed from, 26
disappointed in, and disappointed of, 26
discover and invent, 417
disgusted with, 59 (note)
dislike, often used with gerund, 87 (note)
displeased with, 59 (note)
dispose, for dispose of, 224
dissatisfied with, 59 (note)
divide in, into, 27
do, wrongly omitted, in question, 256; as principal verb, 257; for make, 399; idioms with, 399 (note)
do a mistake, 205
do you like, for do you want, 441; for would you like, 441 (note)
does, misuse of third person after, 105
donkey, go on a, 13 (note)
don't for doesn't, 243
Double negative, 167
doubt for, 28
doubtful of, 28 (note)
down, for downstairs, 279
dozens, for dozen, 526; use of, 526 (note)
dream, for dream of, 225
dress, for suit, 504
dress (verb), use of, 406 (note)
dressed with, 29
drink a cigarette, etc., 204
drown, for sink, 432
due to, for because of, 559
dust, for cover with dust, 424
each and every, 468
either ... or, use of, 181
else, wrongly omitted in comparisons, 264
engaged to, 47 (note)
Enjoy, misuse of infinitive after, 87; object of, wrongly omitted, 272
enjoy one's time, 272 (note)
entertained, position of, 357
enter into, for enter, 289; use of, 289 (note)
etc., misuse of, 347 (note)
even, position of, 354
evening, wrongly preceded by an, 169
ever, position of, 354
every, for each, 468
everything which, 145
except, for besides/as well as, 387
exception of, 30
exchange by, 31
excuse, misuse of infinitive after, 88
explain, for explain to, 226
fall from, 32
fall, for fell, 453
far, misuse of, with definite distance, 352
further and further, 473
feed on, 45 (note)
fell, use of, 453 (note)
fetch, use of, 431 (note)
F
few and a few, 466
fewer, use of, 477
fill with, 33 (note)
finger, for toe, 500
finish, misuse of infinitive after, 89
finish from, 290
fire at, 5 (note)
first two, etc., 373
fishes, for fish, 523 (note)
fix, use of, 452 (note)
float, use of, 452 (note)
flow, for flowed, 452
follow a game, etc., 207
food of, misuse of infinitive after, 78
fool and foolish, 558
foot, go on, 13 (note); for leg, 499
for, for about, 391
for and at (price), 384
for this, 277
for to, 345
foreigner, use of, 497 (note)
found, for find 454; use of, 454 (note)
friendly, misused as adverb, 563
from, misuse of, with
  Comparative, 153; for one of, 158; for by, 389; for since, 393; use of, 393 (note)
  from now and on, 349
from where, for where, 346
fruits, for fruit, 524 (note)
full with, 33
fun, wrongly preceded by a, 320
furnitures, 516
further, current use of, 473
Future tense, misuse of, in time clause, 126; in if-clause, 127
G
gain, use of, 421 (note)
Gender, confusion of, 134
Genitive, double, 140; also see Possessive
Gerund, misuse of, 165
get rid from, 34
give an exam, 186
give rid, for get rid of, 224
give up, misuse of infinitive after, 95 (note)
glad from, 35
go for a walk on a bicycle, etc., 191
go on, misuse of infinitive after, 90
go to home, 351
go to sleep, meaning of, 437 (note)
go with the feet, 194
going, for getting on, 218
good, for well, 577
good in, for good at, 36 (note)
  1) meaning of 36 (note 2)
grasp by, 68 (note)
grasses, for grass, 525
great, use of 482 (note)
ground, for floor, 510
grow, meanings of, 408 (note)
grow and grow up, 408
guard from, 37
guilty for, 38
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Index</th>
<th>Index</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>H</strong></td>
<td><strong>L</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>habit and custom, 491</td>
<td>land, go by, 13 (note)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hairs, for hair, 521</td>
<td>last, for latter, 480; for latest, 481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>half, use of 249</td>
<td>lately, for late, 464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hand, for arm, 499</td>
<td>latter, for later, 479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hanged and hung, 405</td>
<td>lay, for lie, 400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hardly, position of, 354; for hard, 459</td>
<td>learn, for teach, 427; for study, 444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>has cold, etc., 189</td>
<td>learn from out, 215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have a good time, 272 (note)</td>
<td>leave for let, 430; for let go, 436; for give up, 447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have difficult in, misuse of infinitive after, 98</td>
<td>leave from, 291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have one's revenge, 414 (note)</td>
<td>leave to a place, 44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have right or wrong, 187</td>
<td>leg, meaning of, 499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have the pleasure of, misuse of infinitive after, 99</td>
<td>lend, for borrow, 412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have work, 188</td>
<td>less, for fewer, 477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>health, wrongly preceded by a, 320</td>
<td>let, for rent, 420; for make (force), 451</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hear, for listen 434</td>
<td>let ... to, 326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hear ... to, 330</td>
<td>lie and lay, 400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>heart, for hearts, 553</td>
<td>life, etc., for lives etc., 553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>high, for tall, 483</td>
<td>lightings, 531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>him, for his, before gerund, 139; in double genitive, 140</td>
<td>like and love, 403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hire, use of, 420 (note)</td>
<td>like, often used with gerund, 87 (note); for want, 441; for as, 555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>his and her, 469</td>
<td>likes me, 180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>himself, 142</td>
<td>listen, for listen to, 228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>history, for story, 490</td>
<td>little and a little, 467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hold by, 68 (note)</td>
<td>little which, 145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>home, for at home, 157; denoting one's country, 489 (note)</td>
<td>live from, 45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>horseback, go on, 13 (note)</td>
<td>look, prepositions with 46 (note)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>look forward to, misuse of infinitive after</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>look to a picture</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>loose</td>
<td>583</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lose weight</td>
<td>216 (note)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>love, for like</td>
<td>403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>luggages</td>
<td>317</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| millions, for million | 527; use of, 527 (note) |
| mind, (object to), misuse of infinitive after | 91 |
| mind, for minds | 553 |
| miser, misused as adjective | 561 |
| money, misused as plural | 534 |
| Moods, wrong sequence of | 162 |
| more good | 156 |
| morning, wrongly preceded by | 169 |
| much, for very | 456; for many | 465 |
| must, third person wrongly used after | 106; past obligation | 113 |
| must to | 325 |

| N |
| nature, misuse of article before | 316 |
| nearly, position of | 354 |
| need an hour, etc. | 197 |
| Negative question, answer to | 166 |
| neither, use of | 182; verb missed after | 363 |
| neither ... or | 181 |
| nervous, for angry | 488 |
| never, position of | 354 |
| news, misused as plural, 535 |
| night, wrongly preceded by a | 169 |
| no, and not | 557 |
| no sooner, verb missed after | 363 |
| Nominative, misuse of, after between | 138 |
| nor, verb misplaced after | 363 |
| not, misplacing of, with compound verb | 358; with negative infinitive | 359 |
| Not everybody | 364, (note) |
| not only, verb misplaced after adjective | 363 |
| not so, for not very | 460 |
| nothing which | 145 |
| Noun, wrongly omitted after adjective | 273 |
| noun/verb homonyms, misuse of | 143 |
| Number, non-agreement of verb in | 554 |

| O |
| obey to | 292 |
| Object, omission of, 270-271; wrong repetition of | 337; with infinitive | 338; direct misplaced, 366; indirect, misplaced | 367 |
| object to, misuse of infinitive after | 80 |
| Objective, misuse of, after to be | 136; after than | 137; before gerund | 139; in double gerundive | 140 |
| often, position of | 354 |
| old, wrongly omitted from age | 276; use of | 482 |
| older and elder | 470 |
| on (time), use of | 383 |
| one, wrongly omitted before hundred and thousand | 250; as demonstrative pronoun | 265; for a or an | 475 |
| one and a half, etc., misuse of | 171 |

| one other | 151 |
| one time | 168 |
| open the light | 208 |
| opened, misused as adjective | 562 |
| opposite from | 48 |
| or, wrongly omitted between numbers | 275 |
| organ, for instrument | 512 |
| other, wrongly omitted after Comparative | 262 |
| others, misused as adjective | 567 |
| ought to, past obligation | 113 |
| outside of | 299 |

| P |
| pain, misused as verb | 572 |
| Participle, unrelated | 163 |
| pass from a place | 49 |
| Passive form, intransitive verb wrongly used in | 160; to be wrongly omitted from | 255 |
| past, for passed | 584; uses of | 584 (note) |
| Past continuous, misuse of | 123; use of | 123 (note) |
| Past Participle, misplacing of | 369 |
| Past perfect, for simple past, 125 |
| Past progressive, see Past continuous |
| Past tense, wrongly used after did | 104; after to | 111; for Past participle | 112; for Present perfect | 115-116; for Past perfect | 124; -d or -ed wrongly omitted from | 244; use of, with ago | 458 (note) |
pay, for pay for, 229
people, meaning of, 506; misuse of as singular, 537
people and peoples, 537 (note)
permission, wrongly preceded by a, 320
persist in, 41 (note)
persuade, for convince, 415; for pursued, 415 (note)
pick and pick up, 409
place, for room, 511
plane, go by, 13 (note)
play, for game, 503
play a film, 213
play with a team, 50
please, for ask, or thank, 425
pleased from, 51
pleased at, use of, 51 (note)
plenty, misused as adjective, 565
Plural, -es or -ies, wrongly omitted from, 245; nouns with irregular, 245 (note); adjective wrongly used in the, 542; misuse of, with language, 546; after the number, 549
poetry, for poem, 501
point, for point to, at, 230
point out, use of, 230 (note)
popular among, 52
Possessive, misuse of, 135; use of, with inanimate objects, 135; (note); misuse of double, 139; ending of, wrongly omitted, 246
practise, misuse of infinitive after, 92
prefer from, 53
preferable to, 53 (note)
Preposition, case after, 138; omission of, indicating time; 258; after infinitive, 259
Present continuous, use of, for near future, 119 (note); misuse of, 120; for habit, 121
Present perfect, for simple past, 114
Present progressive, see Present continuous
Present tense, misuse of, for Present perfect, 117; after a since-clause, 118; for Present continuous, 119; after as if, 128; -s or -es wrongly omitted from third person, 242
presently, for at present, 462
preside in, 54
prevent from, misuse of infinitive after, 81
price, use of, 508
prior to, 64 (note)
progresses, 530
Pronoun, omission of personal, before infinitive, 266
pride or, 55
provide, for provide with, 237 (note)
put, for keep, 449
put on, for wear, 406
put a goal, 210 (note)
put a lesson, 210 (note)
put a mark, 210
put a watch with, 211
put weight, 216
puzzled at/ by, 66 (note)
Q
Question, phrases, 164 (note): do, does, or did wrongly omitted from, 256
quick at, 36 (note)
R
raise, for rise, 402
rarely, verb misplaced after, 363; use of, 463
reach at, 294
read, for study, 443
reason, for cause, 492
Reflexive pronoun, misuse of, 141; use of, 141 (note)
refuse, and deny, 416
rejoice for, 56
related with, 57
relation to, 57 (note)
Relative clause, personal pronoun misused with, 336; misplaced, 370; when enclosed within commas, 370 (note)
rely on, or upon, 22 (note)
remains, for stay, 404
remember, misuse of infinitive after, 93; for remind, 435
remind, for remind of, 231
repent from, 58
repentance for, 58 (note)
replace, for substitute, 422
reply, for reply to, 232
resemblance, use of, 295 (note)
resemble to, 295
rest, misuse as adjective, 560
return back, 342
riches, misuse as singular, 539
ride, for get on, 192
rise and raise, 402
risk, misuse of infinitive after, 94
rob, for steal, 413
round of, 300
S
same, wrong relative after, 148
satisfied from, 59
say and tell, 398
say for say to, 233; idioms with, 398 (note)
say a lie, 206 (note)
say the truth, 206
scarcely, position of, 354; for rarely, 463
scene and scenery, 493
school, misuse of article before, 314
scissors, 536
sea, go by, 13 (note)
search, for search for, 234; meaning of, 234 (note)
seat, for sit, 401
see, for look, 433
see ... to, 328
see a dream, 203
seize by, 68 (note)
seldom, position of, 354; verb misplaced after, 363
senior to, 64 (note)
Sequences of tenses, 107; exceptions to the rule of, 107 (note)
set (verb); idioms with, 401 (note)
shade and shadow, 495
shake with, 72 (note)
shall and will, 396 (note)
shall; for may, 397
Index

share, for share with, 235
sheeps, 528
shiver with, 72 (note)
shocked at/ by, 66 (note)
shoot, for shoot at, 5 (note); for shot, 569
should, use of, 396 (note)
shout at, 5 (note)
shut the light, 208
shy of, use of, 9 (note)
sick, for ill, 485; uses of, 485 (note)
similar with, 60
Simple past, see Past tense
since, and for, 392
Singular, misuse of, with One and parts of One, 547; with collective nouns of plurality, 548; after a number, 549
sit and seat, 401
sit on, for sit at, 61
sleep, for go to bed, 437
slow at, 36 (note 1)
slowly, slowly, 220
small, for young, 482
smith by, 68 (note)
s.o. and such, 556
so ... so that, 348
society, misuse of article before, 317
some, for any, 476
sometimes, position of, 354
soon, position of, 354
sorry, meaning of, 487
sort, misuse of plural before, 545
soul, for souls, 553
speak, for speak to, 236
speak to and speak with, 236 (note)
spend for, 62
stay and remain, 404
steal and rob, 413
stop, misuse of infinitive after, 95
story and history, 490
stranger, for guest, 497
Subject, wrongly omitted from main clause, 268; after a quotation, 269; wrong repeated, 332; in compound sentence, 333; after adjectival clause, 334; after non-finite verb phrase, 335; misplaced, 360; in questions, 361-362; after never, etc., 363; in indirect questions, 365
substitute, for replace, 422
succeed at, 63
succeed in, misuse of infinitive after, 82
succeed to, use of, 63 (note)
such, for so, 556
superior than, 64
Superlative, wrong relative used after, 147; for Comparative, 152; misuse of from after, 390
supply, for supply with, 237
sure for, 65
surprised for, 66
suspect for, 67
suspicious of, 67 (note)
sympathise, for like, 448
T
take, for get, 440; for buy, 445
take an interest in, 42 (note)
take care of, 12 (note)
take from, 68
take out, for take off, 446
take place, and take part, 418
take pleasure in, misuse of infinitive after, 99 (note)
take (a) pride in, 55 (note)
take revenge and avenge, 414
take revenge on, 414 (note)
tall, use of, 483
taxi go by or in a, 13 (note)
tear and tear up, 407
tell, for say, 398; idioms with, 398 (note)
tell to, 296
Tenses, mixing up the, 133
than, misuse of objective after, 137
thank you, misuse of, 283
that, wrongly preceded by comma, 199 (note)
that, misuse of, in direct speech, 339; use of, 478
the, wrongly omitted, before names of nationalities, 252; before names of musical instruments, 253; before cinema, etc., 254; wrongly used with proper nouns, 301-302; with abstract nouns, 303; with material nouns, 304; with plural nouns used in a general sense, 305; with names of languages, 306; with names of meals, 307; with names of games, 308; with names of diseases, 309; with names of colours, 310; with the names of the senses, 311; with names of days and months, 312; with man (mankind), 313; with school, 314; with church, etc., 315; with nature, 316; with society, 317; after whose, 319
the half (year), 375
the more, 155
the most of, 376
the number, misuse of plural after, 549
the other day, for the next day, 170
the reason is because, 176
theatre, for play, 502
themselves, 142
there, wrongly omitted, 260
there is, for there are, 551
there is no harm in, misuse of infinitive after, 103
these kind, etc., 545
think, for think of, 238
think of, misuse of infinitive after, 83
Third person, wrongly used after does, 105: -s or -es wrongly omitted from, 242
this, for that, 478; for these, 550; for it, 550 (note)
this night, 219 (note)
thought ... yet, 350
thousand, a or one omitted from, 250
thousands, for thousand, 527; use of, 527 (note)
throw at, 5 (note)
throw it, for throw it away, 280
thunders, 531
tie on, 69
till, for before or when, 185; for to, 380
tired of, misuse of infinitive after, 84
Index

tired from, 70

to, simple past wrongly used after, 111

to and at, 379

to and till, 380

today morning, etc., 219

too, for either, 183

too, for very, 455

too much, for very much, 457

train, go by, 13; get on or off, 193 (note)

translate to, 71
	ravel, for journey, 498

tavel with the train, etc., 13
	tremble from cold, etc., 72

trouser, etc., 536 (note)

truth, misused as adjective, 564

two first, etc., 373

two times, 168

U

unable, use of, 77 (note)

under the rain, 175

under the shade, 175 (note)

under the sun, 175 (note)

up, denoting completeness, 407 (note)

up, for upstairs, 279

up a tree, 61 (note)

use, misuse of, 122

used to, 3 (note); misuse of infinitive after, 85; use of, 122 (note)

V

value, use of, 508 (note)

verb forms, mixing up, 161

very and too, 455

very and much, 456

very much, use of, 457

vexed with, at, 6 (note 2)

W

wage, for wages, 540

wait, for wait for, 239

warn about, 73

warn against, 73 (note 1)

was, misuse of, after as if or as though, 128 (note); in conditions and wishes, 552 (note)

watch ... to, 329

watch goes behind, etc., 212

weak in, 36 (note)

wear and put on, 406

weight, misused as verb, 576

what, misuse of, after all, 145

what (interrogative), for which, 149; use of, 149 (note)

what have you, for what’s the matter, 221

which, misuse of, for persons, 144; after all etc., 145

who (interrogative), for which, 149

who and whom, relative, 146; interrogative, 150

whose the, 319

will, for would, in subordinate clause, 108; sequence of moods, 162

win, for earn, 421; for beat, 428

wish, misuse of, 129; for wish for, 240

with the exception of, 30 (note)

within, use of, 395

woman, for wife, 507

work, wrongly preceded by a, 320

works, for work, 519; meaning of, 519 (note)

worth, misuse of infinitive after, 97; misused as verb, 573

would, sequence of moods, 162; use of, 396 (note)

wounded, for injured, 472

write, for write to, 241

write with, use of, 74 (note)

write with ink, 74

Y

Yes, or No, 166

yesterday night, 219 (note)

you was, 552

young, use of, 482

196

197
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Past</th>
<th>Past Participle</th>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Past</th>
<th>Past Participle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bear</td>
<td>bore</td>
<td>born(e)</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>fall</td>
<td>fallen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>beat</td>
<td>beat</td>
<td>beaten</td>
<td>feed</td>
<td>fed</td>
<td>felt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>begin</td>
<td>began</td>
<td>begun</td>
<td>feel</td>
<td>felt</td>
<td>felt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bend</td>
<td>beat</td>
<td>bent</td>
<td>fight</td>
<td>fought</td>
<td>fought</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bid</td>
<td>bade</td>
<td>bidden</td>
<td>find</td>
<td>found</td>
<td>found</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bind</td>
<td>bound</td>
<td>bound</td>
<td>flee</td>
<td>fled</td>
<td>fled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bite</td>
<td>bit</td>
<td>bitten</td>
<td>fling</td>
<td>flung</td>
<td>flung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bleed</td>
<td>bled</td>
<td>bled</td>
<td>fly</td>
<td>flew</td>
<td>flown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>blow</td>
<td>blew</td>
<td>blown</td>
<td>forget</td>
<td>forgot</td>
<td>forgotten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>break</td>
<td>broke</td>
<td>broken</td>
<td>froze</td>
<td>froze</td>
<td>frozen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bring</td>
<td>brought</td>
<td>brought</td>
<td>get</td>
<td>got</td>
<td>got</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>build</td>
<td>built</td>
<td>build</td>
<td>give</td>
<td>gave</td>
<td>given</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>burn</td>
<td>burnt</td>
<td>burnt</td>
<td>go</td>
<td>went</td>
<td>gone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>burst</td>
<td>burst</td>
<td>burst</td>
<td>grind</td>
<td>ground</td>
<td>ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>buy</td>
<td>bought</td>
<td>bought</td>
<td>grow</td>
<td>grew</td>
<td>grown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>catch</td>
<td>caught</td>
<td>caught</td>
<td>hang</td>
<td>hung</td>
<td>hung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>choose</td>
<td>chose</td>
<td>chosen</td>
<td>hear</td>
<td>heard</td>
<td>heard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>come</td>
<td>came</td>
<td>come</td>
<td>hide</td>
<td>hid</td>
<td>hidden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cost</td>
<td>cost</td>
<td>cost</td>
<td>hit</td>
<td>hit</td>
<td>hit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>creep</td>
<td>crept</td>
<td>crept</td>
<td>hold</td>
<td>held</td>
<td>held</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cut</td>
<td>cut</td>
<td>cut</td>
<td>hurt</td>
<td>hurt</td>
<td>hurt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>deal</td>
<td>dealt</td>
<td>dealt</td>
<td>keep</td>
<td>kept</td>
<td>kept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dig</td>
<td>dug</td>
<td>dug</td>
<td>knew</td>
<td>kneel</td>
<td>kneel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do</td>
<td>did</td>
<td>done</td>
<td>lay</td>
<td>laid</td>
<td>laid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>draw</td>
<td>drew</td>
<td>drawn</td>
<td>lead</td>
<td>led</td>
<td>led</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dream</td>
<td>dreamed</td>
<td>dreamt</td>
<td>leave</td>
<td>left</td>
<td>left</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drink</td>
<td>drank</td>
<td>driven</td>
<td>lend</td>
<td>lent</td>
<td>lent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drive</td>
<td>drove</td>
<td>dwelt</td>
<td>let</td>
<td>let</td>
<td>let</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dwell</td>
<td>dwelt</td>
<td>eaten</td>
<td>lie</td>
<td>lay</td>
<td>lain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Irregular verbs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Past</th>
<th>Past Participle</th>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Past</th>
<th>Past Participle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>light</td>
<td>lit</td>
<td>lit</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>smell</td>
<td>smelt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lose</td>
<td>lost</td>
<td>lost</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>sow</td>
<td>sown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>make</td>
<td>made</td>
<td>made</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>speak</td>
<td>spoken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mean</td>
<td>meant</td>
<td>meant</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>spell</td>
<td>spelt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>meet</td>
<td>met</td>
<td>met</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>spell</td>
<td>spent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pay</td>
<td>paid</td>
<td>paid</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>spread</td>
<td>spread</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>put</td>
<td>put</td>
<td>put</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>spring</td>
<td>sprung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>read</td>
<td>read</td>
<td>read</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>stand</td>
<td>stood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ride</td>
<td>rode</td>
<td>ridden</td>
<td></td>
<td>steal</td>
<td>stolen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ring</td>
<td>rang</td>
<td>run</td>
<td></td>
<td>stuck</td>
<td>stuck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rise</td>
<td>rose</td>
<td>run</td>
<td></td>
<td>stuck</td>
<td>stuck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>run</td>
<td>ran</td>
<td>run</td>
<td></td>
<td>struck</td>
<td>struck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>say</td>
<td>said</td>
<td>said</td>
<td></td>
<td>strive</td>
<td>striven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>see</td>
<td>saw</td>
<td>seen</td>
<td></td>
<td>swear</td>
<td>sworn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>seek</td>
<td>sought</td>
<td>sought</td>
<td></td>
<td>sweep</td>
<td>swept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sell</td>
<td>sold</td>
<td>sold</td>
<td></td>
<td>sweep</td>
<td>swept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>send</td>
<td>sent</td>
<td>sent</td>
<td></td>
<td>swing</td>
<td>swum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set</td>
<td>set</td>
<td>set</td>
<td></td>
<td>swing</td>
<td>swum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sew</td>
<td>sewed</td>
<td>sewn</td>
<td></td>
<td>take</td>
<td>swung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shake</td>
<td>shook</td>
<td>shaken</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>taught</td>
<td>taught</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shed</td>
<td>shed</td>
<td>shed</td>
<td></td>
<td>tore</td>
<td>torn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shine</td>
<td>shone</td>
<td>shone</td>
<td></td>
<td>told</td>
<td>told</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shoot</td>
<td>shot</td>
<td>shot</td>
<td></td>
<td>thought</td>
<td>thought</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>show</td>
<td>showed</td>
<td>shown</td>
<td></td>
<td>threw</td>
<td>thrown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shrink</td>
<td>shrank</td>
<td>shrinked</td>
<td></td>
<td>thrust</td>
<td>thrust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shut</td>
<td>shut</td>
<td>shut</td>
<td></td>
<td>thrust</td>
<td>thrust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sing</td>
<td>sang</td>
<td>sung</td>
<td></td>
<td>wake</td>
<td>woken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sink</td>
<td>sank</td>
<td>sunk</td>
<td></td>
<td>wear</td>
<td>worn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sit</td>
<td>sat</td>
<td>sat</td>
<td></td>
<td>weep</td>
<td>wept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sleep</td>
<td>slept</td>
<td>slept</td>
<td></td>
<td>win</td>
<td>won</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>120</td>
<td>wound</td>
<td>wound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>wrote</td>
<td>written</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Common Mistakes in English
T. J. Fitikides

Get it right every time!