
COMMON MISTAKES IN LEARNING ENGLISH AND HOW TO AVOID THEM

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In this article, we will analyze the frequent mistakes made by students learning a new language and how to fix them. Some of the most common problems that trouble learners are grammar, punctuation, and vocabulary. Also, we will give some tips on how to solve these issues.

KEYWORDS:

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INTRODUCTION. Learning English brings numerous advantages and changes lives by opening new opportunities. At the same time, it can also be challenging for learners, especially while speaking. Most learners find certain parts of English, such as grammar, punctuation, and vocabulary, difficult. Actually, making mistakes is quite common for people who are new to English, and there are several ways to address this issue. Additionally, there are a variety of methods to overcome this inaccuracy, including reading English materials, learning from previous mistakes, and, finally, practising further. With consistent effort, they will be able to speak without errors.

Currently, learning English holds significant importance among people, especially among the youth, as it has a great influence in achieving remarkable successes. On the other hand, encountering challenges while learning English as a second language is inevitable for non-english speakers. The majority of them have issues with grammar, punctuation, and other vocabulary rules which seem to be detrimental to their learning. English plays an integral role in communication, and language misuse and errors done at the most basic level

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can be problematic. Most common amongst those errors is article misuse, which is unfortunately, very much prevalent. 'The' is accompanied with nouns that are specific, while 'a' or 'an' accompanies singular, non-specific nouns.[1] It is very important to consider whether the phrase is used for a general or a specific focus as different phrases require different words. For speakers, the use of the term 'the' poses a great deal of problem and creates difficulties during speech in English. For example; when we say 'She goes to the school every day', which in this case, the article, the, should be omitted because the speaker is talking about school as an institution rather than a specified one. Also, the article, the, alone has multiple rules, such as not preceding the names of sports and subjects, proper nouns (such as Paris and Nike shoes, etc.), languages, and nationalities. In the same way, learners get confused when dealing with the use of preposition in the spoken English language. For instance, the error is saying 'a present to someone,' while the correct expression is 'a present for someone,' where 'for' specifies the person the gift is intended for.[1] Most of the all, speakers need to adhere to the use of English tenses in order to make perfect speech, and that includes past simple for particular conditions that involve specific time that differs from present perfect ('I saw him yesterday' not 'I have seen him yesterday').[1] As a result, even though students are rich in vocabulary knowledge, it is essence to get acquainted with grammar rules to be able to articulate sentences without making errors.

While learners get into problems in their speech, there is chaos in English writing. The most spotted error in English writing is punctuation and its usage. In addition, in the sentence, there may be misplaced or missing commas, and it is normal for people to make mistakes while using them. However, the role of commas is really important in a context because they indicate pauses, and different clauses, and they can cause tricky reading. Moreover, people should be careful while using commas because they change the meaning dramatically, such as "Let's eat Grandma!" and "Let's eat, Grandma!" The first sample means eating Grandma, while the second one offers grandmother to eat.[2] Besides, students frequently mix up semicolons and commas. The reason is they would not notice a problem in the sentence when they speak (such as "I lost my pencil case, I had to get a new one"). In this sentence, both clauses are independent; therefore, they should not be connected by a comma. Instead, they need to be changed into a semicolon.[3] They can improve their knowledge about the use of punctuation in English writing by getting acquainted with basic rules, looking for common mistakes to remember, and reading aloud to clarify the placement of punctuation in a context. Furthermore, young children often miss full stops and question marks at the end of the sentence by ignoring the mistake.[2] Certainly, this error does not seem noticeable in speech, but if it is not used in writing, it seems tricky for the reader. This problem can be solved by reading aloud as they write so that they think about what they are writing and identify the end of sentences and questions.

Conversely, some language learners make vocabulary-related mistakes that could easily be resolved. New learners tend to make a lot of errors in vocabulary. In most cases, people speak or write phrases in their native languages and translate them directly to English.[4] This can lead to poor understanding and discomforting contexts such as “I have hunger,” which is how a Spanish speaker would describe hunger and it would be correct if translated as “I am hungry”. To avoid those situations, learners are taught to at least understand the meaning of words. Unlike in other languages, English words are highly contextual. To express their thoughts coherently, learners need an environment that requires them to think in English and use the language as much as they can. Another example of misuse of context is words that are alike in spelling and pronunciation. For instance, “two,” “too,” and “to” can be misused in the phrase, “I need to much time.” Mistaking “too” as “to” is a common mistake.[5] The contribution of context adds meaning to the sentence while the absence of it leads to a feeling of incompleteness. Students are required to work with definitions, learn through context and practice with exercises, which help them improve their vocabulary. If adverbs and adjectives are interchanged, it can result in an altered meaning of the sentence. For instance, “she sings beautiful” should be changed to the adverb form of the adjective, making it “she sings beautifully”, to make it more accurate.[5] Those who have problems using vocabulary in speech have to work harder to grasp the real essence of phrases and their context in English.

To sum up, the main focus of this article is on typical errors made by learners and how to fix them. People frequently encounter difficulties with vocabulary, grammar, and punctuation in English. However, this is considered quite normal among those who have recently started learning English. Additionally, enough recommendations are made in this article to correct errors and enhance human language skill.

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