

20 Common Errors in Spoken English

Hi readers,

English is a confusing language because it has so many grammatical rules that sometimes change according to the usage and thus, the people who haven't studied the rules make mistakes in spoken and written English but there we have 100-most common list of errors that most people don't notice while speaking English but once you read them here, you are not going to forget it.

1. Wedding/ Marriage

We are going to attend a marriage. – Incorrect.

We are going to attend a wedding- Correct.

Because: wedding refers to a function/ceremony while marriage is the relationship.

2. Ask For/ Ask To/Ask About

I need to ask to my boss- Incorrect

I need to ask my boss- Correct

Never use any preposition between ask and the noun or pronoun used for the person you are going to ask.

Ask For is used when you want something.

I asked for a salary hike.

I asked him for a cup of coffee.

Ask About is used when you are looking for some information or enquiring about something.

I asked about his health.

They asked me about my job.

Ask to is used when you want someone to do something.

I asked him to turn off the light.

They asked me to help them.

3. Suggest and Recommend

Recommend and suggest are always followed by that or by the –ing form.

Don't say: "I recommend you to get more exercise."

Don't use "to"!

Examples:

I suggested that he see a doctor.

I suggested seeing a doctor

4. Pass and Spend Time

They are different meaning. Passing time refers to an activity that you do to just leisure away the time. Like you are getting bored at a salon and you read a magazine to pass time or you played a game to pass time. Spending time is adding value to your time and you spend time to do things you like.

I pass my time reading books.- Incorrect

I spend my time reading books. – Correct

5. Irregular Plural

Usually we know that using s/es makes a noun plural but some nouns are exceptions and due to lack of knowledge or practice we use irregular nouns like

I have three **childrens**- Incorrect.

Children is the plural of child.

Their **wifes** are beautiful. Incorrect

Their **wives** are beautiful.

They love their **lives**.

They love their **lives**.

6. Dozen/Dozens, Hundred/Hundreds, Pair/Pairs

I bought two dozens bananas. – Incorrect

I bought two dozen bananas.- Correct.

He has two pair of shoes- Correct

He has two pairs of shoes.- Incorrect

Five hundred rupees have been spent- Correct

Five hundred rupees have been spent- Incorrect.

Reason: Units such as: dozen, hundred, thousand, million, billion, air are used same for singular and plural nouns/pronouns.

7. Words ending with age, ery, ance

Words ending with age and ery, ance are always used as singular nouns

(Baggage, breakage, homage, hostage, patronage, heritage, jewellery, pottery, liberty, maintenance, greenery etc)

like.

He broke my crokeries. Incorrect.

He broke my crockery.

He has heavy luggages- Incorrect.

He has heavy luggage- Correct

8. News

A or An is not used before News. Only the can be used. News has no plural form.

A news is fake.- Incorrect

The new is fake- Correct

9. Use of The

Not Used before	Used
the names of mountain peaks Mount Everest	Before the series of mountains The Himalayas
Names of rivers Ganga, Yamuna	Before the names of oceans The pacific ocean
Before the name of a particular island Sumatra, Bali, Java	Before the names of seas, bays, gulfs, desserrts, canals The Arabian Sea, The Bay of Bengal, The Persian Gulf
Not used before the names of languages	Before the names of aeroplanes, Ships, trains The Meghdoot, The Vikrant, The Punjab Mail
If the name of the author is used before the name of religious book the is not used Tulsi's Ramayana	Before the name of Religious books, communities The Ramayana. The Hindu
Not used before proper nouns like Patna, America, Delhi	Before directions, government branches, historical places/buildings/period/era,
Before the subjects like physics, maths	Means of transport
Before uncountable nouns like gold, silver	the first/second, third.. next last
Before meals like lunch, dinner, days and months, festivals, diseases	political parties, instruments, / inventions/parts of body

10. In-laws

I have two sister-in-laws- Incorrect

I have two sisters-in-law- correct

11. Women/Lady/Madam

Women- is a feminine word that refers to gender/sex.

Lady- is used for a women regard as having high characteristic values or social ranking

Incorrect	Correct
A lady-doctor has been sent for	A women-doctor has been sent for

A lady-teacher teaches me.	A women-teacher or a female-teacher teaches me.
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Word "Lady" is not used in singular form for direct address. To address a women directly we use madam. Lady is used to represent of a women but madam cannot be.

Incorrect	Correct
May I come in Lady?	May I come in Madam?
He stole a madam's bag	He stole a lady's bag.

12. Sequence of pronouns

In a normal sentence when we need to place pronouns of different 'persons' consecutively, we have to mention second person first, then third person and at last first person(231).

Example-

You, he and I will go to movie- theater today.

You, Subham and I will participate in the debate competition.

If the pronouns are in plural form then first person is followed by second and third person(123).

Example-

We, you and they will visit the slum today.

In case of unpleasant actions the order will be first person, third person and second person(132).

Example-

I, Sunita and you are equally guilty.

13. Because

Never use because after "the reason".

The reason I resigned is because I was not prepared for the job. Incorrect

The reason I resigned is that I was not prepare for the job.- Correct

I resigned because I was not prepared.- Correct

14. Former and Latter

Former refers to the first of the two previously mentioned persons/things and latter refers to the second one.

Ram and shyam are intelligent students. The former is good at Mathematics while the latter is good at English.

15. Take/Give Exams

I am giving the exam. – Incorrect.

I am taking the exam.- Correct

16. Fastly

In English language, there is no such word called " Fastly" the adverb form of fast is "Fast".

People often use. Run Fastly. Come Fastly. These are incorrect.

Come fast. Correct

Run Fast- Correct

17. Among/Between

Among is used when there are more than two people/things and between is used for two persons/things.

Distribute the candies between Ram and Shyam.

Distribute the candies among Ram, Shyam and Mohan.

18. Misplaced Nouns/Verbs/Adverbs as modifiers

He threatened to divorce her **often**. -Incorrect

He **often** threatened to divorce her.- Correct

We gave the cakes to the customers in the refrigerator- Incorrect

We gave the cakes in the in the refrigerator to the customers- Correct

He offered to paint the wall last night. - Incorrect

Last night, he offered to paint the wall.- Correct

19. Parallel verb phrases

When there are two parallel verb working together then two helping verbs will be used.

She was late for school and punished by her teacher. - Incorrect

She was late for school and was punished by her teacher- Correct

He learned to play violin, to swim and sail.- Incorrect

He learned to play violin, to swim and to sail- Correct

20. Beside/Besides

Beside means next to someone and besides means in addition to something

He came and sat beside me.

Besides studies, he is doing well in sports.

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