

**BOOK 2**

# COMMON ENGLISH MISTAKES



## EXPLAINED WITH EXAMPLES

**OVER 300 MISTAKES ALMOST STUDENTS  
MAKE AND HOW TO AVOID THEM  
IN LESS THAN 5 MINUTES A DAY**



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**Common English Mistakes Explained With Examples**

*Over 300 Mistakes Almost Students Make and How To Avoid Them In Less  
Than 5 Minutes A Day (Book 2)*

**-- By Rachel Mitchell --**

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## Introduction

English mistakes are the things most learners make in study and practice. Learning the most typical mistakes may help students build considerable confidence, become error-free, and successful in using English.

The book is well designed and written by an experienced teacher who has been teaching English for more than 20 years to make sure that all the mistakes inside are the most typical and useful for students at each level.

As the author of this book, I believe that this book will be an indispensable reference and trusted guide for you who may want to learn from the most common mistakes in English vocabulary and grammar, so they could use English in a correct but natural way. Once you read this book, I guarantee you that you will have learned an extraordinarily wide range of useful, and practical English mistakes that will help you become a successful English learner, particularly in examinations such as Cambridge FCE, CAE, CPE, and IELTS; as well as you will even become a successful English user in work and in life within a short period of time only.

Thank you for downloading the book “*Common English Mistakes Explained With Examples: Over 300 Mistakes Almost Students Make and How To Avoid Them In Less Than 5 Minutes A Day (Book 2).*”

Let's get started!

## Over Top 300 Mistakes Almost Students Make and How to Avoid Them

We say **much/far younger than**, (NOT ~~very~~ younger than).

He's much/far younger than I am. (*Don't say: He's ~~very~~ younger than I am.*)

Her husband is much/far older than she is. (*Don't say: Her husband is ~~very~~ older than she is.*)

Chinese is much/far more difficult than French. (*Don't say: Chinese is ~~very~~ more difficult than French.*)

We say **a journey**, (NOT ~~a~~ travel). **Travel** is uncountable.

We had a long journey through the mountains. (*Don't say: We had a long ~~travel~~ through the mountains.*)

We had a long journey by coach from the north to the south of the country. (*Don't say: We had a long ~~travel~~ by coach from the north to the south of the country.*)

I wish you a good journey! (*Don't say: I wish you a good ~~travel~~!*)

We say **a loaf of bread**, (NOT ~~a~~ bread). **Bread** is uncountable.

She bought a loaf of bread. (*Don't say: She bought ~~a~~ bread.*)

She taught me how to make a loaf of bread. (*Don't say: She taught me how to make ~~a~~ bread.*)

We say **a piece of equipment**, (NOT ~~an~~ equipment). Equipment is uncountable.

I bought a piece of equipment for my kitchen. (*Don't say: I bought ~~an~~ equipment for my kitchen.*)

The surface area of a desk is occupied by a piece of equipment. (*Don't say: The surface area of a desk is occupied by ~~an~~ equipment.*)

Describe a piece of equipment in your home. (*Don't say: Describe ~~an~~ equipment in your home.*)

We say **a piece of furniture**, (NOT ~~a furniture~~). Furniture is uncountable.

This sofa is a piece of furniture. (*Don't say: This sofa is ~~a furniture~~*).

I bought a piece of furniture at the store. (*Don't say: I bought ~~a furniture~~ at the store*).

A chair is a piece of furniture for one person to sit on. (*Don't say: A chair is ~~a furniture~~ for one person to sit on*).

We say **a piece of information**, (NOT ~~an information~~). Furniture is uncountable.

He brought me a piece of information. (*Don't say: He brought me ~~an information~~*).

A rumor is a piece of information that has not been verified. (*Don't say: A rumor is ~~an information~~ that has not been verified*).

His telephone number is a piece of information. (*Don't say: His telephone number is ~~an information~~*).

We say **a piece of advice**, (NOT ~~an advice~~). Furniture is uncountable.

He gave me a piece of advice. (*Don't say: He gave me ~~an advice~~*).

Let me give you a piece of advice. (*Don't say: Let me give you ~~an advice~~*).

We say **a fact**, (NOT ~~a knowledge~~). Knowledge is uncountable.

Baldness is a fact of life for men. (*Don't say: Baldness is ~~a knowledge~~ of life for men*).

I know for a fact that he was lying. (*Don't say: I know for ~~a knowledge~~ that he was lying*).

It is a fact that the Internet makes people's lives become more convenient. (*Don't say: It is ~~a knowledge~~ that the Internet makes people's lives become more convenient*).

We say **a piece of luck**, (NOT ~~a luck~~). Luck is uncountable.

What a piece of luck! (*Don't say: What ~~a luck~~!*).

A piece of luck happened to him. (*Don't say: ~~A~~luck happened to him*).

We say **piece of luggage**, (NOT **a luggage**). Luggage is uncountable.

A piece of luggage carried on top of a coach. (*Don't say: ~~A~~luggage carried on top of a coach*).

Wherever Peter goes, he leaves a piece of luggage behind. (*Don't say: ~~Wherever~~ Peter goes, he leaves ~~a~~luggage behind*).

At the airport she realized that she had left a piece of luggage at home. (*Don't say: ~~At the airport~~ she realized that she had left ~~a~~luggage at home*).

We say **a piece of news**, (NOT **a news**). News is uncountable.

I have a piece of news to tell you. (*Don't say: I have ~~a~~news to tell you*).

I just read a piece of news about lung cancer on the website [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk). (*Don't say: I just read ~~a~~news about lung cancer on the website [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk)*).

We say **an experiment**, (NOT **a research**). Research is uncountable.

We carried out an experiment. (*Don't say: We carried out ~~a~~research*).

A scientist performed an experiment on mice. (*Don't say: A scientist performed ~~a~~research on mice*).

We say **a piece of rubbish**, (NOT **a rubbish**). Rubbish is uncountable.

He picked up a piece of rubbish and put it in the trash can. (*Don't say: He picked up ~~a~~rubbish and put it in the trash can*).

We pick up a piece of rubbish floating by the roadside. (*Don't say: We pick up ~~a~~rubbish floating by the roadside*).

Everyone can pick up a piece of rubbish every day. (*Don't say: Everyone can pick up ~~a~~rubbish every day*).

We say **a job**, (NOT **a work**). Work is uncountable.

She has applied for a job at a department store. (*Don't say: She has applied for ~~a~~work at a department store*).



Tom graduated last year but he still can't find a job. (*Don't say: Tom graduated last year but he still can't find ~~a work~~.*)

We say **her hair is**, (NOT her ~~hair are~~). Hair is uncountable.

Her hair is very bright and golden. (*Don't say: Her hair ~~are~~ very bright and golden.*)

His hair is naturally curly. (*Don't say: His hair ~~are~~ naturally curly.*)

Her hair is very long. (*Don't say: Her hair ~~are~~ very long.*)

We say **good health**, (NOT ~~a~~ good health). Health is uncountable.

I hope you are in good health. (*Don't say: I hope you are in ~~a~~ good health.*)

My father has continued to enjoy good health in his old age. (*Don't say: My father has continued to enjoy ~~a~~ good health in his old age.*)

We say **some of the students/ some students**, (NOT ~~some of students~~).

Some of the students were late for school. (*Don't say: ~~Some of students~~ were late for school.*)

Some students took their own handwritten notes on the lectures. (*Don't say: ~~Some of students~~ took their own handwritten notes on the lectures.*)

Some of the workers tried to talk to their bosses about being treated more fairly. (*Don't say: ~~Some of workers~~ tried to talk to their bosses about being treated more fairly.*)

Some workers do these tasks for her. (*Don't say: ~~Some of workers~~ do these tasks for her.*)

We say **each of my students/ each of the students/ each student**, (NOT ~~each my students/ each of students~~).

Each of his students has a different assignment to complete. (*Don't say: ~~Each his students/ each of students~~ has a different assignment to complete.*)

Each student has a different assignment to complete. (*Don't say: ~~Each of students~~ has a different assignment to complete.*)

Each of the students has a different assignment to complete. (*Don't say: ~~Each of students~~ has a different assignment to complete*).

We use **for** (NOT **during**) to say how long something lasts.

I have studied Japanese for 2 months. (*Don't say: I have studied Japanese ~~during~~ 2 months*).

I am on vacation for 3 weeks. (*Don't say: I am on vacation ~~during~~ 3 weeks*).

It hasn't rained for six months. (*Don't say: It hasn't rained ~~during~~ six months*).

We use **how + adjective/adverb + subject + verb**, (NOT **how + subject + verb + adjective/adverb**).

How beautiful she is! (*Don't say: ~~How she is beautiful!~~*).

How excellent you are! (*Don't say: ~~How you are excellent!~~*).

How hot the weather is! (*Don't say: ~~How the weather is hot!~~*).

We use **such a/an (+ adjective) + singular countable noun**, (NOT **a/an such (+ adjective) + singular countable noun**).

It's such a beautiful day. (*Don't say: It's ~~a-such~~ beautiful day*).

She's such a beautiful girl. (*Don't say: She's ~~a-such~~ beautiful girl*).

I've never seen such a wonderful sunset. (*Don't say: I've never seen ~~a-such~~ wonderful sunset*).

We use **such (+ adjective) + uncountable/plural noun**, (NOT **such a/an (+ adjective) + uncountable/plural noun**).

I've never seen such good things. (*Don't say: I've never seen ~~such a~~ good things*).

They are such nice people. (*Don't say: They are ~~such a~~ nice people*).

They're such friendly people that everyone likes them. (*Don't say: They're ~~such a~~ friendly people that everyone likes them*).

We use **hope/expect + to infinitive** (NOT **hope/expect + V-ing**).

I expect to read this book. (*Don't say: I expect ~~reading~~ this book*).

I hope to pass the exam. (*Don't say: I hope ~~passing~~ the exam*).

She hopes to find a job in a hospital because she is a nurse. (*Don't say: She hopes ~~finding~~ a job in a hospital because she is a nurse*).

We say **explain (something) to someone**, (NOT ~~explain (something) someone~~).

I will explain the problem to you. (*Don't say: I will ~~explain you the problem~~*).

It was difficult to explain the problem to him. (*Don't say: It was difficult to ~~explain him the problem~~*).

Explain to me why he isn't here. (*Don't say: ~~Explain me~~ why he isn't here*).

Please explain to me why you were late last night. (*Don't say: Please ~~explain me~~ why you were late last night*).

We say **drive/walk a long way to a place**, (NOT drive/walk ~~far~~ to a place).

I have to drive a long way to my office. (*Don't say: I have to drive ~~far~~ to my office*).

I usually walk a long way to work. (*Don't say: I usually walk ~~far~~ to work*).

We say **get somebody to do something**, (NOT get somebody ~~do~~ something).

It is difficult for me to get her to pronounce French words properly. (*Don't say: It is difficult for me to get her ~~pronounce~~ French words properly*).

I'll get her to phone you as soon as possible. (*Don't say: I'll get her ~~phone~~ you as soon as possible*).

We say **have/get something done**, (NOT have/get something ~~do/to do~~).

I had my house painted. (*Don't say: I had my house ~~to paint/paint~~*).

Tom had his car washed. (*Don't say: Tom had his car ~~to wash/wash~~*).

She is going to get her hair cut tomorrow. (*Don't say: She is going to get her hair ~~to cut/cut~~ tomorrow*).

We say **hear**, (NOT hear ~~to~~).

I heard footsteps behind me. (*Don't say: I ~~heard to~~ footsteps behind me*).

Can you hear me? (*Don't say: Can you ~~hear to~~ me?*).

Can you hear the rain? (*Don't say: Can you ~~hear to~~ the rain?*).

We **don't use progressive forms with "hear"**.

Can you hear me? (*Don't say: ~~Are you hearing~~ me?*)

Do you hear what I'm saying? (*Don't say: ~~Are you hearing~~ what I'm saying?*)

We say **many + plural nouns**, (NOT many + **singular** nouns).

How many brothers do you have? (*Don't say: How many ~~brother~~ do you have?*).

How many children do you have? (*Don't say: How many ~~child~~ do you have?*).

There are many tourists during the summer in Tokyo. (*Don't say: There are many ~~tourist~~ during the summer in Tokyo*).

We say **much + uncountable nouns**, (NOT much + **countable** nouns).

I had spent too much money on my vacation.

How much money did you spend on your house?

We say **If I were you, I would..**, (NOT If I **was** you, I **will**).

If I were you, I would study harder. (*Don't say: If I ~~was~~ you, I ~~will~~ study harder*).

If I were you, I would book a flight now. (*Don't say: If I ~~was~~ you, I ~~will~~ book a flight now*).

If I were you, I would give up smoking. (*Don't say: If I ~~was~~ you, I ~~will~~ give up smoking*).

**To talk about the future** we use **if only + subject + would + V<sub>0</sub>**, (NOT if only + subject + **will** + V<sub>0</sub>).

If only Tom would save money. (*Don't say: If only Tom ~~will~~ save money*).

If only she would sell me her car this week, I would give her \$2000 more.  
(Don't say: *If only she would sell me her car this week, I will give her \$2000 more*).

If only he would listen to me! (Don't say: *If only he will listen to me!*).

To talk about the present we use **if only + subject + V2/V-ed**, (NOT if only + subject + ~~V(s/es)~~).

If only she knew the truth. (Don't say: *If only she knows the truth*).

If only I learnt to swim. (Don't say: *If only I learn to swim*).

If only Mary heard what they say about her behind her back. (Don't say: *If only Mary hears what they say about her behind her back*).

To talk about the past we use **if only + subject + had + V3**, (NOT if only + subject + ~~V2/V-ed~~).

If only she had been at the meeting. (Don't say: *If only she was at the meeting*).

If only I had been sick tomorrow instead, I would have been happier. (Don't say: *If only I were sick tomorrow instead, I would have been happier*).

If only she had listened to what her friends had been telling her. (Don't say: *If only she listened to what her friends had been telling her*).

We say **He said that he was tired**, (NOT He said that ~~I~~ was tired or He said that he ~~is~~ tired).

He said that he was tired. (Don't say: *He said that I was tired or He said that he is tired*).

Mary said that she was very happy. (Don't say: *Mary said that I was very happy or Mary said that she is very happy*).

We say **He said that he would**, (NOT He said that he ~~will~~).

Mary said that she would come back here next week. (Don't say: *Mary said that she will come back here next week*).

Tom said that he would start jogging again next week. (*Don't say: Tom said that he ~~will~~ start jogging again next week.*)

We say **try not to**, (NOT ~~try to not~~).

He tried not to show his surprise. (*Don't say: He ~~tried to not~~ show his surprise.*)

I tried not to laugh. (*Don't say: I ~~tried to not~~ laugh.*)

She tried not to look into his eyes. (*Don't say: She ~~tried to not~~ look into his eyes.*)

We say **had better + V<sub>0</sub>**, (NOT had better + ~~To infinitive/V-ing~~).

We'd better go now before the traffic gets too bad. (*Don't say: We'd better ~~to go~~ now before the traffic gets too bad.*)

You'd better tell him everything. (*Don't say: You'd better ~~to tell~~ him everything.*)

We say **finish/admit/avoid/delay/postpone + V-ing**, (NOT finish + ~~To infinitive~~).

I've finished reading this book. (*Don't say: I've finished ~~to read~~ this book.*)

He admitted having stolen the money. (*Don't say: He admitted ~~to have~~ stolen the money.*)

Tom avoided doing his homework. (*Don't say: Tom avoided ~~to do~~ his homework.*)

Mary delayed writing her essay. (*Don't say: Mary delayed ~~to write~~ her essay.*)

Don't postpone doing what you love. (*Don't say: Don't postpone ~~to do~~ what you love.*)

We say **stop/prevent someone (from) doing something**, (NOT stop/prevent someone ~~to do~~ something).

She couldn't stop her baby from crying. (*Don't say: She couldn't stop her baby*

~~to cry~~).

I stopped her from killing herself. (*Don't say: I stopped her ~~to kill~~ herself*).

I can't prevent him from drinking. (*Don't say: I can't prevent him ~~to kill~~*).

She wants to prevent him from getting sick. (*Don't say: She wants to prevent him ~~to get~~ sick*).

We say **be used to + V-ing**, (NOT be used to + ~~V<sub>o</sub>~~).

I am used to drinking coffee every morning. (*Don't say: I am used ~~to drink~~ coffee every morning*).

She is used to living alone. (*Don't say: She is used ~~to live~~ alone*).

We say **be accustomed to + V-ing**, (NOT be accustomed to + ~~V<sub>o</sub>~~).

She's accustomed to sleeping in a room without air conditioning. (*Don't say: She's accustomed ~~to sleep~~ in a room without air conditioning*).

He is accustomed to eating this food. (*Don't say: He is accustomed ~~to eat~~ this food*).

**Lie – lay – lain** means **to be in a flat or horizontal position in which your body is on a surface such as a bed or a floor**.

**Lay – laid – laid** means **to put someone or something down gently or carefully**.

He just wants to lie in bed all day. (*Don't say: He just wants to ~~lay~~ in bed all day*).

She did nothing but lie in bed all day. (*Don't say: She did nothing but ~~laid~~ in bed all day*).

Now the exams are over, so I can lie in bed all day. (*Don't say: Now the exams are over, so I can ~~lay~~ in bed all day*).

I lay the book on the table. (*Don't say: I ~~lie~~ the book on the table*).

I lay the folders on the desk. (*Don't say: I ~~lie~~ the folders on the desk*).

We use **the least + uncountable nouns**

We use **the fewest + countable nouns**

She drank the least amount of milk of anyone there. (*Don't say: She drank ~~the fewest~~ amount of milk of anyone there*).

She tries to spend the least amount of time possible in the kitchen. (*Don't say: She tries to spend ~~the fewest~~ amount of time possible in the kitchen*).

Peter made the fewest mistakes in the English test. (*Don't say: Peter made ~~the least~~ mistakes in the English test*).

The safest place when driving is the place with the fewest cars. (*Don't say: The safest place when driving is the place with ~~the least~~ cars*).

We say **work as a salesman**, (NOT work **like** a salesman).

He works as a salesman. (*Don't say: He works ~~like~~ a salesman*).

Lucy works as a nurse in the local hospital. (*Don't say: Lucy works ~~like~~ a nurse in the local hospital*).

My father works as a teacher. (*Don't say: My father works ~~like~~ a teacher*).

We say **wait for a long time**, (NOT wait **long**).

I waited for a long time in the rain for the bus. (*Don't say: I waited ~~long~~ time in the rain for the bus*).

He has waited for a long time to have a chance to show his talent. (*Don't say: He has waited ~~long~~ time to have a chance to show his talent*).

We say **take a long time**, (NOT take **long**).

It took a long time for him to write the essay. (*Don't say: It ~~took long~~ for him to write the essay*).

The film took a long time to watch. (*Don't say: The film ~~took long~~ to watch*).

It takes a long time to learn Chinese. (*Don't say: It ~~takes long~~ to learn Chinese*).

We say **advice**, (NOT **advices**). **Advice** is **an uncountable noun**.



He gave me some good advice. (*Don't say: He gave me some good advices*).

She asked her father for some good advice. (*Don't say: She asked her father for some good advices*).

We say **information**, (NOT **informations**). **Information** is an **uncountable noun**.

I need some information. (*Don't say: I need some informations*).

He has some information for me about flights to London. (*Don't say: He has some informations for me about flights to London*).

We say **furniture**, (NOT **furnitures**). **Furniture** is an **uncountable noun**.

I need to buy some furniture. (*Don't say: I need to buy some furnitures*).

My father used to make his own furniture. (*Don't say: My father used to make his own furnitures*).

We say **damage**, (NOT **damages**). **Damage** is an **uncountable noun**.

The storm did not cause much damage. (*Don't say: The storm did not cause much damages*).

Did the accident cause any damage? (*Don't say: Did the accident cause any damages?*).

We say **work**, (NOT **works**). **Work** is an **uncountable noun** means *a job or task need to be done*.

Taking care of a baby is hard work. (*Don't say: Taking care of a baby is hard works*).

I have so much work to do now. (*Don't say: I have so much works to do now*).

We say **fish**, (NOT **fishes**). **Damage** is an **uncountable noun**.

There are a lot of fish in this lake. (*Don't say: There are a lot of fishes in this lake*).

He ate a lot of fish. (*Don't say: He ate a lot of fishes*).

We say **fruit**, (NOT **fruits**). **Fruit** is an **uncountable noun**.

Would you like some fruit for dessert? (*Don't say: Would you like some ~~fruits~~ for dessert?*).

Oranges, bananas, pears, and apples are all types of fruit. (*Don't say: Oranges, bananas, pears, and apples are all types of ~~fruits~~.*).

We say **knowledge**, (NOT ~~knowledges~~). **Knowledge** is an **uncountable noun**.

She has a good knowledge of Japanese. (*Don't say: She has a good ~~knowledges~~ of Japanese.*).

My father likes reading because he likes to broaden his knowledge. (*Don't say: My father likes reading because he likes to broaden his ~~knowledges~~.*).

We say **data**, (NOT ~~datas~~). **Data** is an **uncountable noun**.

Most of the data are new. (*Don't say: Most of the ~~datas~~ are new.*).

The data was collected by various researchers over a period of three months. (*Don't say: The ~~datas~~ was collected by various researchers over a period of three months.*).

We say **evidence**, (NOT ~~evidences~~). **Evidence** is an **uncountable noun**.

The police assembled a lot of evidence against her. (*Don't say: The police assembled a lot of ~~evidences~~ against her.*).

There is a lot of evidence against him. (*Don't say: There is a lot of ~~evidences~~ against him.*).

We say **money + singular verb**, (NOT money + ~~plural verb~~).

All his money is spent on his girlfriend and drugs. (*Don't say: All his money ~~are~~ spent on his girlfriend and drugs.*).

All her money is spent on shoes and clothes. (*Don't say: All her money ~~are~~ spent on shoes and clothes.*).

We say **the number of + plural noun + singular verb**, (NOT the number of + plural noun + ~~plural verb~~).

The number of students in the class is eighteen. (*Don't say: The number of*

*students in the class ~~are~~ eighteen).*

The number of houses is increasing significantly. (*Don't say: The number of houses ~~are~~ increasing significantly).*

We say **a number of + plural nouns + plural verbs**, (NOT a number of + plural nouns + **singular verbs**).

A number of students are absent today. (*Don't say: A number of students ~~is~~ absent today).*

A number of houses are rented. (*Don't say: A number of houses ~~is~~ rented).*

We say **their lives**, (NOT **their life**).

Because of that virus, many people lost their lives. (*Don't say: Because of that virus, many people lost ~~their~~ life).*

Many people lost their lives in the battle. (*Don't say: Many people lost ~~their~~ life in the battle).*

We say **their behaviors**, (NOT their **behavior**).

Not all children are able to control their behaviors. (*Don't say: Not all children are able to control their ~~behavior~~).*

I began to observe their behaviors. (*Don't say: I began to observe their ~~behavior~~).*

We say **to do something very well**, (NOT to do something **very good**).

He plays guitar very well. (*Don't say: He plays guitar ~~very good~~).*

She speaks English very well. (*Don't say: She speaks English ~~very good~~).*

We say **a white brand new car**, (NOT **a brand new white car**).

My father just bought a white brand new car yesterday. (*Don't say: My father just bought ~~a brand new white car~~ yesterday).*

Tom's mother gave him a black brand new watch on his birthday. (*Don't say: Tom's mother gave him ~~a brand new black watch~~ on his birthday).*

We say **the party was very fun**, (NOT the party was very **funny**).

The party was very fun and exciting. (*Don't say: The party was very ~~funny~~ and exciting*).

Our trip was very fun and relaxing. (*Don't say: Our trip was very ~~funny~~ and relaxing*).

We say **at 7pm**, (NOT **on** 7pm).

I left work at 6 pm and arrived home at 7 pm. (*Don't say: I left work at 6 pm and arrived home ~~on~~ 7 pm*).

The meeting that will be held on Monday at 9 am. (*Don't say: The meeting that will be held ~~on~~ Monday at 9 am*).

We say **on Saturday**, (NOT **at** Saturday).

I usually go swimming on Saturday. (*Don't say: I usually go swimming ~~at~~ Saturday*).

We visited our grandparents on Monday. (*Don't say: We visited our grandparents ~~at~~ Monday*).

We say **on Sunday morning/afternoon/evening**, (NOT **in** Sunday morning/afternoon/evening).

I go to church on Sunday morning. (*Don't say: I go to church ~~in~~ Sunday morning*).

My mom and I usually go shopping on Sunday afternoon. (*Don't say: My mom and I usually go shopping ~~in~~ Sunday afternoon*).

We usually go to the cinema on Sunday evening. (*Don't say: We usually go to the cinema ~~in~~ Sunday evening*).

We say **in May**, (NOT **on** May).

I will visit my sister in May. (*Don't say: I will visit my sister ~~on~~ May*).

She will graduate in August 2014. (*Don't say: She will graduate ~~on~~ August 2014*).

We say **in the winter**, (NOT ~~on~~ the winter).

We like to go skiing in the winter. (*Don't say: We like to go skiing ~~on~~ the winter*).

I went to Japan in the summer of 2012. (*Don't say: I went to Japan ~~on~~ the summer of 2012*).

We say **on the bus**, (NOT ~~in~~ the bus).

I sat next to her on the bus. (*Don't say: I sat next to her ~~in~~ the bus*).

I am on the bus. (*Don't say: I am ~~in~~ the bus*).

We say **call someone**, (NOT ~~call to~~ someone).

He called me when he got home. (*Don't say: He ~~called to~~ me when he got home*).

She only called me when she needed some help. (*Don't say: She only ~~called to~~ me when she needed some help*).

We say **when someone does something**, (NOT when someone ~~will do~~ something).

When I arrive at the airport, I will phone you. (*Don't say: When I ~~will arrive~~ at the airport, I will phone you*).

I'll call you when I get home. (*Don't say: I'll call you when I ~~will get~~ home*).

We say **for four years**, (NOT ~~since~~ four years).

I have worked here for four years. (*Don't say: I have worked here ~~since~~ four years*).

He's been married for six years. (*Don't say: He's been married ~~since~~ six years*).

We say **are you thirsty?** (NOT ~~do~~ you thirsty?)

Are you tired? (*Don't say: ~~Do~~ you tired?*).

Are you sad? (*Don't say: ~~Do~~ you sad?*).

We say **my glasses**, (NOT my **glass**).

I'm looking for my glasses. (*Don't say: I'm looking for my ~~glass~~*).

I lost my glasses. (*Don't say: I lost my ~~glass~~*).

We say **be successful**, (NOT be **suecess**).

Tom is successful in his love and job. (*Don't say: Tom is ~~suecess~~ in his love and job*).

This police officer is successful in catching the criminals in his city. (*Don't say: This police officer is ~~suecess~~ in catching the criminals in his city*).

We say **do sports**, (NOT **make** sports).

Do you like doing sports? (*Don't say: Do you like ~~make~~ sports?*).

In his free time, he likes doing sports. (*Don't say: In his free time, he likes ~~make~~ sports*).

We say **a tall man**, (NOT a **high** man).

Her father is a tall man. (*Don't say: Her father is a ~~high~~ man*).

He is tall and strong. (*Don't say: He is ~~high~~ and strong*).

We say **younger brother/ little brother**, (NOT **small** brother).

He is my younger brother. (*Don't say: He is my ~~small~~ brother*).

He is my little brother. (*Don't say: He is my ~~small~~ brother*).

We say **elder brother/ older brother**, (NOT **bigger** brother).

He is poor while his elder brother is rich. (*Don't say: He is poor while his ~~bigger~~ brother is rich*).

He's her older brother. (*Don't say: He's her ~~bigger~~ brother*).

We say **a university**, (NOT **an** university).

She studies at a university in London. (*Don't say: She studies at ~~an~~ university in London*).

Her dream is to go to a university in America. (*Don't say: Her dream is to go to ~~an~~ university in America*).

We say **be disappointed in/with someone**, (NOT be disappointed **about** someone).

I'm disappointed in him - I really thought I could trust him! (*Don't say: I'm disappointed ~~about~~ him - I really thought I could trust him*).

Her parents were disappointed with her. (*Don't say: Her parents were disappointed ~~about~~ her*).

We say **on foot**, (NOT **by** foot).

The mall is not very far, let's go on foot. (*Don't say: The mall is not very far, let's go ~~by~~ foot*).

I go to school on foot every day. (*Don't say: I go to school ~~by~~ foot every day*).

We say **come to an event**, (NOT **come an event**).

How many people came to the meeting today? (*Don't say: How many people came the meeting today?*).

Will you come to the party tonight? (*Don't say: Will you come the party tonight?*).

We say **he and I**, (NOT he and **me**).

He and I are going to visit my sister. (*Don't say: He and ~~me~~ are going to visit my sister*).

She and I went to dinner. (*Don't say: She and ~~me~~ went to dinner*).

We say **children**, (NOT **childrens**).

How many children do you have? (*Don't say: How many ~~childrens~~ do you have?*).

I have 2 children, a boy and a girl. (*Don't say: I have 2 ~~childrens~~, a boy and a girl*).

We say **can't hear anything**, (NOT can't hear **nothing**).

I'm listening but I can't hear anything. (*Don't say: I'm listening but I can't hear ~~nothing~~*).

I can't hear anything because of the noise. (*Don't say: I can't hear ~~nothing~~ because of the noise*).

We say **crash into**, (NOT ~~erash~~).

The car crashed into the house. (*Don't say: The car crashed the house*).

The truck crashed into a tree. (*Don't say: The truck crashed a tree*).

We say **I like/love**, (NOT ~~I am liking/loving~~).

I like playing the guitar. (*Don't say: I ~~am liking~~ playing the guitar*).

I love playing football. (*Don't say: I ~~am loving~~ playing football*).

We say **must do something**, (NOT must ~~to do~~ something).

You must do your homework. (*Don't say: You must ~~to do~~ your homework*).

I must go now. (*Don't say: I must ~~to go~~ now*).

We say **look/seem/feel + adjective**, (NOT look/seem/feel + ~~adverb~~).

She looks sad. (*Don't say: she looks ~~sadly~~*)

He seems happy in his new job. (*Don't say: He seems ~~happily~~ in his new job*).

Tom feels happy when he can spend time with his family. (*Don't say: Tom feels ~~happily~~ when he can spend time with his family*).

She feels happy and sad at the same time. (*Don't say: She feels ~~happily~~ and ~~sadly~~ at the same time*).

We say **do business**, (NOT ~~make~~-business).

Let's do business. (*Don't say: Let's ~~make~~ business*).

It's my pleasure to do business with you. (*Don't say: It's my pleasure to ~~make~~ business with you*).

They've been doing a lot of business in Europe recently. (*Don't say: They've*



been ~~making~~ a lot of business in Europe recently).

We say **go home**, (NOT ~~go to~~ home).

Let's go home now. (*Don't say: Let's ~~go to~~ home now*).

I felt tired, and I went home early. (*Don't say: I felt tired, and I ~~went to~~ home early*).

We say **anxious about something**, (NOT ~~anxious for~~ something).

She is anxious about her father's health. (*Don't say: She is ~~anxious for~~ her father's health*).

Tom is anxious about his upcoming surgery. (*Don't say: Tom is ~~anxious for~~ his upcoming surgery*).

We say **anxious for somebody**, (NOT ~~anxious about~~ somebody).

We are very anxious for him to reach home in time. (*Don't say: We are very ~~anxious about~~ him to reach home in time*).

Her father was anxious for her to leave. (*Don't say: Her father was ~~anxious about~~ her to leave*).

We say **be good/excellent at something**, (NOT be good/excellent ~~with~~ something).

He is good at playing the guitar. (*Don't say: He is good ~~with~~ playing the guitar*).

My father is excellent at drawing. (*Don't say: My father is excellent ~~with~~ drawing*).

We say **be/get married to**, (NOT be/get married ~~with~~).

Tom was married to Mary last week. (*Don't say: Tom was married ~~with~~ Mary last week*).

I got married to Lucy when I was 22. (*Don't say: I got married ~~with~~ Lucy when I was 22*).

We say **be proud of**, (NOT be proud ~~about~~).

She was proud of her clever son. (*Don't say: She was proud ~~about~~ her clever son*).

We are proud of you. (*Don't say: We are proud ~~about~~ you*).

We say **be satisfied with**, (NOT be satisfied **about**).

She is not satisfied with her English ability. (*Don't say: She is not satisfied ~~about~~ her English ability*).

He is not satisfied with the results of the exams. (*Don't say: He is not satisfied ~~about~~ the results of the exams*).

We say **everyone + singular verb**, (NOT everyone + **plural verb**).

Everyone needs help from other people. (*Don't say: Everyone ~~need~~ help from other people*).

Everyone is happy. (*Don't say: Everyone ~~are~~ happy*).

We say **every of + plural noun + singular verb**, (NOT every of + plural noun + **plural verb**).

Every of my friends likes horror films. (*Don't say: Every of my friends ~~like~~ horror films*).

Every of my friends studies English. (*Don't say: Every of my friends ~~study~~ English*).

We say **near my school**, (NOT near **to** my school).

There is a bank near my school. (*Don't say: There is a bank ~~near to~~ my school*).

She keeps most of her money at the bank near her office. (*Don't say: She keeps most of her money at the bank ~~near to~~ her office*).

We say **make a sandwich**, (NOT ~~do~~ a sandwich or **cook** a sandwich).

Will you make a sandwich for me? (*Don't say: Will you ~~do/cook~~ a sandwich for me?*).

I made a sandwich for lunch. (*Don't say: I ~~did/cooked~~ a sandwich for lunch*).

We say **have breakfast, have lunch, have dinner**, (NOT have **a** breakfast, have **a** lunch, have **a** dinner).

Sit down and have breakfast with us. (*Don't say: Sit down and ~~have a~~ breakfast with us*).

What time do you usually have lunch? (*Don't say: What time do you usually ~~have a~~ lunch?*).

Would you like to have dinner with me? (*Don't say: Would you like to ~~have a~~ dinner with me?*).

We say **are you married?** , (NOT **have** you married? Or **do** you married?).

Is she married? (*Don't say: ~~Has/does~~ she married?*).

Is Tom married? (*Don't say: ~~Has/does~~ Tom married?*).

We say **do you feel?** , (NOT **are** you feel?).

Do you feel secure about the future? (*Don't say: ~~Are~~ you feel secure about the future?*).

Do you feel better? (*Don't say: ~~Are~~ you feel better?*).

We say **he/she lives in**, (NOT he/she **live** in).

She lives in London. (*Don't say: She ~~live~~ in London*).

He lives in New York. (*Don't say: He ~~live~~ in New York*).

We say **does he/she have?**, (NOT does he/she **has**?).

Does she have any children? (*Don't say: ~~Does she has~~ any children?*).

Does he have a girlfriend? (*Don't say: ~~Does he has~~ a girlfriend?*).

We say **have you bought a car**, (NOT **has** you bought a car?).

Have you read this book already? (*Don't say: ~~Has you~~ read this book already?*).

Have you visited Sydney? (*Don't say: ~~Has you~~ visited Sydney?*).

We say **has she/he bought a car?**, (NOT **have** she/he bought a car?).

Has Mary told you the good news, yet? (*Don't say: ~~Have~~ Mary told you the good news, yet?*).

Has Tom got a computer? (*Don't say: ~~Have~~ Tom got a computer?*).

We say **he and she are**, (NOT he and she **is**).

He and she are siblings. (*Don't say: He and she ~~is~~ siblings*).

He and she are going out together. (*Don't say: He and she ~~is~~ going out together*).

We say **watch TV**, (NOT **see** or **look at** TV).

My father likes to watch TV. (*Don't say: My father likes to ~~see/look at~~ TV*).

Her mother doesn't let her watch TV after 11:00 p.m. (*Don't say: Her mother doesn't let her ~~see/look at~~ TV after 11:00 p.m.*).

We say **didn't + Vo**, (NOT didn't + **V2/V-ed**).

I didn't play badminton yesterday. (*Don't say: I didn't ~~played~~ badminton yesterday*).

I didn't talk to him a lot last night. (*Don't say: I didn't ~~talked~~ to him a lot last night*).

We say **someone has done something for 2 years**, (NOT someone **did** something for 2 years).

She has studied English for 2 years. (*Don't say: She ~~studied~~ English for 2 years*).

He has played football for 5 years. (*Don't say: He ~~played~~ football for 5 years*).

We say **someone has done something since...**, (NOT someone **did** something since...).

Tom has studied English since he was six years old. (*Don't say: Tom ~~studied~~ English since he was six years old*).

I have played the guitar since I was 20. (*Don't say: I ~~played~~ the guitar since I was 20*).

We say **2 days ago**, (NOT 2 days **before**).

Tom and Mary got married 2 days ago. (*Don't say: Tom and Mary got married 2 days ~~before~~*).

I had dinner with him three days ago. (*Don't say: I had dinner with him three days ~~before~~*).

We say **someone did something yesterday/last week**, (NOT someone **has done** something yesterday/last week).

I bought a car yesterday. (*Don't say: I ~~have bought~~ a car yesterday*).

I had dinner with Mary last week. (*Don't say: I ~~have had~~ dinner with Mary last week*).

We say **must/have to + V<sub>0</sub>**, (NOT must/have to + **V<sub>2</sub>/V-ed**).

I was very thirsty. I had to drink something. (*Don't say: I had to ~~drank~~ something*).

I was very tired. I must get some rest. (*Don't say: I must ~~got~~ some rest*).

We say **return to**, (NOT return **back** to).

We didn't know what to do, so we returned to our hotel. (*Don't say: We didn't know what to do, so we returned ~~back~~ to our hotel*).

I finished reading the novel and returned it to Peter. (*Don't say: I finished reading the novel and returned it ~~back~~ to Peter*).

We say **in my opinion**, (NOT **according to me**).

In my opinion, he is correct. (*Don't say: ~~according to me~~, he is correct*).

In my opinion, Lucy is old enough to know what she did was wrong. (*Don't say: ~~according to me~~, Lucy is old enough to know what she did was wrong*).

We say **except someone**, (NOT **except for** someone).

Nobody knows we are here except her. (*Don't say: Nobody knows we are here except for her*).

Everyone arrived on time except Tom. (*Don't say: Everyone arrived on time except for Tom*).

We say **finish something by Friday**, (NOT finish something ~~until~~ Friday).

I have to finish the essay by Friday. (*Don't say: I have to finish the essay until Friday*).

I have to finish the homework by 7 pm. (*Don't say: I have to finish the homework until 7 pm*).

We say **a fast car, fast food**, (NOT a ~~quick~~ car, ~~quick~~ food).

My brother has a fast car. (*Don't say: My brother has a quick car*).

My son likes to eat fast food such as hamburgers, fried chicken, and pizza. (*Don't say: My son likes to eat quick food...*).

We say **a quick meal**, (NOT a ~~fast~~ meal).

We had a quick meal in the restaurant. (*Don't say: We had a fast meal in the restaurant*).

We had a quick meal before a movie. (*Don't say: We had a fast meal before a movie*).

We say **powerful engine**, (NOT ~~strong~~ engine).

This is a new car with a powerful engine. (*Don't say: This is a new car with a strong engine*).

I would like to possess a motor vehicle with a powerful engine. (*Don't say: I would like to possess a motor vehicle with a strong engine*).

We say **someone is injured**, (NOT someone is ~~damaged~~).

He was injured in the accident. (*Don't say: He was damaged in the accident*).

Fortunately, nobody was injured in the car accident. (*Don't say: Fortunately, nobody was damaged in the car accident*).

Tom injured his arm and stayed in hospital after the car accident. (*Don't say: Tom ~~damaged~~ his arm and stayed in hospital after the car accident*).

We say **something is damaged**, (NOT something is **injured**).

The house was damaged by the storm. (*Don't say: The house was ~~injured~~ by the storm*).

The building was damaged by the fire. (*Don't say: The building was ~~injured~~ by the fire*).

Tom's house was badly damaged in the fire. (*Don't say: Tom's house was badly ~~injured~~ in the fire*).

We say to **rob someone or an organization**, (NOT to **steal** someone or an organization).

He robbed the bank. (*Don't say: He ~~stole~~ the bank*).

He robbed an elderly man. (*Don't say: He ~~stole~~ an elderly man*).

We say to **steal something**, (NOT to **rob** something).

He stole money from his parents. (*Don't say: He ~~robbed~~ money from his parents*).

He was arrested because he stole a car. (*Don't say: He was arrested because he ~~robbed~~ a car*).

We say **the latest news**, (NOT the **last** news).

Have you heard the latest news? (*Don't say: Have you heard the ~~last~~ news?*).

I keep up to date with the latest news via the smartphone. (*Don't say: I keep up to date with the ~~last~~ news via the smartphone*).

We say **speak a language**, (NOT **talk** a language).

Do you speak English? (*Don't say: Do you ~~talk~~ English?*).

I can speak English, French and Chinese. (*Don't say: I can ~~talk~~ English, French and Chinese*).

We say **reject an idea/a suggestion**, (NOT **refuse** an idea/a suggestion).

They quickly rejected his idea. (*Don't say: They quickly ~~refused~~ his idea.*)

She rejected my suggestion as impractical. (*Don't say: She ~~refused~~ my suggestion as impractical.*)

We say **refuse an invitation/offer**, (NOT **rejeet** an invitation/offer).

He refused my invitation. (*Don't say: He ~~rejected~~ my invitation.*)

Mary refused his offer of working in New York for a year. (*Don't say: Mary ~~rejected~~ his offer of working in New York for a year.*)

We say **very happy**, (NOT **absolutely** happy).

He was very happy about his unexpected promotion. (*Don't say: He was ~~absolutely~~ happy about his unexpected promotion.*)

We are very happy about the birth of our new baby. (*Don't say: We are ~~absolutely~~ happy about the birth of our new baby.*)

We say **be under a lot of/considerable pressure**, (be under **high** pressure).

She has been under a lot of pressure lately. (*Don't say: She has been under ~~high~~ pressure lately.*)

He was under considerable pressure at times. (*Don't say: He was under ~~high~~ pressure at times.*)

We say **someone wants to do something**, (NOT someone **is wanting to** do something).

I'm hungry now. I want to eat something. (*Don't say: I ~~am wanting~~ to eat something.*)

I want to see you now. (*Don't say: I ~~am wanting~~ to see you now.*)

We use **“anything”** is used in **negative sentences**. (NOT **everything**).

He didn't remember anything. (*Don't say: He ~~didn't~~ remember ~~everything~~.*)

I can't do anything else. (*Don't say: I ~~can't~~ do ~~everything~~ else.*)



We use “**everything**” is used in **positive sentences**. (NOT **anything**).

I bought everything at the mall. (*Don't say: I bought ~~anything~~ at the mall*).

He has lost everything. (*Don't say: He has lost ~~anything~~*).

We say **an excellent resume**. (NOT **excellent resume**).

This is an excellent resume. (*Don't say: This is ~~excellent~~ resume*).

This is an example of a physical change. (*Don't say: This is ~~example~~ of a ~~physical~~ change*).

She is a beautiful girl. (*Don't say: She is ~~beautiful~~ girl*).

We say **secure/safe place**. (NOT **security** place).

Keep your passport in a secure place. (*Don't say: Keep your passport in a ~~security~~ place*).

They found a safe place to take shelter from the storm. (*Don't say: They found a ~~security~~ place to take shelter from the storm*).

We say **that pair of shoes is**. (NOT that pair of shoes **are**).

That pair of shoes is not new. (*Don't say: That pair of shoes ~~are~~ not new*).

That pair of shoes is a bit too expensive. (*Don't say: That pair of shoes ~~are~~ a bit too expensive*).

We say **my father as well as my brothers is**. (NOT my father as well as my brothers **are**).

My father as well as my brothers is enjoying the party. (*Don't say: My father as well as my brothers ~~are~~ enjoying the party*).

My brother as well as my sisters is going to London next summer. (*Don't say: My brother as well as my sisters ~~are~~ going to London next summer*).

We say **Diabetes is**. (NOT Diabetes **are**).

Diabetes is a dangerous disease. (*Don't say: Diabetes ~~are~~ a dangerous disease*).

Arthritis is most commonly seen in adults over the age of 65. (*Don't say: Arthritis ~~are~~ most commonly seen in adults over the age of 65*).

Measles is most commonly seen in children below 5-6 years. (*Don't say: Measles ~~are~~ most commonly seen in children below 5-6 years*).

We say **mathematics is**. (NOT mathematics **are**).

Mathematics is my brother's strength. (*Don't say: Mathematics ~~are~~ my brother's strength*).

Economics is a very difficult subject. (*Don't say: Economics ~~are~~ a very difficult subject*).

We say **50 dollars is**. (NOT 50 dollars **are**).

The book which costs 50 dollars is put on the desks. (*Don't say: The book which costs 50 dollars ~~are~~ put on the desks*).

A million dollars is more than enough to buy a house. (*Don't say: A million dollars ~~are~~ more than enough to buy a house*).

Her wedding ring is worth a million dollars. (*Don't say: Her wedding ring ~~are~~ worth a million dollars*).

We say **30 minutes is**. (NOT 30 minutes **are**).

30 minutes is not enough time for her to write an essay. (*Don't say: 30 minutes ~~are~~ not enough time for her to write an essay*).

2 hours is not enough for our event. (*Don't say: 2 hours ~~are~~ not enough for our event*).

We say **20 kilometers is**. (NOT 20 kilometers **are**).

20 kilometers is a long distance. (*Don't say: 20 kilometers ~~are~~ a long distance*).

Five kilometers is too far for the child to walk. (*Don't say: Five kilometers ~~are~~ too far for the child to walk*).

We say **some of + plural noun + plural verb**, (NOT some of + plural noun +

singular verb).

Some of the students are so excited about the course. (*Don't say: Some of the students is so excited about the course*).

Some of the cakes are not ready. (*Don't say: Some of the cakes is not ready*).

We say **some of + singular noun + singular verb**, (NOT some of + plural noun + plural verb).

Some of the money is given to a poor man. (*Don't say: Some of the money are given to a poor man*).

Some of the water is evaporated. (*Don't say: Some of the water are evaporated*).

"Almost" is an **adverb** means *nearly, approximately*

"Most" is an **adjective** means *the majority, the largest part, nearly all of*

Most students study hard. (*Don't say: Almost students study hard*).

Most people would like to travel around the world. (*Don't say: Almost people would like to travel around the world*).

Tom almost failed the exam. (*Don't say: Tom most failed the exam*).

My father is almost eighty years old. (*Don't say: My father is most eighty years old*).

We say **someone's thought**, (NOT someone's **thinking**).

Children's behaviors and thoughts. (*Don't say: Children's behaviors and thinking*).

According to her thought, all violence is evil. (*Don't say: According to her thinking, all violence is evil*).

We use **inversion** with **seldom** or **rarely**.

Rarely do we go to the movies these days. (*Don't say: Rarely we go to the movies these days*).

Rarely does she eat meat. (*Don't say: Rarely she eats meat.*)

Seldom do I have a dream. (*Don't say: Seldom I have a dream.*)

We say **the most effective way**, (NOT the **best** effective way).

The most effective way to improve your English skills is to study regularly. (*Don't say: The best effective way to improve your English skills is to study regularly.*)

The most effective method to develop and improve your health is daily exercise. (*Don't say: The best effective method to develop and improve your health is daily exercise.*)

We say **farmer**, (NOT **famer**).

They are farmers, who keep herds of cattle and goats. (*Don't say: They are famers, who keep herds of cattle and goats.*)

Her father is a farmer. (*Don't say: Her father is a famer.*)

We say **negative influences**, (NOT **bad** influences).

Pesticides have many negative influences on people's health. (*Don't say: Pesticides have many bad influences on people's health.*)

Poverty has many negative influences on families. (*Don't say: Poverty has many bad influences on families.*)

Smoking has many negative influences on oral cavity. (*Don't say: Smoking has many bad influences on oral cavity.*)

The plural form of "**offspring**" is "**offspring**", (NOT **offsprings**).

Conflicts between parents and offspring. (*Don't say: Conflicts between parents and offsprings.*)

Nowadays, aging parents are less likely to live together with their offspring. (*Don't say: Nowadays, aging parents are less likely to live together with their offsprings.*)

We say **be lack of + noun**, (NOT be **lack + noun**).

Her mother's problem is lack of sleep. (*Don't say: Her mother's problem is ~~lack~~ sleep*).

His only problem is lack of confidence. (*Don't say: His only problem is ~~lack~~ confidence*).

We say **lack + noun**, (NOT **lack of + noun**).

He lacks money to buy a house. (*Don't say: He lacks of money to buy a house*).

They lack money to buy food. (*Don't say: They lack of money to buy food*).

They lack food to feed themselves and their children. (*Don't say: They lack of food to feed themselves and their children*).

We say **be/feel scared**, (NOT **be/feel seare**).

She is scared of going out alone at night. (*Don't say: She is seare of going out alone at night*).

She feels scared to drive on the road by herself. (*Don't say: She feels seare to drive on the road by herself*).

**The blind, the deaf, the mute, the dead, the injured, the old, the poor, the rich, the unemployed, the jobless, the young, the mentally ill** are always **plural**.

The rich are not always happy. (*Don't say: The rich is not always happy*).

The rich are usually powerful. (*Don't say: The rich is usually powerful*).

The poor are not always unhappy. (*Don't say: The poor is not always unhappy*).

The unemployed are still increasing. (*Don't say: The unemployed is still increasing*).

The young don't usually plan ahead. (*Don't say: The young doesn't usually plan ahead*).

The injured are still in hospital in a critical condition. (*Don't say: The injured is still in hospital in a critical condition*).

We say **over the last five years**, (NOT ~~during five years up to now~~).

I've used this car often over the last five years. (*Don't say: I've used this car often ~~during five years up to now~~.*)

She's been getting better and better at Japanese over the last three years. (*Don't say: She's been getting better and better at Japanese ~~during three years up to now~~.*)

We say **contribute to something/V-ing**, (NOT contribute to + ~~Vo~~).

He would like to contribute to arresting that man. (*Don't say: He would like to contribute to ~~arrest~~ that man.*)

Technology has contributed to improving our lives. (*Don't say: Technology has contributed to ~~improve~~ our lives.*)

We say **consumers' health**, (NOT ~~consumer's~~ health).

There are many negative effects of fast food on consumers' health. (*Don't say: There are many negative effects of fast food on ~~consumer's~~ health.*)

Workers' compensation insurance. (*Don't say: ~~Worker's~~ compensation insurance.*)

We say **unhealthy food**, (NOT ~~harmful~~ food).

People should keep themselves from consuming unhealthy food. (*Don't say: People should keep themselves from consuming ~~harmful~~ food.*)

We should not buy or eat unhealthy food. (*Don't say: We should not buy or eat ~~harmful~~ food.*)

We say **detrimental/devastating effects**, (NOT ~~harmful~~ effects).

The sun's detrimental/devastating effects on skin. (*Don't say: The sun's ~~harmful~~ effects on skin.*)

Pesticides have detrimental/devastating effects on people's health and the environment. (*Don't say: Pesticides have ~~harmful~~ effects on people's health and the environment.*)

The drought has had detrimental/devastating effects. (*Don't say: The drought has had harmful effects*).

We say **the age of technology/the information age**, (NOT ~~the technology age~~).

We live in the modern age of technology. (*Don't say: We live in the modern technology age*).

We live in the information age. (*Don't say: We live in the technology age*).

He didn't grow up in the age of technology. (*Don't say: He didn't grow up in the technology age*).

We say **developed society**, (NOT ~~development/developmental~~ society).

We live in a well-developed society. (*Don't say: We live in a development/developmental society*).

People in developed societies seldom confront discrimination. (*Don't say: People in development/developmental societies seldom confront discrimination*).

We say ...**two years older than**..., (NOT ~~older two years than~~).

He is two years older than I am. (*Don't say: He is older two years than I am*).

Her sisters is three years older than she is. (*Don't say: Her sisters is older three years than she is*).

We say **six miles long**, (NOT ~~long six miles~~).

The race was six miles long. (*Don't say: The race was long six miles*).

This river is one hundred kilometers long. (*Don't say: This river is long one hundred kilometers*).

We say **4 metres high**, (NOT ~~high 4 metres~~).

The statue is 4 metres high. (*Don't say: The statue is high 4 metres*).

The wall is six metres high. (*Don't say: The wall is high six metres*).

We say **eleven feet deep**, (NOT ~~deep eleven feet~~).

The ditch is eleven feet deep. (*Don't say: The ditch is ~~deep eleven feet~~*).

The river is ten feet deep. (*Don't say: The river is ~~deep ten feet~~*).

**Numbers** must go before **adjectives**.

I'll need ten large pizzas for my birthday party. (*Don't say: I'll need ~~large ten pizzas~~ for my birthday party*).

May I have five small pieces of paper? (*Don't say: May I have ~~small five pieces~~ of paper?*).

**"First"**, **"next"** and **"last"** usually go before **"one"**, **"two"**, **"three"**, **"four"** etc.

I want to rent the house for the first two weeks in May. (*Don't say: I want to rent the house for the ~~two first weeks~~ in May*).

Tom will be staying with his relatives in New York for the next three weeks. (*Don't say: Tom will be staying with his relatives in New York for the ~~three next weeks~~*).

She was sick for the last five days, but now she feels well. (*Don't say: She was sick for the ~~five last days~~, but now she feels well*).

We use **adverb + verb + object**, (NOT **verb + adverb + object**).

I often eat vegetarian food. (*Don't say: I ~~eat often~~ vegetarian food*).

I usually play football on Wednesday evenings. (*Don't say: I ~~play usually~~ football on Wednesday evenings*).

We use **verb + object + adverb**, (NOT **verb + adverb + object**).

She plays the piano well. (*Don't say: She ~~plays well~~ the piano*).

He speaks Japanese well. (*Don't say: He ~~speaks well~~ Japanese*).

**Adverbs of place** usually go before **adverbs of time**.

He performed excellently at the interview yesterday. (*Don't say: He performed excellently ~~yesterday at the interview~~*).

I worked hard at the office today. (*Don't say: I worked hard ~~today at the~~*



*office*).

We use **be + always/usually/often/sometimes, etc.**, (NOT always/usually/often/sometimes **+be**).

He is always busy. (*Don't say: He always ~~is~~ busy*).

He is usually straightforward and sincere. (*Don't say: He usually ~~is~~ straightforward and sincere*).

She is often very talkative. (*Don't say: She often ~~is~~ very talkative*).

He is sometimes absent from school. (*Don't say: He sometimes ~~is~~ absent from school*).

**Probably, certainly, definitely, clearly, obviously** usually **go before auxiliary verbs**.

She probably thinks you're crazy! (*Don't say: She ~~thinks probably~~ you're crazy!*).

She certainly misses her children. (*Don't say: She ~~misses certainly~~ her children*).

He clearly heard the sound of bells. (*Don't say: He ~~heard clearly~~ the sound of bells*).

I definitely agree with you. (*Don't say: I ~~agree definitely~~ with you*).

I will definitely come late today. (*Don't say: I will ~~come definitely~~ late today*).

He obviously lied. (*Don't say: He ~~lied obviously~~*).

She obviously missed something. (*Don't say: She ~~missed obviously~~ something*).

We use **adverb + adjective**, (NOT **adjective + adjective**).

It's extremely hot today. (*Don't say: It's ~~extreme hot~~ today*).

It's definitely wrong to stop him from seeing his parents. (*Don't say: It's ~~definite wrong~~ to stop him from seeing his parents*).

We use **after all**, (NOT **finally**) to say that something is contrary to what was expected.

It didn't rain after all. (*Don't say: It didn't rain finally*).

At first Peter said he would come to the party, but he's not going to come after all. (*Don't say: At first Peter said he would come to the party, but he's not going to come finally*).

We say **she is twenty years old/of age**. (NOT ...**twenty years**).

He is 19 years old. (*Don't say: He is 19 years*).

She is 21 years of age. (*Don't say: She is 21 years*).

We say **be the same age as**. (NOT ...be **at** the same age as...).

Tom is the same age as Mary. (*Don't say: Tom is ~~at~~ the same age as Mary*).

She's the same age as my sister. (*Don't say: She's ~~at~~ the same age as my sister*).

We say **at the age of**, (NOT ... **in** the age of ...).

He died at the age of 80. (*Don't say: He died ~~in~~ the age of 80*).

I graduated from college at the age of 22. (*Don't say: I graduated from college ~~in~~ the age of 22*).

We use **like before a noun**, (NOT **alike**).

He is like his father. (*Don't say: He is ~~alike~~ his father*).

She is like her mom. (*Don't say: She is ~~alike~~ her mom*).

We say **all students**, (NOT all **of** students).

All students are being taught in the classroom. (*Don't say: All ~~of~~ students are being taught in the classroom*).

All people are having dinner at the restaurant. (*Don't say: All ~~of~~ people are having dinner at the restaurant*).

We use **not all + plural noun + plural verb**, (NOT not all + plural noun +

singular verb).

Not all students are lazy. (*Don't say: Not all students is lazy*).

Not all women are mothers. (*Don't say: Not all women is mothers*).

We say ...not only..., but...as well. Or...not only..., but...also.... (NOT ...not only...; but....either).

He not only sings, but he plays the guitar as well. (*Don't say: He not only sings, but he plays the guitar either*).

He not only sings, but he also plays the guitar. (*Don't say: He not only sings, but he also plays the guitar either*).

We use **though/although + clause**, (NOT ~~despite/in spite of~~ + clause).

Although she doesn't like flying, he goes abroad on holiday. (*Don't say: despite/in spite of she doesn't like flying, he goes abroad on holiday*).

Although Mary is rich, she dresses quite simply. (*Don't say: despite/in spite of Mary is rich, she dresses quite simply*).

Although he smiled, he was angry. (*Don't say: despite/in spite of he smiled, he was angry*).

When we join two or more grammatically similar expressions, we usually put **"and"** before the last.

He likes tea, coffee and hot chocolate. (*Don't say: He likes tea, coffee, hot chocolate*).

We talked, played games and drank late until the night. (*Don't say: We talked, played games, drank late until the night*).

At night we talked, played chess and made a fire. (*Don't say: At night we talked, played chess, made a fire*).

We use fixed order **bread and butter**, (NOT ~~butter and bread~~).

I ate nothing but bread and butter. (*Don't say: I ate nothing but butter and bread*).

She likes bread and butter. (*Don't say: She likes ~~butter and bread~~*).

We use fixed order **young and pretty**, (NOT ~~pretty and young~~).

She is young and pretty. (*Don't say: She is ~~pretty and young~~*).

Mary is young and pretty and warm-hearted. (*Don't say: Mary is ~~pretty and young and warm-hearted~~*).

We use fixed order **black and white**, (NOT ~~white and black~~).

He has a dog that is black and white. (*Don't say: He has a dog that is ~~white and black~~*).

The most colorful thing in the world is black and white. (*Don't say: The most colorful thing in the world is ~~white and black~~*).

We use fixed order **knife and fork**, (NOT ~~fork and knife~~).

What are some foods you usually eat with a knife and fork? (*Don't say: What are some foods you usually eat with a ~~fork and knife~~*).

She doesn't know how to use knives and forks. (*Don't say: She doesn't know how to use ~~forks and knives~~*).

He sat down and ate his dinner with a knife and fork. (*Don't say: He sat down and ate his dinner with a ~~fork and knife~~*).

We say **come and have a drink**, (NOT ~~go~~ and have a drink).

Come and have a drink with us. (*Don't say: ~~Go~~ and have a drink with us*).

I'll come and have a drink with you but I must let Mary know. (*Don't say: He ~~I'll go~~ and have a drink with you but I must let Mary know*).

You're very welcome to come and have a drink at our bar and enjoy an extra show. (*Don't say: You're very welcome to ~~go~~ and have a drink at our bar and enjoy an extra show*).

Why don't you come and have dinner with us? (*Don't say: Why don't you ~~go~~ and have dinner with us?*).

We use **another + singular countable nouns**, (NOT another + ~~plural~~ countable

nouns).

He's bought another house. (*Don't say: He's bought another ~~houses~~.*)

Will you have another cup of tea? (*Don't say: Will you have another ~~cups~~ of tea?*)

May I have another piece of cake? (*Don't say: May I have another ~~pieces~~ of cake?*)

We use “no” to begin a sentence.

No cigarette is harmless. (*Don't say: ~~No~~t any cigarette is harmless.*)

No cigarette is allowed in the reading room. (*Don't say: ~~No~~t cigarette is allowed in the reading room.*)

No food is perfect. (*Don't say: ~~No~~t food is perfect.*)

No food is allowed to leave the cafeteria. (*Don't say: ~~No~~t food is allowed to leave the cafeteria.*)

We say **an elephant, an apple, an orange, etc.**, (NOT **a** elephant, **a** apple, **a** orange).

We saw an elephant at the zoo. (*Don't say: We saw ~~a~~ elephant at the zoo.*)

She wants an apple. (*Don't say: She wants ~~a~~ apple.*)

I eat an apple every day. (*Don't say: I eat ~~a~~ apple every day.*)

He gave his mother an orange in exchange for a piece of cake. (*Don't say: He gave his mother ~~a~~ orange in exchange for a piece of cake.*)

We say **an hour**, (NOT **a** hour).

Give me an hour. (*Don't say: Give me ~~a~~ hour.*)

I'll be back in an hour. (*Don't say: I'll be back in ~~a~~ hour.*)

We say **progress**, (NOT **a** progress). Progress is uncountable.

He has made very good progress. (Don't say: He has made **a** very good progress).

We say **weather**, (NOT **a** weather). Weather is uncountable.

Did you have good weather on your trip? (*Don't say: Did you have **a** good weather on your trip?*).

If the weather is bad, I won't go out for a walk. (*Don't say: If **a** weather is bad, I won't go out for a walk.*).

It is terrible weather today. (*Don't say: It is **a** terrible weather today.*).

We use "**the**" with the names of musical instruments.

We say **the guitar, the piano, the violin**, (NOT **guitar, piano, violin**).

Tom played the guitar and Mary played the piano. (*Don't say: Tom played the guitar and Mary played the piano.*).

He likes to play the guitar. (*Don't say: He likes to ~~play guitar~~.*).

Are you sure that Peter plays the violin well? (*Don't say: Are you sure that Peter ~~plays violin~~ well?*).

I can play the piano, the guitar and the violin. (*Don't say: I can ~~play piano, guitar and violin~~.*).

We say "**Do you like apples?**", (NOT Do you like **apple?**).

She likes butterflies because they are pretty. (*Don't say: She likes ~~butterfly~~ because they are pretty.*).

I like cats. (*Don't say: I like ~~eat~~.*).

We say **what + a/an + adj + singular countable nouns**, (NOT **what + adj + singular countable nouns**).

What a lovely house! (*Don't say: What lovely house!*).

What a big dog! (*Don't say: What big dog!*).

What a stupid man he is! (*Don't say: What stupid man he is!*).

We say **as long as I have**, (NOT as long as I ~~will~~ have).

I will learn English as long as I have time. (*Don't say: I will learn English as long as I ~~will~~ have time*).

I will study Japanese as long as I live in Japan. (*Don't say: I will study Japanese as long as I ~~will~~ live in Japan*).

I will go to London on holidays as long as I get the money. (*Don't say: I will go to London on holidays as long as I ~~will~~ get the money*).

We say **as usual**, (NOT as ~~usually~~).

Needless to say, Judy came late as usual. (*Don't say: Needless to say, Judy came late ~~as usually~~*).

As usual, he was late. (*Don't say: ~~As usually~~, he was late*).

We say **ask someone for something**, (NOT ask ~~someone something~~).

He asked me for some money. (*Don't say: He asked me some money*).

She asked him for help. (*Don't say: She asked him help*).

He asked her for a loan. (*Don't say: He asked her a loan*).

We say **ask someone to do something**, (NOT ask someone ~~do/doing~~ something).

He asked me to lend him some money. (*Don't say: He asked me ~~lend~~ him some money*).

He asked her to marry him. (*Don't say: He asked her ~~marry~~ him*).

She asked me to show her the book. (*Don't say: She asked me ~~show~~ her the book*).

We say **arrive in/at**, (NOT ask arrive ~~to~~).

I arrived in New York at 10:30 a.m. (*Don't say: I arrived ~~to~~ New York at 10:30 a.m.*).

We arrived at the hotel and booked in. (*Don't say: We arrived ~~to~~ the hotel and booked in*).

We arrived at the harbor just as the boat was leaving. (*Don't say: We arrived ~~to~~ the harbor just as the boat was leaving*).

We say **on the second floor**, (NOT ~~in/at~~ the second floor).

My flat is on the second floor. (*Don't say: My flat is ~~in/at~~ the second floor*).

His office is on the second floor. (*Don't say: His office is ~~in/at~~ the second floor*).

We say **give someone something back**, (NOT give someone something ~~again~~).

Give me my money back. (*Don't say: Give me my money ~~again~~*).

She gave him his book back. (*Don't say: She gave him his book ~~again~~*).

We say **be one of the + plural nouns**, (NOT be one of the + ~~singular nouns~~).

Venice is one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. (*Don't say: Venice is one of the most beautiful ~~city~~ in Europe*).

My father is one of the most important people in my life. (*Don't say: My father is one of the most important ~~person~~ in my life*).

We say **we can both speak English**, (NOT ~~both~~ we can speak English).

We can both learn from each other. (*Don't say: ~~Both we can~~ learn from each other*).

We can both drive cars. (*Don't say: ~~Both we can~~ drive cars*).

They can both be false. (*Don't say: ~~Both they can~~ be false*).

We use **modal verbs + V<sub>o</sub>**.

He can speak English very well. (*Don't say: He ~~can~~s speak English very well*).

She could read when she was three years old. (*Don't say: She could ~~to~~ read when she was three years old*).

Can you swim? (*Don't say: ~~Do you can~~ swim?*).

We use **"may"** to talk about the chances that something will happen, (NOT



can).

We may visit our grandparents in Sydney this year. (*Don't say: We ~~can~~ visit our grandparents in Sydney this year.*)

I may pass the exam. (*Don't say: I ~~can~~ pass the exam.*)

I may not have time to do it. (*Don't say: I ~~cannot~~ have time to do it.*)

We say **more and more beautiful**, (NOT more ~~beautiful~~ and more beautiful).

She became more and more beautiful as she grew up. (*Don't say: She became more ~~beautiful~~ and more beautiful as she grew up.*)

He became more and more handsome as he grew older. (*Don't say: He became more ~~handsome~~ and more handsome as he grew older.*)

We use **the + comparative expression + subject + verb**.

The more he ate, the smarter he got. (*Don't say: The more he ate, ~~the more he got smarter.~~*)

The more books he read, the more he learned. (*Don't say: The more books he read, ~~he learned the more.~~*)

We say **in the team**, (NOT ~~of~~ the team).

He is the best player in the team. (*Don't say: He is the best player ~~of~~ the team.*)

She is the most talented person in the team. (*Don't say: She is the most talented person ~~of~~ the team.*)

## Conclusion

Thank you again for downloading this book on “*Common English Mistakes Explained With Examples: Over 300 Mistakes Almost Students Make and How To Avoid Them In Less Than 5 Minutes A Day (Book 2)*.” and reading all the way to the end. I’m extremely grateful.

If you know of anyone else who may benefit from the useful over 300 mistakes almost students make and how to avoid them presented in this book, please help me inform them of this book. I would greatly appreciate it.

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*-- Rachel Mitchell --*