



# Most Annoying Grammar Mistakes in English

by Karen Bond

Which of the following grammar mistakes annoys you the most?

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## 1. Third conditional

**"If I would have known** about the party, I would have gone to it."

This is INCORRECT, although commonly used, especially in American English.

The correct form is:

If + had + past participle, would + have + past participle

\* "If I **had** known about the party, I would have gone."

This is CORRECT.

## 2. Don't vs Doesn't

**"He don't** care about me anymore."

This is INCORRECT.

**Doesn't, does not, or does** are used with the **third person singular** - words like **he, she, and it**.

**Don't, do not, or do** are used for other subjects.

\* "He **doesn't** care about me anymore."

This is CORRECT.

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### 3. Bring vs Take

"When we **go to the party** on Saturday, let's **bring** a bottle of wine."

This is INCORRECT.

When you are viewing the movement of something from the point of arrival, use "bring":

\* "When you **come** to the party, please **bring** a bottle of wine."

This is CORRECT.

When you are viewing the movement of something from the point of departure, use "take":

\* "When we **go** to the party, let's **take** a bottle of wine."

This is CORRECT.

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### 4. Fewer vs Less

Sign at the checkout of a supermarket: "**Ten items or less**".

This is INCORRECT.

You can count the items, so you need to use the number word "fewer". These nouns are *countable*.

\* "Ten items or **fewer**."

This is CORRECT.

If you can't count the substance, then you should use "less". These nouns are *uncountable*.

\* "You should eat **less** meat."

This is CORRECT.

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### 5. However

"We were supposed to go to the dance last night, **however**, it was cancelled because of lack of interest."

This is INCORRECT.

A semicolon, rather than a comma, should be used to link these two complete sentences:

\* "We were supposed to go to the dance last night; **however**, it was cancelled because of lack of interest."

This is CORRECT.

It should be noted that there ARE situations in which you can use a comma instead of a semi-colon:

\* "The match at Wimbledon, **however**, continued despite the bad weather."

This is CORRECT.

There is only one complete sentence in this example. It is not a compound sentence.

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## 6. Have vs Of

"I never **would of thought** that he'd behave like that."

This is INCORRECT.

It should be **would have**:

\* "I never **would have/would've** thought that he'd behave like that."

This is CORRECT.

It's the same for **should** and **could**:

"He **should of** come with me."

This is INCORRECT.

\* "He **should have/should've** come with me."

This is CORRECT.

"She **could of** had anything she wanted."

This is INCORRECT.

\* "She **could have** had anything she wanted."

This is CORRECT.

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## 7. Double negative

"I'm **not** speaking to **nobody** in this class."

This is INCORRECT.

Since 'not' is a negative, you cannot use 'nobody' in this sentence:

\* "I'm **not** speaking to **anybody** in this class."

This is CORRECT.

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## 8. Present perfect

"He **has took** the train."

This is INCORRECT.

The correct form for the present perfect is:

would + have + **past participle**

\* "He has **taken** the train."

This is CORRECT.

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## 9. Went vs Gone

"I **should have went** to school yesterday."

This is INCORRECT.

The correct form is:

should + have + **past participle**

\* "I should have **gone** to school yesterday."

This is CORRECT.

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## 10. Its vs It's

"**Its** going to be sunny tomorrow."

This is INCORRECT.

**It's** is the contraction of It is:

\* "**It's** going to be sunny tomorrow."

This is CORRECT.

"What's that? I can't remember **it's** name."

This is INCORRECT.

**Its** is a possessive pronoun that modifies a noun:

\* "What's that? I can't remember **its** name."

This is CORRECT.

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Which of these grammar mistakes annoys you the most?

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## What's your Pet Peeve?

Do you have a pet peeve? Email me with the grammar mistake that annoys you the most, and I will add it to the list: [teacherkarenb@hotmail.com](mailto:teacherkarenb@hotmail.com).

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