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1. Subject–Verb Agreement

Incorrect: He go to school every day.

Correct: He goes to school every day.

In present simple, singular third-person subjects (he, she, it) usually take a verb with -s/-es. Always match the verb form to the subject.

2. Forgetting the Third-Person “s”

Incorrect: She walk to work.

Correct: She walks to work.

When the subject is he, she, or it in the present simple, add “s” or “es” to the verb: lives, goes, watches.

3. Wrong Past Tense Form

Incorrect: I seen her yesterday.

Correct: I saw her yesterday.

Use the correct past form of irregular verbs (go → went, see → saw, buy → bought). Check a list of irregular verbs and review them often.

4. Present Perfect vs. Present Continuous

Incorrect: I am living here since 2020.

Correct: I have lived here since 2020.

Use present perfect (have/has + past participle) for actions that started in the past and continue to now with “since” or “for”.

5. Missing Auxiliary in Questions

Incorrect: Where he lives?

Correct: Where does he live?

In most present simple questions, use “do/does” before the subject, then the base verb: Where do you live? What does she want?

6. Wrong Question Word Order

Incorrect: You are going where?

Correct: Where are you going?

In wh- questions with “be”, the order is: question word + be + subject: Where are they?
Why is he late?

7. Double Negatives

Incorrect: I don't know nothing.

Correct: I don't know anything.

In standard English, use only one negative word. Combine “do not / do n't” with words like anything, anyone, ever.

8. Using “a/an/the” Incorrectly

Incorrect: I want to be engineer.

Correct: I want to be an engineer.

Use “a/an” with singular countable nouns (a job, a car) and “the” for specific or unique things (the sun, the doctor we met).

9. Missing “the” Before Some Country Names

Incorrect: I study in UK.

Correct: I study in the UK.

Use “the” with country names that include words like kingdom, states, or republic: the United Kingdom, the United States, the Czech Republic.

10. Using “the” Before General Nouns

Incorrect: I like the dogs in general.

Correct: I like dogs in general.

When you speak about things in general, do not use “the”: I like coffee, Dogs are friendly, People need sleep.

11. Countable vs. Uncountable Nouns

Incorrect: I have many informations.

Correct: I have a lot of information.

Words like information, advice, furniture, luggage are uncountable. Do not use plurals or “many”; use “much” or “a lot of”.

12. Incorrect Plural Forms

Incorrect: I saw two childs.

Correct: I saw two children.

Some nouns have irregular plurals (child → children, person → people, foot → feet). Memorise the most common irregular forms.

13. Wrong Preposition “in/on/at” for Place

Incorrect: I am in the bus.

Correct: I am on the bus.

Use “in” for enclosed spaces (in a room), “on” for surfaces and transport (on the table, on the bus), and “at” for specific points (at school).

14. Wrong Preposition for Time

Incorrect: I will see you in Monday.

Correct: I will see you on Monday.

Use “on” with days and dates (on Monday, on 5 May), “in” with months and years (in June, in 2026), and “at” with clock times (at 7 o'clock).

15. Wrong Preposition After Common Verbs

Incorrect: It depends of the weather.

Correct: It depends on the weather.

Learn verb + preposition combinations as chunks: depend on, listen to, talk about, wait for, interested in.

16. Misplacing Frequency Adverbs

Incorrect: I go always to the gym.

Correct: I always go to the gym.

Adverbs of frequency (always, usually, often, never) usually go before the main verb but after “be”: I always eat; She is always late.

17. Confusing “he” and “she”

Incorrect: My sister is funny. He makes me laugh.

Correct: My sister is funny. She makes me laugh.

If your language has one pronoun for he/she, take extra time to connect the correct English pronoun to the person's gender when you speak.

18. Using “I” and “me” Incorrectly

Incorrect: Me and my friend went to the cinema.

Correct: My friend and I went to the cinema.

Use “I” as the subject before the verb (I went) and “me” as the object (He called me). Put the other person first: my friend and I.

19. Leaving Out the Subject

Incorrect: Is raining.

Correct: It is raining.

English almost always needs a subject. For weather, time, and distance use “it”: It's cold, It's 5 o'clock, It's far.

20. Using “will” After “if”

Incorrect: If it will rain, I will stay home.

Correct: If it rains, I will stay home.

In first conditional sentences, use present simple after “if” and “will” in the main clause: If it rains, we will cancel the trip.

21. Using “would” in Both Parts of a Conditional

Incorrect: If I would have more time, I would travel.

Correct: If I had more time, I would travel.

In second conditional sentences, use past simple after “if” and “would” in the main clause: If I had money, I would buy a car.

22. Overusing Present Continuous

Incorrect: I am knowing the answer.

Correct: I know the answer.

Some verbs (know, like, want, need, believe) are usually not used in continuous form. Use present simple for these states and feelings.

23. Using “can” for Past Ability

Incorrect: When I was a child, I can swim.

Correct: When I was a child, I could swim.

Use “could” for general ability in the past: I could run fast when I was young. Use “was able to” for a specific successful action.

24. Using “must” Instead of “have to” for Rules

Incorrect: In my company, we must wear a uniform.

Correct: In my company, we have to wear a uniform.

“Must” often expresses personal obligation or strong opinion. For external rules (company, law), “have to” is usually more natural.

25. Confusing “say” and “tell”

Incorrect: He said me that he was tired.

Correct: He told me that he was tired.

Use “say” without a person (He said something) and “tell” with a person (He told me something). Remember: tell + someone.

26. Confusing “borrow” and “lend”

Incorrect: Can you borrow me your book?

Correct: Can you lend me your book?

You borrow something from someone and lend something to someone: I borrowed a book from her; She lent a book to me.

27. Confusing “do” and “make”

Incorrect: We did a big party last week.

Correct: We had a big party last week.

Use “make” for creating or producing (make a cake, make a plan) and “do” for activities and tasks (do homework, do exercise). Learn common collocations.

28. Confusing “fun” and “funny”

Incorrect: The movie was very fun, I couldn't stop laughing.

Correct: The movie was very funny, I couldn't stop laughing.

“Fun” means enjoyable; “funny” means it makes you laugh. A rollercoaster is fun, a comedian is funny.

29. Confusing “actually” and “currently”

Incorrect: I am actually working in a bank.

Correct: I am currently working in a bank.

“Actually” means in fact or to correct information. “Currently” means now, at the moment. Use “currently” to talk about your present situation.

30. Wrong Preposition with “interested”

Incorrect: I am interested on history.

Correct: I am interested in history.

After “interested”, use “in”: interested in music, interested in learning English, interested in technology.

31. Using “people is” Instead of “people are”

Incorrect: People is very friendly here.

Correct: People are very friendly here.

“People” is plural in English, so it takes a plural verb: People are, Many people are, Some people think.

32. Making “informations” and “advices” Plural

Incorrect: He gave me many advices and informations.

Correct: He gave me a lot of advice and information.

Advice and information are uncountable. To talk about one piece, say “a piece of advice” or “a piece of information”.

33. Using “more better” Double Comparative

Incorrect: This option is more better.

Correct: This option is better.

Use either “more” or “-er”, not both. Say “more interesting” or “easier”, but not “more easier”.

34. Saying “very better” Instead of “much better”

Incorrect: My English is very better now.

Correct: My English is much better now.

Use “much” (or “a lot”) with comparatives: much better, a lot easier, much more expensive.

35. Using “because” and “so” Together

Incorrect: Because it was late, so I went home.

Correct: Because it was late, I went home. / It was late, so I went home.

Use either “because” to give a reason or “so” to show result, but not both in the same clause pair.

36. Run-On Sentences Without Punctuation

Incorrect: I woke up I had breakfast I went to work.

Correct: I woke up, had breakfast, and went to work.

Separate ideas with commas and conjunctions (and, but, because) or use full stops. Avoid very long sentences without clear connections.

37. Confusing “too” and “very”

Incorrect: The test was too easy, I got a high score.

Correct: The test was very easy, I got a high score.

“Too” often has a negative meaning (more than needed): too hot, too difficult. Use “very” for strong but not negative meaning: very easy.

38. Using “too” Instead of “either” in Negatives

Incorrect: I don't like coffee too.

Correct: I don't like coffee either.

In negative sentences, use “either” at the end: I don't like it either. Use “too” mainly in positive sentences: I like it too.

39. Wrong Order of Adjectives

Incorrect: She has a red small car.

Correct: She has a small red car.

The typical order is: opinion, size, age, shape, colour, origin, material, noun (a nice small old round white Italian marble table).

40. Using “more” with Short Adjectives

Incorrect: This task is more easy.

Correct: This task is easier.

For most one-syllable adjectives, add “-er” (fast → faster, long → longer). Use “more” with longer adjectives (more beautiful, more convenient).

41. Using “is” After Modal Verbs

Incorrect: He can is very fast.

Correct: He can be very fast.

After modal verbs (can, could, should, will, must), use the base form of the verb: can be, should go, will see, must study.

42. Using “to” After Modal Verbs

Incorrect: You must to finish this today.

Correct: You must finish this today.

Do not use “to” after modal verbs: must finish, can go, should try. Use “have to” when you need “to”: You have to finish this today.

43. Using “very much” Before the Verb

Incorrect: I very much like English.

Correct: I like English very much.

In everyday English, put “very much” after the object: I like it very much. Formal style “I very much like” is possible but less common in speech.

44. Using Gerund Instead of Infinitive (or Vice Versa)

Incorrect: I enjoy to read books.

Correct: I enjoy reading books.

Some verbs take -ing (enjoy doing, avoid eating), others take to + verb (want to go, need to study). Learn common patterns with examples.

45. Incorrect Word Order with Time Expressions

Incorrect: I tomorrow will visit my parents.

Correct: I will visit my parents tomorrow.

Time expressions like tomorrow, next week, last year usually go at the end of the sentence or at the beginning: Tomorrow I will..., I will ... tomorrow.

46. Overusing “very” Instead of Strong Adjectives

Incorrect: The movie was very very good.

Correct: The movie was excellent.

Instead of adding “very” many times, use a stronger adjective: very good → excellent, very bad → terrible, very big → enormous.

47. Confusing “few” and “a few”

Incorrect: I have few friends, so I am happy.

Correct: I have a few friends, so I am happy.

“Few” is negative (not many, almost none). “A few” is positive (some, enough). The same with “little” and “a little” for uncountable nouns.

48. Confusing “listen” and “hear”

Incorrect: I hear music every morning on the bus.

Correct: I listen to music every morning on the bus.

“Hear” is passive (sounds come to your ears). “Listen (to)” is active (you pay attention). Listen to music, listen to the teacher.

49. Direct Translation of Idioms

Incorrect: I am in the blood with him. (direct translation)

Correct: I am very angry with him.

Many idioms cannot be translated word-for-word from your language. Learn common English expressions in context and avoid literal translations.

50. Using Native-Language Word Order

Incorrect: Very I like this book.

Correct: I like this book very much.

English word order is usually subject + verb + object. Try to think in English and build sentences using this basic pattern.