



Linguistic Exercises

بيانات أساسية

الكلية: التربية

الشعبة: عام

قسم: اللغة الإنجليزية

الفرقة: الرابعة

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Chapter 1

Prepositions and Phrasal Verbs

INTRODUCTION

Non-native learners of language learn it through books and so find it difficult to use prepositions and phrasal verbs. Native speakers of the English language, however, use prepositions and phrasal verbs naturally. When a child is exposed to a native language, it registers unconsciously the language in its brain. When the need arises, it uses language intuitively. Since you acquire English through books, you are not acquainted with prepositions and phrasal verbs as its native speakers are. Thus, unfamiliarity is the root cause of the difficulties we face when we use English. Therefore, it is imperative that you should learn prepositions and phrasal verbs. The importance of using prepositions can be seen from the fact that in every competitive examination there are certain questions regarding the prepositions which are invariably asked. Phrasal verbs do not exist in most other languages. Wrong use of phrasal verbs effect the meaning of the sentence. Thus, this chapter deals with prepositions and phrasal verbs.

PREPOSITIONS

A preposition is a word that shows the relationship between an object and some other words in the sentence. A preposition has an object (except when it is part of a phrasal verb such as make out), which is usually a noun or a pronoun.

For example:

Find a reference book from the library.

In this sentence, the word ‘from’ shows the relationship between two things – ‘book’ and ‘library’. Here it is used as a preposition. This is a simple preposition. The preposition establishes a relationship such as time, cause, manner, space or accompaniment between its object and another part of the sentence. The simple prepositions are: at, on, in, through, to, by, down, out, for, with, between etc. Generally, prepositions follow verbs, nouns and adjectives and remain separate as words. Sometimes, prepositions are prefixed with verbs, nouns, adjectives and adverbs and form new words. Very rarely, some prepositions are attached to adverbs and form new words.

There is another category of prepositions. Here, the preposition with its object (and any modifiers) is called a ‘prepositional phrase.’ When a group of words is used with the force of a preposition it is called a prepositional phrase. Here are some most commonly used phrasal prepositions.

according to	except for	in order to
apart from	for the sake of	in place of
along with	in addition to	in spite of
away from	in case of	instead of
because of	in comparison to	on account of

by means of	in course of	owing to
by way of	in front of	with reference to
due to	in lieu of	with respect to

--These expressions are generally idiomatic expressions.

An idiom is an expression whose meaning is peculiar to the language or differs from the individual meanings of its elements. By Idiomatic writing we mean writing that strikes the reader as natural, smooth and unaffected in its meaning. In English, we use many idiomatic phrases that are justified by custom and practice rather than by logic or grammar. An idiom may be sometimes irrational, untranslatable and even ungrammatical. Generally, native users of the English language naturally speak and write idiomatically, though all of us, sometimes, find it hard to use the right idiomatic prepositions. Choosing just the right idiom is largely a matter of experience. Since idioms are created out of the day-to-day living of ordinary men and women, they are in themselves alive, potent and racy. They are truly the heart of the language. You cannot memorize all the idioms. Idiomatic speech or writing will come naturally to you if you have grown up with the language; if you haven't, you have something of a problem on your hands.

This section deals with prepositional phrases, relationship expressed by prepositions, verbs followed by prepositions, nouns followed by prepositions, adjectives followed by prepositions and some specific use of prepositions.

Relationship Expressed by Prepositions

It needs a lot of effort to use prepositions correctly. In mastering prepositions, you probably can't avoid memorization. But you can help yourself by memorizing related groups.

Prepositions express relationship of time, place, cause and purpose, measure and value, agency and instrumentality, possession, manner, inference and contrast. Some are given in the following tables:

Relationship of Time
Preposition → Context
after → after four in the evening
at → at 5 a.m.
before → before four in the evening
behind → behind time
by → by four o' clock
during → during the office hours
for → for the two years, for the whole day
from → from 12 to 26 August
in → in the evening
in → in August, in 2007
on → on Sunday
since → since Monday

through → lasted through the day
throughout → throughout the month
till → wait till evening
to → five minutes to four
towards → towards night
until → until he arrives
with → with the rise of the sun
within → within three hours

Relationship of Place

Preposition → Context
about → about the place
across → ran across the road
against → hit against the wall
at → at Hyderabad
before → before the park
behind → behind the door
below → lies below the surface
beside → bank is beside the post office
between → rock is between those houses
by → stand by the side of post office

from → this place is far from this
in → in the campus
into → fell into the pond
near → near to my house
on → on the campus
over → over the bridge
round → round the trip
through → marched through the city
to → to the end of the street
towards → towards the campus
under → under the carpet
up → climbed up the hill
upon → upon the bed
within → within the house
without → without the open place

Relationship of Cause and Purpose

Preposition → Context
for → worked for charity; a nice place for picnic
from → suffering from fever
through → lost money through carelessness

with → I agree with you

Relationship of Measure and Value

Preposition → Context

at → at interest of five percent

by → by 2 inches

Relationship of Agency and Instrumentality

Preposition → Context

at → sell it at a good price

by → by post, cut it with a knife by Ravi

through → got the news through the friend

with → cut it with a knife

beat with a stick

Relationship of Possession

Preposition → Context

of → of all the skills

with → with fair complexion lot of money

Relationship of Manner

Preposition → Context
by → won attention by good manners
with → work with honesty
fight with courage

Relationship of Inference

Preposition → Context
from → skill comes from practice

Relationship of Contrast

Preposition → Context
after → after all the effort he lost it
for → for all his property he is not satisfied
with → I appreciate him with all his faults

IDIOMATIC COMBINATIONS

Idiomatic combinations of verbs followed by prepositions, nouns followed by prepositions and adjectives followed by prepositions can be confusing for both native and non-native speakers of the English language.

If you are learning English as a second language, you are justified in stumbling over its prepositions because their combinations are based on context. These combinations are given here in a tabular form.

Prepositional Phrases – Verb

Verbs	Preposition	Object of the Prepositional Phrase
Abide	by	abide by a decision
acquit	of	acquit of blame

aim	at	aim at something
Accuse	of	accuse someone of a crime
allot	to	allot room to a student
argue	for/against	argue for or against a point
avail (oneself)	of	avail oneself of an offer
Arrive	at	arrive at a decision
Arrive	in	arrive in a country
attend	to	attend to a job
bear	with	bear with a man's weakness
believe	in	believe in something
Belong	to	belong to someone
boast	of	boast of an achievement

Break	into	break into a house
break	off	break off in the middle
Bring	down	bring down prices
bring	out	bring out a book
Bring	up	bring up a child
Call	on	call on a person (visit)
Call	to	call to a person (shout)
call -----out -----call out (summon) a person		
compensate -----for -----compensate someone for loss		
Confer----- with -----confer with a person about something		
Comply----- with -----comply with one's respect		
Deal----- with -----deal with a person/subject		
Cooperate----- with -----cooperate with others		
differ -----with -----differ with a person on a subject		
Dispose----- of----- dispose of a thing		
Dispense----- with -----dispense with a person's service		
Encroach----- on -----encroach on other's right		
Guess----- at----- guess at something		
Hint----- at -----hint at something		
Invite----- to -----invite someone to a function		
Listen----- to -----listen to a person		
Send----- for----- send for a doctor.		

Nouns Followed by Prepositions

Noun	Preposition	Object of the Prepositional Phrase
Access	to	access to a person/place
Acquaintance----- with----- acquaintance with a person		
affection -----for -----affection for a person		
agreement -----with -----agreement with someone		
Aptitude----- for -----aptitude for mathematics		
Appetite----- for----- appetite for food		
Approach----- to -----approach to a problem		
Basis----- for -----basis for something		
bearing -----upon----- bearing upon some matter		
Cause---- for----- cause for something		
Comment----- on----- comment on a statement		
Cure----- for----- cure for a disease		
effect----- of -----effect of medicine		
Faith----- in----- faith in a belief		
fear -----of----- fear of something		
Interest----- in -----interest in music		
lack -----of----- lack of money		
Opinion----- on----- opinion on something		

payment -----for----- payment for cycle
prevention -----of----- prevention of disease
provision -----for -----provision for something
punishment -----for----- punishment for a crime
relief -----from----- relief from trouble
Response----- to -----response to a letter
taste -----for -----taste for something
Tolerance----- for -----tolerance for something
sympathy -----for -----sympathy for a cause
Surprise----- at -----surprise at something
Remedy----- for----- remedy for an illness
quarrel -----with -----quarrel with someone.

Adjectives Followed by Prepositions

Adjective	Preposition	Object of the Prepositional Phrase
accused	of	accused of a crime
addicted	to	addicted to a bad habit
angry	with	angry with a person
		at angry at his friend's behaviour
annoyed	with	annoyed with one at his conduct
annoyed	at	annoyed at some one's behaviour

Anxious----- for/about----- anxious about something
appropriate -----to -----appropriate to an occasion
ashamed -----of----- ashamed of something
Aware----- of -----aware of danger
Blind----- to -----blind to someone's fault
boastful -----of -----boastful of something
capable -----of -----capable of doing something
Careful----- about -----careful about one's health
careful ----with----- careful with one's work
charged -----with -----charged with a crime
Preferable----- to----- preferable to something else
proficient -----in proficient -----in something
Popular----- with----- popular with people
relevant -----to -----relevant to subject
related -----to -----related to someone
Responsible----- for----- responsible for something
rich -----in -----rich in something
satisfied----- with -----satisfied with one's job
skillful -----in -----skillful in doing something
Slow----- at----- slow at work
Worthy----- of----- worthy of something

Specific Use of Prepositions

Some words like barring, concerning, considering, regarding, respecting and a few similar words which are present participle of verbs are used as prepositions. The word 'touching' is a present participle of a verb, and is used as an adjective and a preposition. Some words end with -ing but are not present participles of verbs.

For example, the word 'during', though it ends with -ing, is used as a preposition. The word 'notwithstanding' is used as an adverb and a preposition. The word 'pending' is used as an adjective and a preposition.

There are several words in the English language that belong to more than one class. Some words are used sometimes as adverbs and sometimes as prepositions. If the word governs a noun or pronoun it is a preposition, otherwise it is an adverb. Here are some examples:

Preposition, Adverb

Preposition

1. after = next to/following

He left after he completed his assignment.

2. on = touching the top

The book lies on the table.

Adverb

after = next, later

His professor enquired soon after.

= in action.

The light is on.

3. before = earlier (than) = in advance

I came day before yesterday.

I could not come before.

4. in =

in =

Is he in his chamber?

Has he come in?

5. off =

off =

The driver jumped off the car.

The screw came off.

6. about =

about =

Don't loiter in the street.

Go and run about.

7. over =

over =

He rules over a vast empire.

Take this parcel to the post-office.

PHRASAL VERBS

One or two prepositions (often called particles) attach to a root verb and thus create a new verb with a meaning that is different from that of the simple verb. The new verb thus formed is called a 'phrasal verb'.

It is a unique feature of the English language. These are two-word or three-word verbs. For example, in the expression 'put up with', the root verb is 'put'. The meaning of the verb 'put' is 'to place something in a certain position'. But if two

prepositions 'up' and 'with' are added to it, it means 'to tolerate'. Here is an example:

He could not put up with the insolence of his younger brother any more.

Similarly, the root verb 'bring' means to carry something but 'bring up' would mean 'to raise something'. The following examples illustrate this point:

He brought up the matter in the senate.

She brought up five children to be good citizens of India.

Let us analyze another example. The root verb 'keep' means 'to cause to remain in a certain position' but 'keep on' means 'to continue'. Look at the following example:

He kept on saying that he was innocent.

Thus, prepositions, when attached to a root verb, change their meanings to a great extent.

According to A.C. Baugh, the development of Phrasal Verbs is an important characteristic feature of modern idiomatic English. They are made up of a common verb combined with a preposition. One interesting feature of such combinations is "the large number of figurative and idiomatic senses in which they have come to be used."

Many phrasal verbs are more common in speech than in a formal, academic or business writing. For formal writing, we prefer to use 'examine' or 'inspect' instead of 'look over'. Some of these phrasal verbs may be separated or may not be separated by any other words within the sentence. This section mainly focuses on:

Separable phrasal verbs within a sentence, inseparable phrasal verbs within a sentence, some verbs and their phrasal verbs, meanings and usage, some phrasal verbs having the same meaning, use of phrasal verbs in conversation, and formation of nouns by adding a hyphen between them.

Separable Phrasal Verbs

Generally, phrasal verbs that take direct objects may be separated by the object itself.

The preposition can come before or after the object.

Example:

Kavya looked a word up in the dictionary.

Revised: Kavya looked up a word in the dictionary.

If the direct object is a pronoun, the preposition must follow the object. The pronoun separates the verb from the particle. Read the following examples:

Kavya looked it up in a dictionary

Teachers help them out.

The separable phrasal verbs are given here:

bring up	give back	make up	throw out
call off	hand in	point out	try on
call up	hand out	put away	turn out
drop off	help out	put back	turn down
fill out	leave out	put off	turn on

fill up	look over	take out	turn up
give away	look up	take over	wrap up

Inseparable Phrasal Verbs

Verbs and particles that may not be separated by any other words in a sentence.

These are given here:

break down	give up	play around	stay away
catch on	go out with	run across	stay up
come across	go over	run into	take care of
get along	grow up	run out of	turn out
get up	keep on	speak up	turn up at
give in	look into	speak with	work for

Examples:

Faulty: children grow quickly up.

Revised: children grow up quickly.

Phrasal Verbs: Their Meanings

Root	Verb	Phrasal Verb Meaning	Sentence
Egg project but	Egg sb on (to do sth) my boss kept egging me on.	To urge or strongly encourage sb to do sth	I did not want to do this
Peter soon petered	Peter out out for lack of support.	To decrease or fade gradually before coming to an end	The protest campaign

Commonly Confused Words

Homonyms

The commonly confused words (also known as *homonyms*) on the following pages have the same sounds but different meanings and spellings. Complete the activities for each set of words, and check off and study the words that give you trouble.

brake stop

break come apart

His car bumper has a sticker reading, "I *brake* for animals."

"I am going to *break* up with Bill if he keeps seeing other women," said Rita.

Fill in the blanks: When my car's emergency _____ slipped, the car rolled back and demolished my neighbor's rose garden, causing a _____ in our good relations with each other.

Write sentences using *brake* and *break*.

course part of a meal; a school subject; direction; certainly

coarse rough

By the time the waitress served the customers the second *course* of the meal, she was aware of their *coarse* eating habits.

Fill in the blanks: Ted felt the health teacher's humor was too _____ for his taste and was glad when he finished the _____

Write sentences using *course* and *coarse*.

hear perceive with the ear

here in this place

“The salespeople act as though they don’t see or *hear* me, even though I’ve been standing *here* for fifteen minutes,” the woman complained.

Fill in the blanks: “Did you _____ about the distinguished visitor who just came into town and is staying _____ at this very hotel?”

Write sentences using *hear* and *here*.

hole an empty spot

whole entire

“I can’t believe I ate the *whole* pizza,” moaned Ralph. “I think it’s going to make a *hole* in my stomach lining.”

Fill in the blanks: The _____ time I was at the party I tried to conceal the I had in my trousers.

“Write sentences using *hole* and *whole*.

its belonging to it

it’s the shortened form for “it is” or “it has”

The car blew *its* transmission (the transmission belonging to it, the car)

It’s (it has) been raining all week and *it’s* (it is) raining now.

Fill in the blanks: _____ hot and unsanitary in the restaurant kitchen I work and I don’t think the restaurant deserves ___ reputation.

Write sentences using *its* and *it’s*.

knew past form of know
new not old

“I got *new* wallpaper put up,” said Sarah.

“I *knew* there was some reason the place looked better,” said Bill.

Fill in the blanks: Lola _____ that getting her hair cut would give her face a
_____ look.

Write sentences using *knew* and *new*.

know to understand
no a negative

“I don’t *know* why my dog Fang likes to attack certain people,” said Martha. “There’s *no* one thing the people have in common.”

Fill in the blanks: I _____ of _____ way of telling whether that politician is honest or not.

Write sentences using *know* and *no*.

pair a set of two
pear a fruit

“What a great *pair* of legs Tony has,” said Lola to Vonnie. Tony didn’t hear her, for he was feeling very sick after munching on a green *pear*.

Fill in the blanks: In his lunch box were a _____ of _____.

Write sentences using *pair* and *pear*.

passed went by; succeeded in; handed to
past a time before the present; by, as in "I drove past the house"

"I *passed* him the wine bottle; it was the only way he could forget his unhappy *past*."

Fill in the blanks: I walked _____ the teacher's office but was afraid to ask her whether or not I had _____ the test.

Write sentences using *passed* and *past*.

peace calm
piece a part

Nations often risk world *peace* by fighting over a *piece* of land.

Fill in the blanks: Martha did not have any _____ until she gave her pet dog a _____ of her meat loaf.

Write sentences using *peace* and *piece*.

plain simple
plane aircraft

The *plain*, unassuming young man on the *plane* suddenly jumped up with a grenade in his hand and announced, "This plane is going to Tibet."

Fill in the blanks: The game-show contestant opened the small box wrapped in _____ brown paper and found inside the keys to his own jet _____.

Write sentences using *plain* and *plane*.

principal main; a person in charge of a school
principle a law or standard

Note: It might help to remember that the *a* in *principal* is in *main* and in *man* or *woman*—the two meanings of *principal*.

Pete’s high school *principal* had one *principal* problem: Pete. This was because there were only two *principles* in Pete’s life: rest and relaxation.

Fill in the blanks: The _____ reason she dropped out of school was that she disliked her high school _____...

Write sentences using *principal* and *principle*.

right correct; opposite of “left”
write what you do in English

If you have the *right* course card, I’ll *write* your name on the class roster.

Fill in the blanks: Eddie thinks I’m weird since I _____ with both my _____ and left hands.

Write sentences using *right* and *write*.

than (thān) used in comparison
then (thēn) at that time

Note: It might help to remember that the *a* in *than* is also in *compare*, a meaning of *than*, and that the *e* in *then* is also in *time*, a meaning of *then*.

When we were kids, my friend Elaine had prettier clothes *than* I did. I really envied her *then*.

Fill in the blanks: Marge thought she was better _____ the rest of us, but _____ she got the lowest grade in the history test.

Write sentences using *than* and *then*.

their belonging to them

there at that place; a neutral word used with verbs like is, are, was, have and had

they're the shortened form of "they are"

Two people own that van over *there* (at that place). *They're* (they are) going to move out of *their* apartment (the apartment belonging to them) and into the van, in order to save money.

Fill in the blanks: _____ not going to invite us to _____ table because _____ is no room for us to sit down.

Write sentences using *their*, *there*, and *they're*.

threw past form of throw

through from one side to other; finished

The fans *threw* so much litter on the field that the teams could not go *through* with the game.

Fill in the blanks: When Mr. Jefferson was _____ screaming about the violence on television, he _____ the newspaper at his dog.

Write sentences using *threw* and *through*.

to to a verb part, as in to smile; toward, as in “I’m going to heaven”
too overly, as in “The pizza was too hot”; also, as in “The was hot, too.” **two** the number 2

Tony drove *to* the park *to* be alone with Lola. (The first *to* means “toward”; the second *to* is a verb part that goes with be.)

Tony’s shirt is *too* tight; his pants are tight; *too*. (The first *too* means “overly”; the second *too* means “also.”)

Fill in the blanks: _____ times tonight, you have been _____ ready

_____ make assumptions without asking questions first.

Write sentences using *to*, *too*, and *two*.

your belonging to you
you’re the shortest form of “you are”

You’re (meaning “you are”) not going to the fair unless *your* brother (the brother belongs to you) goes with you.

Fill in the blanks: _____ going to have to put aside individual differences

and play together for the sake of _____ team.

Write sentences using *your* and *you’re*.

wear to have on
where in what place

Fred wanted to *wear* his light pants on the hot day, but he didn’t know *where* he had put them.

Fill in the blanks: _____ exactly on my leg should I _____
this elastic bandage?

Write sentences using *wear* and *where*.

weather atmospheric conditions
whether if it happens that; in case; if

Some people go on holidays *whether* or not the *weather* is good.

Fill in the blanks: I always ask Bill _____ or not we're going to have a storm, for he can feel rainy _____ approaching in his bad knee.

Write sentences using *weather* and *whether*.

whose belonging to whom
who's the shortened form for "who is" and "who was"

Who's the teacher *whose* students are complaining?

Fill in the blanks: _____ the guy _____ car I saw you in?

Write sentences using *whose* and *who's*.

Other Words Frequently Confused

Following is a list of other words that people frequently confuse. Complete the activities for each set of words, and check off and study the words that give you trouble.

a, an Both *a* and *an* are used before other words to mean, approximately, "one." Generally you should use *an* before words starting with a vowel (a, e, i, o, u):

an ache an experiment an elephant an idiot an ox
an onion an honor an FBI agent

Generally you should use *a* before words starting with a consonant (all other letters):

a Coke a brain a cheat a television a gambler
a union a hotel a United States Senator

Fill in the blanks: The girls had _____ argument over _____ former boyfriend.

Write sentences using *a* and *an*.

accept (ăk sĕpt') receive; agree to
except (ĕk sĕpt') exclude; but

"I would *accept* your loan," said Bill to the bartender, "*except* that I'm not ready to pay 25 percent interest"

Fill in the blanks: _____ that she can't _____ any criticism, Lori is a good friend.

Write sentences using *accept* and *except*.

advice (ăd vīs') a noun meaning "an opinion"
advise (ăd vīz') a verb meaning "to counsel, to give advice"

I *advise* you to take the *advice* of your friends and stop working so hard.

Fill in the blanks: I _____ you to listen carefully to any _____ you get from your boss.

Write sentences using *advice* and *advise*

affect (uh fĕkt') a verb meaning "to influence"
effect (ī fĕkt') a verb meaning "to bring about something"; a noun meaning "result"

The full *effects* of marijuana and alcohol on the body are only partly known; however, both drugs clearly *affect* the brain in various ways.

Fill in the blanks: The new tax laws go into _____ next month, and they are going to _____ your income tax deductions.

Write sentences using *affect* and *effect*.

desert (dĕz' ert) a stretch of dry lands; to abandon one's post or duty
dessert (dĭ zĕrt') last part of a meal

Camels are animals on the *desert*; they are also cigarettes people smoke after dinner with their coffee and *dessert*.

Fill in the blanks: After their meal, they carried their _____ into the living room so that they would not miss the start of the old _____ movie.

Write sentences using *desert* and *dessert*

loose (lū's) not fastened; not tight-fitting
lose (lūz) misplaced; fail to win

Phil's belt is so *loose* that he always looks ready to *lose* his pants.

Fill in the blanks: At least once a week our neighbors _____ their dog; it's because they let him run _____.

Write sentences using *loose* and *lose*

quiet (kwī't) peaceful
quite (kwīt) entirely; really; rather

After a busy day, the children were now *quiet*, and their parents were *quite* tired.

Fill in the blanks: The _____ halls of the church become _____ lively during square dance evenings.

Write sentences using *quiet* and *quite*.

though (thō) despite the fact that
thought (thôt) past form of think

Even *though* she worked, she *thought* she would have time to go to school.

Fill in the blanks: Susan _____ she would like the job, but even _____ the pay was good, she hated the traveling involved.

Write sentences using *though* and *thought*.

Review Test 1

Underline the correct word in the parenthesis. Rather than guessing, look back at the explanations of the words when necessary.

Please take my (advice, advise) and (where, wear) something warm and practical, rather (than, then) something fashionable and flimsy.

Glen felt that if he could (loose, lose) twenty pounds, the (affect, effect) on his social life might be dramatic.

(Their, There, They're) going to show seven horror films at (their, there, they're). Halloween night festival; I hope you'll be (their, there, they're).

(Your, You're) going to have to do (a, an) better job on (your, you're) final exam if you expect to pass the (coarse, course).

Those (to, too, tow) issues are (to, too, two) hot for any politician (to, too, two) handle.

Even (though, thought) the (brakes, breaks) on my car were worn, I did not have (quiet, quite) enough money to get them replace (right, write) away.

(Accept, Except) for the fact that my neighbor, receives most of his mail in (plain, plane) brown wrappers, he is (know, no) stranger (than, then) anyone else in this (hole, whole) of a rooming house.

(Its, It's) hard to deny the fact that (their, there, they're) are many fools in the world.

(Whose, Who's) the culprit who left the paint can on the table? The paint has ruined a (knew, new) tablecloth, and (its, it's) soaked (threw, through) the linen and (affected, effected) the varnish stain on the table.

Homophones Exercises

affect/effect

ate/eight

be/bee

blew/blue

brake/break

cent/scent/sent

dear/deer

flour/flower

grate/great

hear/here

hole/whole

hour/our

its/it's

knew/new

threw/through

than/then

know/no/now

lay/lie

loose/lose

one/won

pail/pale

pair/pare

passed/past

plain/plane

read/red

right/write

road/rode

sail/sale

sea/see

sew/so/sow

some/sum

stair/stare

tail/tale

theirs/there's

their/there/they're

to/too/two

weak/week

which/witch

who's/whose

your/you're

Homophones “ate” and “eight”

I ___ too much at dinner.

The movie starts at _____ o'clock sharp!

An octopus has _____ legs.

The monkey _____ four bananas!

Homophones “be” and “bee”

A ___ stung me at recess today.

She is supposed to _____ at work today.

I laughed when Mom said I was “Busy as a _____.”

Hurry! I don't want to _____ late.

Homophones “blew” and “blue”

My favorite color is _____.

The wind _____ the tree over.

He huffed and puffed and _____ the house made of hay.

The Pacific Ocean is a deep _____ color.

Homophones “brake” and “break”

We had a quick _____ for lunch.

The on her back tire didn't work.

Mom had to hit the _____ so we wouldn't run the red light.

The doctor said the fracture on my arm was a clean _____.

Homophones “dear” and “deer”

Be a _____ and get me a drink please.

The _____ jumped right into the road in front of us.

My letter started, “_____ John.”

My Grandpa hunts _____.

Homophones “flour” and “flower”

We needed to borrow a cup of _____ to make our cookies.

My favorite _____ is the daisy.

My Grandma is always in her _____ - garden.

___ is the main ingredient in bread.

Homophones “cent” and “scent” and “sent”

Tracy _____ her mom flowers for her birthday.

Vanilla is my favorite _____.

A penny is worth one _____.

The _____ from her perfume was strong.

She was one _____ short to pay for ice cream.

The scary movie _____ shivers down my spine!

Homophones “grate” and “great”

I had to _____ the cheese for the nachos.

My brother wants to be a _____ golfer.

My grandma is 100 years old!

The truck is coming to _____ our dirt road today.

Homophones “hear” and “here”

I can't _____ you!

Come over _____!

We could _____ the band leading the parade.

My Aunt Valerie is flying _____ today.

Homophones “hole” and “whole”

She ate the _____ pizza.

Every bagel has a _____ in the center.

I spent my _____ allowance on baseball cards.

My favorite shirt has a _____ in the armpit!

Homophones “sew”, “so” and “sow”

My Grandma likes to _____ quilts.

Farmers _____ seeds in the dirt.

She ran _____ fast, she set a new record.

“You reap what you _____.”

That roller coaster was _____ fast, my hat blew off!

My mom is teaching me how to _____.

Homophones “knew” and “new”

She got mud on her _____ shoes.

She _____ she was in trouble.

I _____ the answer to the question first.

My mom is making a _____ recipe for dinner.

Homophones “threw” and “through”

He _____ a rock _____ the window.

Stars shine _____ the darkness.

They _____ rice at the bride and groom.

She _____ away his pictures because she was _____ with him.

Misused Words “than” and “then”

I rather ride in the car _____ ride my bike.

You can ride your bike to my office and _____ I will drive you the rest of the way.

Let's go to a movie and _____ go get ice cream.

Snowboarding is more fun _____ skiing.

Homophones / Misused Words “know” and “no” and “now”

I _____ where you live.

He said “_____ onions” on the pizza.

She did not _____ how to sing.

I want to go to the movie _____.

_____ is the time to act if we want to get anything done!

My mom said, “_____, you cannot go.”

Homophones “one” and “won”

My Uncle Tom _____ the game.

I have _____ pair of baseball cleats.

We never heard who _____ the game.

Our baseball team was ahead by _____ point.

Homophones “pail” and “pale”

The _____ was full of water when it spilled.

She became _____ when the doctor said she needed a shot.

She wore a _____ blue dress for Easter.

My _____ had the most berries in it.

Homophones “pair” and “pare”

The recipe said to _____ an apple.

A __ of geese live in our pond.

My new _____ of shoes were dirty.

I didn't know how to _____ the potato.

Homophones “passed” and “past”

She _____ the house twice before she found it.

Her grandmother liked to remember the _____.

He _ the spelling test.

The bird flew right _____ the nest.

Homophones “plain” and “plane”

Mitchell only eats _____ yogurt.

The _____ was two hours late.

A pilot flies a _____ for a living.

I wanted my ice cream _____, with no extra toppings.

Homophones “read” and “red”

I wore a bright _____ dress to the party.

I __ twenty pages in an hour.

Tomatoes are bright _____ in color.

The teacher _____ out loud to her class.

Homophones “right” and “write”

Her aunt forgot to turn _____ on Elm Street.

I have to _____ a four-page paper.

I bat with my _____ hand.

I love to _____ stories!

Homophones “road” and “rode”

The _____ was bumpy and curvy.

Alex _____ his bike to Grandma's house.

We didn't know which _____ to take.

I __ a motorcycle last week.

Homophones “sail” and “sale”

Every video game was on _____ today.

The _____ on the boat was stuck.

We used a _____ to make our boat go faster.

My mom made cupcakes for the school bake _____ today.

Homophones “sea” and “see”

The fog was so thick we couldn't _____.

The Caribbean is a _____ in the tropics.

Some day I'm going to sail the seven _____!

I love to _____ you smile.

Homophones “some” and “sum”

That was _____ movie!

The _____ of two plus two is four.

We wanted _____ more pizza.

Our teacher had us figure the _____ of the equation.

Homophones “hour” and “our”

_____ school is the best!

Lunch will be ready in an _____.

I have to wait an _____ before I can swim.

My dad thinks _____ basketball team is the best.

Homophones “stair” and “stare”

The basket was on the bottom _____.

All he could do was _____ at the ugly dog.

My legs were so tired I couldn't climb one more _____.

My friend and I liked to _____ each other down.

Homophones “tail” and “tale”

The lemur has a long _____.

The story of Paul Bunyan is a tall _____.

I didn't believe my Grandpa's fairy _____.

That cat has no _____!

Homophones “theirs” and “there’s”

___ ice cream in the freezer.

___ popcorn on the floor.

I don’t know where _____ went, but ours is here.

How did _____ end up on the table

Homophones “weak” and “week”

There are seven days in every _____.

I get to see my dad next _____.

My muscles were _____ after I was sick.

Baby kittens are born very _____.

Homophones “which” and “witch”

We didn’t know _____ road to choose.

The girl dressed up as a _____ for Halloween.

My favorite character in The Wizard of Oz is Esmeralda, the Good __.

I knew ___ pumpkin I was going to pick.

Homophones “who’s” and “whose”

I didn’t know _____ shoes they were.

_____ book is missing?

_____ going to the park with us?

_____ our teacher talking about?

Common Synonyms

Amazing — incredible, unbelievable, improbable, fabulous, wonderful, fantastic, astonishing, astounding, extraordinary

Anger — enrage, infuriate, arouse, nettle, exasperate, inflame, madden

Angry — mad, furious, enraged, excited, wrathful, indignant, exasperated, aroused, inflamed

Answer — reply, respond, retort, acknowledge

Ask — question, inquire of, seek information from, put a question to, demand, request, expect, inquire, query, interrogate, examine, quiz

Awful — dreadful, terrible, abominable, bad, poor, unpleasant

Bad — evil, immoral, wicked, corrupt, sinful, depraved, rotten, contaminated, spoiled, tainted, harmful, injurious, unfavorable, defective, inferior, imperfect,

substandard, faulty, improper, inappropriate, unsuitable, disagreeable, unpleasant, cross, nasty, unfriendly, irascible, horrible, atrocious, outrageous, scandalous, infamous, wrong, noxious, sinister, putrid, snide, deplorable, dismal, gross, heinous, nefarious, base, obnoxious, detestable, despicable, contemptible, foul, rank, ghastly, execrable

Beautiful — pretty, lovely, handsome, attractive, gorgeous, dazzling, splendid, magnificent, comely, fair, ravishing, graceful, elegant, fine, exquisite, aesthetic, pleasing, shapely, delicate, stunning, glorious, heavenly, resplendent, radiant, glowing, blooming, sparkling

Begin — start, open, launch, initiate, commence, inaugurate, originate

Big — enormous, huge, immense, gigantic, vast, colossal, gargantuan, large, sizable, grand, great, tall, substantial, mammoth, astronomical, ample, broad, expansive, spacious, stout, tremendous, titanic, mountainous

Brave — courageous, fearless, dauntless, intrepid, plucky, daring, heroic, valorous, audacious, bold, gallant, valiant, doughty, mettlesome

Break — fracture, rupture, shatter, smash, wreck, crash, demolish, atomize

Bright — shining, shiny, gleaming, brilliant, sparkling, shimmering, radiant, vivid, colorful, lustrous, luminous, incandescent, intelligent, knowing, quick-witted, smart, intellectual

Calm — quiet, peaceful, still, tranquil, mild, serene, smooth, composed, collected, unruffled, level-headed, unexcited, detached, aloof

Come — approach, advance, near, arrive, reach

Cool — chilly, cold, frosty, wintry, icy, frigid

Crooked — bent, twisted, curved, hooked, zigzag

Cry — shout, yell, yowl, scream, roar, bellow, weep, wail, sob, bawl

Cut — gash, slash, prick, nick, sever, slice, carve, cleave, slit, chop, crop, lop,

reduce

Dangerous — perilous, hazardous, risky, uncertain, unsafe

Dark — shadowy, unlit, murky, gloomy, dim, dusky, shaded, sunless, black,

dismal, sad

Decide — determine, settle, choose, resolve

Definite — certain, sure, positive, determined, clear, distinct, obvious

Delicious — savory, delectable, appetizing, luscious, scrumptious, palatable,

delightful, enjoyable, toothsome, exquisite

Describe — portray, characterize, picture, narrate, relate, recount, represent,

report, record

Destroy — ruin, demolish, raze, waste, kill, slay, end, extinguish

Difference — disagreement, inequity, contrast, dissimilarity, incompatibility

Do — execute, enact, carry out, finish, conclude, effect, accomplish, achieve,
attain

Dull — boring, tiring,, tiresome, uninteresting, slow, dumb, stupid,
unimaginative, lifeless, dead, insensible, tedious, wearisome, listless,
expressionless, plain, monotonous, humdrum, dreary

Eager — keen, fervent, enthusiastic, involved, interested, alive to

End — stop, finish, terminate, conclude, close, halt, cessation, discontinuance

Enjoy — appreciate, delight in, be pleased, indulge in, luxuriate in, bask in,
relish, devour, savor, like

Explain — elaborate, clarify, define, interpret, justify, account for

Fair — just, impartial, unbiased, objective, unprejudiced, honest

Fall — drop, descend, plunge, topple, tumble

False — fake, fraudulent, counterfeit, spurious, untrue, unfounded, erroneous,
deceptive, groundless, fallacious

Famous — well-known, renowned, celebrated, famed, eminent, illustrious,
distinguished, noted, notorious

Fast — quick, rapid, speedy, fleet, hasty, snappy, mercurial, swiftly, rapidly,
quickly, snappily, speedily, lickety-split, posthaste, hastily, expeditiously, like a
flash

Fat — stout, corpulent, fleshy, beefy, paunchy, plump, full, rotund, tubby, pudgy,
chubby, chunky, burly, bulky, elephantine

Fear — fright, dread, terror, alarm, dismay, anxiety, scare, awe, horror, panic,
apprehension

Fly — soar, hover, flit, wing, flee, waft, glide, coast, skim, sail, cruise

Funny — humorous, amusing, droll, comic, comical, laughable, silly

Get — acquire, obtain, secure, procure, gain, fetch, find, score, accumulate, win, earn, rep, catch, net, bag, derive, collect, gather, glean, pick up, accept, come by, regain, salvage

Go — recede, depart, fade, disappear, move, travel, proceed

Good — excellent, fine, superior, wonderful, marvelous, qualified, suited, suitable, apt, proper, capable, generous, kindly, friendly, gracious, obliging, pleasant, agreeable, pleasurable, satisfactory, well-behaved, obedient, honorable, reliable, trustworthy, safe, favorable, profitable, advantageous, righteous, expedient, helpful, valid, genuine, ample, salubrious, estimable, beneficial, splendid, great, noble, worthy, first-rate, top-notch, grand, sterling, superb, respectable, edifying

Great — noteworthy, worthy, distinguished, remarkable, grand, considerable,
powerful, much, mighty

Gross — improper, rude, coarse, indecent, crude, vulgar, outrageous, extreme,
grievous, shameful, uncouth, obscene, low

Happy — pleased, contented, satisfied, delighted, elated, joyful, cheerful,
ecstatic, jubilant, gay, tickled, gratified, glad, blissful, overjoyed

Hate — despise, loathe, detest, abhor, disfavor, dislike, disapprove, abominate

Have — hold, possess, own, contain, acquire, gain, maintain, believe, bear, beget,
occupy, absorb, fill, enjoy

Help — aid, assist, support, encourage, back, wait on, attend, serve, relieve,
succor, benefit, befriend, abet

Hide — conceal, cover, mask, cloak, camouflage, screen, shroud, veil

Hurry — rush, run, speed, race, hasten, urge, accelerate, bustle

Hurt — damage, harm, injure, wound, distress, afflict, pain

Idea — thought, concept, conception, notion, understanding, opinion, plan, view,

belief

Important — necessary, vital, critical, indispensable, valuable, essential,

significant, primary, principal, considerable, famous, distinguished, notable,

wellknown

Interesting — fascinating, engaging, sharp, keen, bright, intelligent, animated,

spirited, attractive, inviting, intriguing, provocative, thought-provoking,

challenging, inspiring, involving, moving, titillating, tantalizing, exciting,

entertaining, piquant, lively, racy, spicy, engrossing, absorbing, consuming,

gripping, arresting, enthralling, spellbinding, curious, captivating, enchanting,

bewitching, appealing

Keep — hold, retain, withhold, preserve, maintain, sustain, support

Kill — slay, execute, assassinate, murder, destroy, cancel, abolish

Lazy — indolent, slothful, idle, inactive, sluggish

Little — tiny, small, diminutive, shrimp, runt, miniature, puny, exiguous, dinky,

cramped, limited, itsy-bitsy, microscopic, slight, petite, minute

Look — gaze, see, glance, watch, survey, study, seek, search for, peek, peep,

glimpse, stare, contemplate, examine, gape, ogle, scrutinize, inspect, leer, behold,

observe, view, witness, perceive, spy, sight, discover, notice, recognize, peer, eye,

gawk, peruse, explore

Love — like, admire, esteem, fancy, care for, cherish, adore, treasure, worship,

appreciate, savor

Make — create, originate, invent, beget, form, construct, design, fabricate, manufacture, produce, build, develop, do, effect, execute, compose, perform, accomplish, earn, gain, obtain, acquire, get

Mark — label, tag, price, ticket, impress, effect, trace, imprint, stamp, brand, sign, note, heed, notice, designate

Mischievous — prankish, playful, naughty, roguish, waggish, impish, sportive

Moody — temperamental, changeable, short-tempered, glum, morose, sullen, mopish, irritable, testy, peevish, fretful, spiteful, sulky, touchy

Neat — clean, orderly, tidy, trim, dapper, natty, smart, elegant, well-organized, super, desirable, spruce, shipshape, well-kept, shapely

New — fresh, unique, original, unusual, novel, modern, current, recent

Old — feeble, frail, ancient, weak, aged, used, worn, dilapidated, ragged, faded, broken-down, former, old-fashioned, outmoded, passe, veteran, mature, venerable, primitive, traditional, archaic, conventional, customary, stale, musty, obsolete, extinct

Part — portion, share, piece, allotment, section, fraction, fragment

Place — space, area, spot, plot, region, location, situation, position, residence, dwelling, set, site, station, status, state

Plan — plot, scheme, design, draw, map, diagram, procedure, arrangement, intention, device, contrivance, method, way, blueprint

Popular — well-liked, approved, accepted, favorite, celebrated, common, current

Predicament — quandary, dilemma, pickle, problem, plight, spot, scrape, jam

Put — place, set, attach, establish, assign, keep, save, set aside, effect, achieve,
do, build

Quiet — silent, still, soundless, mute, tranquil, peaceful, calm, restful

Right — correct, accurate, factual, true, good, just, honest, upright, lawful, moral,
proper, suitable, apt, legal, fair

Run — race, speed, hurry, hasten, sprint, dash, rush, escape, elope, flee

Say/Tell — inform, notify, advise, relate, recount, narrate, explain, reveal,
disclose, divulge, declare, command, order, bid, enlighten, instruct, insist, teach,
train, direct, issue, remark, converse, speak, affirm, suppose, utter, negate,
express, verbalize, voice, articulate, pronounce, deliver, convey, impart, assert,
state, allege, mutter, mumble, whisper, sigh, exclaim, yell, sing, yelp, snarl, hiss,
grunt, snort, roar, bellow, thunder, boom, scream, shriek, screech, squawk,

whine, philosophize, stammer, stutter, lisp, drawl, jabber, protest, announce,
swear, vow, content, assure, deny, dispute

Scared — afraid, frightened, alarmed, terrified, panicked, fearful, unnerved,
insecure, timid, shy, skittish, jumpy, disquieted, worried, vexed, troubled,
disturbed, horrified, terrorized, shocked, petrified, haunted, timorous, shrinking,
tremulous, stupefied, paralyzed, stunned, apprehensive

Show — display, exhibit, present, note, point to, indicate, explain, reveal, prove,
demonstrate, expose

Slow — unhurried, gradual, leisurely, late, behind, tedious, slack

Stop — cease, halt, stay, pause, discontinue, conclude, end, finish, quit

Story — tale, myth, legend, fable, yarn, account, narrative, chronicle, epic, sage,
anecdote, record, memoir

Strange — odd, peculiar, unusual, unfamiliar, uncommon, queer, weird, outlandish, curious, unique, exclusive, irregular

Take — hold, catch, seize, grasp, win, capture, acquire, pick, choose, select, prefer, remove, steal, lift, rob, engage, bewitch, purchase, buy, retract, recall, assume, occupy, consume

Tell — disclose, reveal, show, expose, uncover, relate, narrate, inform, advise, explain, divulge, declare, command, order, bid, recount, repeat

Think — judge, deem, assume, believe, consider, contemplate, reflect, mediate

Trouble — distress, anguish, anxiety, worry, wretchedness, pain, danger, peril, disaster, grief, misfortune, difficulty, concern, pains, inconvenience, exertion, effort

True — accurate, right, proper, precise, exact, valid, genuine, real, actual, trusty, steady, loyal, dependable, sincere, staunch

Ugly — hideous, frightful, frightening, shocking, horrible, unpleasant, monstrous, terrifying, gross, grisly, ghastly, horrid, unsightly, plain, homely, evil, repulsive, repugnant, gruesome

Unhappy — miserable, uncomfortable, wretched, heart-broken, unfortunate, poor, downhearted, sorrowful, depressed, dejected, melancholy, glum, gloomy, dismal, discouraged, sad

Use — employ, utilize, exhaust, spend, expend, consume, exercise

Wrong — incorrect, inaccurate, mistaken, erroneous, improper, unsuitable

Antonyms

Antonyms are words that have opposite meanings. In this series of articles, you will learn antonyms for commonly used words. Each article consists of a list of 15-25 words. Each word is accompanied by four antonyms. The lists are arranged in the alphabetical order of words.

List of Antonyms

Antonyms for words starting with A

Word	Antonym-1	Antonym-2	Antonym-3	Antonym-4
Absence	Presence	Plenty	Existence	Enough
Accept	Refuse	Fail	Deny	Reject

Accurate

Inaccurate

Indefinite

Unreliable

Faulty

Advantage

Disadvantage

Harm

Impotence

Inferiority

Alive

Dead

Unconscious

Sluggish

Deceased

Ancient

Modern

Current

Fresh

New

Answer

Question

Query

Quiet

Trouble

Approval

Disapproval

Denial

Veto

Refusal

Approached

Receded

Departed

Leave

Retreat

Abundant

Scarce

Lacking

Sparse

Meager

Admit

Deny

Repudiate

Expel

Oust

Advance	Retreat	Retire	Behind	Later
Artificial	Natural	Genuine	Real	Unaffected
Ascend	Descend	Drop	Slump	Decline
Attack	Defense	Flight	Shelter	Shield
Attention	Inattention	Disregard	Lethargy	Neglect
Asleep	Awake	Conscious	Attentive	Awake
Ally	Enemy	Antagonist	Detractor	Foe
Agree	Disagree	Reject	Resist	Object

Antonyms for words starting with B, C

Word	Antonym-1	Antonym-2	Antonym-3	Antonym-4
Beginning	Ending	Finish	Epilogue	Finale
Blunt	Sharp	Polite	Subtle	Sharp
Blame	Praise	Approval	Peace	Ratification
Bitter	Sweet	Bland	Pleasant	Mild
Borrow	Lend	Forfeit	Lend	Return
Bravery	Cowardice	Timidity	Fear	Cowardice
Broad	Narrow	Quiet	Little	Tiny
Careful	Rush	Careless	Inexact	Unwise

Calm	Troubled	Harsh	Furious	Worried
-------------	----------	-------	---------	---------

Capable	Incapable	Clumsy	Stupid	Ignorant
----------------	-----------	--------	--------	----------

Captivity	Freedom	Liberty	Freedom	License
------------------	---------	---------	---------	---------

Cheap	Dear	Expensive	Expensive	Worthy
--------------	------	-----------	-----------	--------

Clever	Stupid	Foolish	Ignorant	Naïve
---------------	--------	---------	----------	-------

Correct	Incorrect	Improper	Invalid	Biased
----------------	-----------	----------	---------	--------

Conceal	Reveal	Divulge	Unwrap	Ignore
----------------	--------	---------	--------	--------

Comfort	Discomfort	Gloom	Injury	Torment
----------------	------------	-------	--------	---------

Courage	Cowardice	Humility	Timidity	Irresolution
----------------	-----------	----------	----------	--------------

Cruel	Kind	Gentle	Compassionate	Mild
Courteous	Discourteous	Rude	Uncivil	Unrefined
Cunning	Simple	Ignorant	Blunt	Rough
Beautiful	Ugly	Drab	Offensive	Repulsive

Antonyms for words starting with D, E, F

Word	Antonym-1	Antonym-2	Antonym-3	Antonym-4
Dainty	Clumsy	Ugly	Inferior	Coarse
Dark	Light	Distinct	Evident	Vivacious
Deep	Shallow	Artless	Flighty	Trivial

Decrease	Increase	Expansion	Growth	Enlargement
-----------------	----------	-----------	--------	-------------

Demand	Supply	Reply	Offer	Grant
---------------	--------	-------	-------	-------

Despair	Hope	Cheer	Faith	Pleasure
----------------	------	-------	-------	----------

Disappear	Appear	Begin	Solidify	Coagulate
------------------	--------	-------	----------	-----------

Dismal	Cheerful	Bright	Intelligent	Luminous
---------------	----------	--------	-------------	----------

Ebb	Flow	Flow	Incline	Expansion
------------	------	------	---------	-----------

Encourage	Discourage	Agitate	Sadden	Dispirit
------------------	------------	---------	--------	----------

Entrance	Exit	Conclusion	Egress	Leave
-----------------	------	------------	--------	-------

End	Beginning	Bottom	Creation	Origin
------------	-----------	--------	----------	--------

Expand	Contract	Diminish	Shrink	Shrivel
---------------	----------	----------	--------	---------

Expensive	Inexpensive	Cheap	Worthless	Reasonable
------------------	-------------	-------	-----------	------------

Fail	Succeed	Ascend	Rise	Reach
-------------	---------	--------	------	-------

Feeble	Sturdy	Strong	Powerful	Expert
---------------	--------	--------	----------	--------

Foolish	Wise	Sane	Realistic	Serious
----------------	------	------	-----------	---------

Famous	Unknown	Obscure	Inferior	Typical
---------------	---------	---------	----------	---------

First	Last	Minor	Trivial	Auxiliary
--------------	------	-------	---------	-----------

Freedom	Captivity	Slavery	Inability	Restraint
----------------	-----------	---------	-----------	-----------

Frequent	Seldom	Ceasing	Irregular	Rare
-----------------	--------	---------	-----------	------

Friend	Enemy	Foe	Stranger	Opponent
---------------	-------	-----	----------	----------

Fortunate	Unfortunate	Failing	Lacking	Losing
------------------	-------------	---------	---------	--------

Frank	Secretive	Timidity	Shy	Evasive
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Antonyms for words starting with G, H, I, J, K

Word	Antonym-1	Antonym-2	Antonym-3	Antonym-4
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Generous	Mean	Greedy	Biased	Prejudiced
-----------------	------	--------	--------	------------

Gentle	Rough	Surly	Excited	Harsh
---------------	-------	-------	---------	-------

Gloomy	Cheerful	Lively	Luminous	Intelligent
---------------	----------	--------	----------	-------------

Giant	Dwarf	Pygmy	Dwarf	Teeny
--------------	-------	-------	-------	-------

Happy	Sad	Miserable	Serious	Morose
--------------	-----	-----------	---------	--------

Harmful	Harmless	Assisting	Honest	Fortunate
----------------	----------	-----------	--------	-----------

Hasten	Dawdle	Halt	Hinder	Dissuade
---------------	--------	------	--------	----------

Hate	Love	Liking	Sympathy	Flattery
-------------	------	--------	----------	----------

Healthy	Unhealthy	Ill	Diseased	Infirm
----------------	-----------	-----	----------	--------

Horizontal	Vertical	Divergent	Unfair	Irregular
-------------------	----------	-----------	--------	-----------

Hinder	Aid	Help	Further	Allow
---------------	-----	------	---------	-------

Honest	Dishonest	Counterfeit	Deceitful	Corrupt
---------------	-----------	-------------	-----------	---------

Humble	Proud	Brave	Unrefined	Intricate
---------------	-------	-------	-----------	-----------

Hunger	Thirst	Distaste	Disgust	Satiation
---------------	--------	----------	---------	-----------

Immense	Tiny	Minute	Limited	Restricted
----------------	------	--------	---------	------------

Imprison	Free	Cease	Permit	Release
-----------------	------	-------	--------	---------

Inferior	Superior	Chief	Extraordinary	Foremost
-----------------	----------	-------	---------------	----------

Interior	Exterior	Outside	Revealed	Public
-----------------	----------	---------	----------	--------

Interesting	Uninteresting	Dull	Repulsive	Homely
--------------------	---------------	------	-----------	--------

Intentional	Accidental	Involuntary	Unwilling	Unplanned
--------------------	------------	-------------	-----------	-----------

Justice	Injustice	Penalty	Illegality	Corruption
----------------	-----------	---------	------------	------------

Knowledge	Ignorance	Inanity	Stupidity	Impotence
------------------	-----------	---------	-----------	-----------

Antonyms for words starting with L, M, P, R, S

Word	Antonym-1	Antonym-2	Antonym-3	Antonym-4
-------------	------------------	------------------	------------------	------------------

Lazy	Industrious	Energetic	Caring	Fresh
Little	Large	Much	Big	Sufficient
Lofty	Lowly	Humble	Below	Beneath
Misunderstand	Understand	Comprehend	Construe	Grasp
Possible	Impossible	Unlikely	Improbable	Impossible
Prudent	Imprudent	Foolish	Indiscreet	Stupid
Rapid	Slow	Delayed	Sluggish	Languishing
Rigid	Pliable	Soft	Gentle	Pliant
Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Intolerable	Unreliable	Inadequate

Scatter	Collect	Gather	Maintain	Combine
Serious	Trivial	Insincere	Dishonest	Deceptive
Sour	Sweet	Bland	Calm	Blah
Sorrow	Joy	Benefit	Cheer	Benefit
Strong	Weak	Intermittent	Idle	Inactive

Word-formation Processes

Introduction

Nowadays, the terms 'word formation' does not have a clear cut, universally accepted usage. It is sometimes referred to all processes connected with changing the form of the word by, for example, affixation, which is a matter of morphology. In its wider sense word formation denotes the processes of creation of new lexical units. Although it seems that the difference between morphological change of a word and creation of a new term is quite easy to perceive, there is sometimes a dispute as to whether blending is still a morphological change or making a new word. There are, of course, numerous word formation processes that do not arouse any controversies and are very similar in the majority of languages.

Acronyms

An acronym is a word formed from the initial letters of a name, such as USA (United States of America), NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration); NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization); UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization); radar (Radio Detection and Ranging), laser (light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation).

Acronyms and initialisms are usually pronounced in a way that is distinct from that of the full forms for which they stand: as the names of the individual letters (as in *IBM*), as a word (as in *NATO*), or as a combination

(as in *IUPAC*). Another term, alphabetism, is sometimes used to describe abbreviations pronounced as the names of letters.

Examples :

Pronounced as a word, containing only initial letters:

FNMA: (Fannie Mae) Federal National Mortgage Association

laser: light amplification by the stimulated emission of radiation

scuba: self-contained underwater breathing apparatus

Pronounced as a word, containing non-initial letters:

Amphetamine: Alpha-methyl-phenethylamine

Gestapo: Geheime Staatspolizei ("secret state police")

Interpol: International Criminal Police Organization

radar: radio detection and ranging

Pronounced only as the names of letters

BBC: British Broadcasting Corporation

DNA: deoxyribonucleic acid

LED: light-emitting diode

OB-GYN: obstetrics and gyn(a)ecology or obstetrician and gyn(a)ecologist

IOU: "I owe you"

Shortcut incorporated into name:

– 3M: (*three em*) originally Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company

Abbreviations

An abbreviation is shortened form of a written word or phrase used in place of the whole word or phrase as in 'e.g. (for example); kg (kilogram); bldg.(building) and temp (temperature). Acronyms and abbreviations are very productive in English. On the contrary, Arabic has few acronyms and abbreviations .

Neologisms

A neologism refers to any newly coined word, identifying a new concept. In the 1980s, English neologisms included yuppie, pocket phone, and user-friendly; in the 1990s, Internet neologisms, such as spam and texting were common; and in the 2000s, Internet neologisms related to blogging, such as videoblog and blogosphere became widespread (Cambridge Encyclopedia). Neologisms are very productive in English. In Arabic, They are very few and some of them are borrowed.

Blends

Blends are compounds created by clipping and blending elements of a complex term such as brunch (breakfast + lunch), smog (smoke + fog), motel (motor + hotel).

A blend is a word formed from parts of two other words. These parts are sometimes, but not always, morphemes. A blend is different from a portmanteau word in that a portmanteau refers strictly to a blending of two function words, similar to a contraction.

Extension

In this process, new words are formed from already existing words, which appear to be analyzable as in the English examples: general > generalize, generalization, generalizable, generalizability.

New words may be formed from already existing words, which appear to be analyzable, i.e., composed of more than one morpheme.

For example in English:

Television: televise;

General: generalize, generalization, Generalizable, generalizability;

Grammar: grammatical, Grammaticality, grammaticalization;

Borrowing

Borrowing is just taking a word from another language. The borrowed words are called loan words. A loanword (or *loan word*) is a word directly taken into one language from another with little or no translation. By contrast, a calque or loan translation is a related concept whereby it is the meaning or idiom that is borrowed rather than the lexical item itself. Loanwords can also be called "borrowings".

List of Morphemes Suffixes, Prefixes, Roots

Suffix	Meaning	*Syntax	Exemplars
-er	one who, that which	noun	teacher, clippers, toaster
-er	more	adjective	faster, stronger, kinder
-ly	to act in a way that is...	adverb	kindly, decently, firmly
-able	capable of, or worthy of	adjective	honorable, predictable
-ible	capable of, or worthy of	adjective	terrible, responsible, visible
-hood	condition of being	noun	childhood, statehood, falsehood
-ful	full of, having	adjective	wonderful, spiteful, dreadful
-less	without	adjective	hopeless, thoughtless, fearless
-ish	somewhat like	adjective	childish, foolish, snobbish
-ness	condition or state of	noun	happiness, peacefulness, fairness
-ic	relating to	adjective	energetic, historic, volcanic
-ist	one who	noun	pianist, balloonist, specialist
-ian	one who	noun	librarian, historian, magician
-or	one who	noun	governor, editor, operator
-eer	one who	noun	mountaineer, pioneer, commandeer, profiteer, engineer, musketeer
o-logy	study of	noun	biology, ecology, mineralogy
-ship	art or skill of, condition, rank, group of	noun	leadership, citizenship, companionship, kingship
-ous	full of, having, possessing	adjective	joyous, jealous, nervous, glorious, victorious, spacious, gracious
-ive	tending to...	adjective	active, sensitive, creative
-age	result of an action	noun	marriage, acreage, pilgrimage
-ant	a condition or state	adjective	elegant, brilliant, pregnant
-ant	a thing or a being	noun	mutant, coolant, inhalant

-ent	someone who, something that	noun	student, president, nutrient
-ent	inclined to	adjective	different, fluent, persistent
-ment	state or act of	noun	payment, basement, improvement
-ary	place for, collection of	noun	glossary, granary, library
-ary	relating to, condition	adjective	secondary, military, necessary
-ary	one who	noun	secretary, dignitary, emissary
-ize	to make	verb	hypnotize, fertilize, centralize
-ise	to make	verb	advise, advertise, improvise
-ure	action or condition of	noun	moisture, mixture, pleasure
-ion	act or condition	noun	action, friction, fusion, mission
-ation	act or condition	noun	starvation, condensation
-ance	act or condition of	noun	assistance, endurance, importance
-ence	act or condition of	noun	persistence, excellence, confidence
-ity	state or quality of	noun	prosperity, equality, security
-al	relating to	adjective	magical, comical, logical
(ti)-al	relating to	adjective	spatial, initial, essential
(si)-al	relating to	adjective	official, social, artificial
-ate	to make		calculate, activate, participate
-ate	state or quality of	adjective	desolate, ultimate, literate
-tude	condition of	noun	solitude, exactitude, fortitude
-ism	practice, belief	noun	feudalism, racism, monotheism

*The syntax column indicates the most-likely grammatical function of words ending with the given suffix.

Prefix	Meaning(s)	Exemplars
de-	from, reduce, or opposite	defrost, dethrone, dehydration
dis-	opposite	disagree, disadvantage, dishonest
trans- dia-	across, over, through across, through	transfer, translate, transcontinental diagonal, diagnostic, diameter
ex- e-	out, from out, from	expel, excavate, expatriate, exhale erase, evict, emit, evaporate, evacuate
mono- uni- bi- di- tri- multi- poly-	one, single one, single two two, or in parts three many, much many, much	monoplane, monopoly, monorail unicycle, unicorn, universal bicycle, biped, bilateral digraph, divert, diameter tricycle, triangle, triune multicolored, multimillionaire polygon, polyhedron, polyester
pre-	before	predict, prepare, preheat
post-	after	postwar, postscript, postdate
mal-	bad, evil	malcontent, maladjusted, malnutrition
mis-	wrong, bad	mistake, misspell, misunderstand
bene-	good, well	benefit, beneficial, benediction
pro-	forward, forth, before	protector, procreate, profession
sub-	under, beneath	substitute, subtraction, subway
re-	back, again	rewind, remember, retaliate
inter- intra-	among, between within	interstate, internet, interpersonal intranet, intravenous, intranasal
co- com- con- col-	together, with together, with together, with together, with	cooperate, coworker, copilot company, commit, committee concur, concert, contingent colleague, collide, collaborate
be- non- un-	to, completely not not	befriend, belie, belittle, bejeweled nonsense, nonrefundable, nonprofit uncomfortable, uncertain, untrue
in- im-	not not	incapable, inedible, intolerant imperfect, immoral, imbalanced

il-	not	illiterate, illogical, illegal
ir-	not	irregular, irresponsible
in- (im-, il-, ir-)	in, into, on, upon (this prefix has two meanings: 'not' and 'in')	inside, insert, implant, impostor, infuriate, inflammable, incandescent
a-	not, negative	amoral, atonal, atheist
an-	not, negative	anarchist, anomaly, anathema
anti-	against, opposite	antiseptic, anticrime, antitrust, antisocial
contra-	against, opposite	contradict, contrary, contraceptive
counter-	against, opposite	counterclockwise, counterfeit, counterbalance
en-	to cause to be, to put or go into or onto	enable, enrich, engulf, enflame
em-	to cause to be, to put or go into or onto	employ, embark, embellish

Greek and Latin roots are often written with slightly varied spellings, as shown below. The hyphen indicates the most typical connecting vowel (phon-o, hyd-o, etc.)

Greek Root	Meaning(s)	Exemplars
astr-o	stars, heavens	astronaut, astrology, astronomer
bi-o	life	biography, biosphere, biology
ge-o	earth, rocks	geology, geographer, geothermal
therm	heat, warm	thermostat, thermal, exothermic
aut-o	self	autism, automatic, autoimmune, autograph
hom-o	same, alike	homonym, homogenize, homophone
hydr-o	water	hydrogen, hydrology, hydroelectric
micro	small	microscope, microclimate, microcosm
macro	large	macroclimate, macroevolution
phon-o	sound, speech	telephone, phonics, symphony
scope	instrument used	telescope, microscope, kaleidoscope

	to observe, to see	
graph	written	autograph, telegraph, geographer
phot-o	light	photograph, photon, photobiotic
tele	distant, far	telescope, television, telecommunications
meter, metr	instrument used to measure	metric, thermometer, barometer, chronometer
path, pass	suffering, disease	psychopath, pathogen, sympathy, compassion
psych-o	mind, mental	psychology, psychic, psychotropic
pan	all, whole	panorama, panacea, pantomime, pandemonium
zoo	animal	zoology, zootoxin, zoogeography
chron	time	chronic, chronological, synchronized
phobia	fear, intense dislike	claustrophobia, xenophobic, arachnophobia

Latin Root	Meaning(s)	Exemplars
port	to carry	transport, export, porter, portal, reporter
form	to shape	formation, reform, conform, formulation
tract	to pull	tractor, subtract, detract, traction, retractable
rupt	to break	disrupt, interrupt, rupture, corrupt
spect, spec	to see, to watch	inspect, suspect, spectator, respect, specimen
struct, stru	to build	construct, structure, instruct, construe
dict, dic	to tell, to say	dictionary, dictate, predict, indicate
flec, flex	to bend	flexible, reflector, genuflect, inflection,

reflective

cred	to believe	credit, credentials, credulous, incredible
aqua	water	aquatic, aquarium, aquamarine
pel, puls	to drive, push	propel, compel, impel, repel, impulse, pulsate

fact, fac	to make, to do	factory, facilitate, factor, faction, factotum
ject	to throw, to throw down	inject, projectile, reject, subject, conjecture
vert, vers	to turn	reverse, versatile, convert, revert, divert
mit, mis	to send	missile, missionary, admission, emit, transmit
mort	to die	mortal, mortician, mortuary
script, scrib	to write	scribble, script, scripture, prescription
junct	to join	conjunction, junction, adjunct, juncture
cide	to kill, a killer	suicide, genocide, homicide
press	to force, squeeze	press, impress, express, compress, repress
spire	to breathe	respire, respiration, respiratory, conspire, inspire, perspire, expire, spirit, spirited, spiritual
grad, gress	to step	graduate, gradual, gradations, regress, congress, digress, transgress, egress, progression
cept, capt	to take, seize, receive	capture, captivity, intercept, exception

Common Errors in Spoken English

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 wives 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 hundreds 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, dessertts, 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 prepared 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.

A Brief Guide to Common Punctuation Errors

Hyphens connect compound words and create compound modifiers. Compound words are two or more words that, when put together, create a new word with a new meaning. Similarly, compound modifiers include two or more words to function like an adjective.

Compound word without hyphen: Butter+fly = Butterfly

Compound word with hyphens: Merry-go-round

Compound word with hyphen to act as adjective: Good-hearted

Sentence: The good-hearted butterfly circled the merry-go-round filled with kids.

Slashes mean either “and”, “or”, or both “and” and “or.”

Examples: Or: Each athlete must pick up his/her uniform.

And: They are all students/athletes.

And/Or: The students want cake/ice cream at the athletics meeting.

Semicolons connect two independent clauses (a clause that can stand alone as a sentence) in one sentence. However, these clauses must be closely related in thought. Also, semicolons can be used before conjunctive adverbs or transitional phrases between two independent clauses.

Examples: I love dogs; they are good companions. I love dogs; however, they require a lot of care.

Colons are placed after an independent clause to introduce a list, phrase, or quotation.

Examples: My first aid kit has the essentials: bandaids, gauze, medicine, tape and scissors.

I know what will heal your cut: bandages and ointment. You know what they say: “Happiness is the best medicine.”

Apostrophes are used to form contractions or possessives. To form possessives, you usually add an apostrophe **before** the “s.” If the word already ends in an “s,” then you add the apostrophe **after** the “s.”

However, be careful of words that are already plural and do not need an apostrophe + “s,” like children, teeth, octopi, etc. Also, you do not use apostrophes if the words are simply plural, like “several apricots” or “ten kittens.”

Examples: Contractions:

Could + not = couldn't I + have = I've

Possessives:

The dog's bark is loud. James' dog is loud.

IT S **Contractions** are not punctuation marks. A contraction is a word made by shortening or combining two others, such as “I have” or “do not,” and uses apostrophes to do so. As contractions, these examples would look like “I've” and “don't.” A common mistake with contractions comes down to the word “it's.” An apostrophe is used with “it's” only when the word is acting as a contraction for “it is” or “it has.” Without an apostrophe, it means belonging to it.

Examples: I **don't** like seafood.

It's been a while since I have eaten fish for dinner.

The fish enjoys swimming around

its big bowl.

Commas are used to create a break within a sentence by separating words, clauses, or ideas. Placing commas within sentences can often be determined by speaking the sentence aloud and then noting any pauses. However, there are several common errors when it comes to using commas correctly. When used incorrectly, commas can break connections between ideas within a sentence or cause unnecessary pauses.

Examples:

1. A comma shouldn't separate a subject from its verb:

Incorrect: My friend Ruth, is a beautiful singer.

Correct: My friend Ruth is a beautiful singer.

2. Don't add a comma before the word "that" if it's introducing a restrictive clause:

Incorrect: My microphone, that broke can't be used tonight.

Correct: My microphone that broke can't be used tonight.

3. A comma is used after introductory phrases.

Incorrect: After the performance they went out to eat.

Correct: After the performance, they went out to eat.

4. Use a comma between two independent clauses connected by a coordinating conjunction.

Incorrect: I sang at the concert but I did not have a solo.

Correct: I sang at the concert, but I did not have a solo.

5. But don't use a comma before a subordinate conjunction. In sentences that use subordinate conjunctions, the conjunction links the two clauses to express the correct meaning so no comma is needed.

Incorrect: My throat is sore, because I sang a lot last night.

Correct: My throat is sore because I sang a lot last night.

Commonly Confused Words

There are a variety of words that are commonly confused because of their similar spellings or spoken sounds. If you are using a new word for the first time or are unsure of a word's spelling, check a dictionary to verify the meaning and spelling. Some examples of commonly confused words include, then vs. than, breath vs. breathe, excepted vs. accepted, or there vs. their vs. they're.

Examples:

Incorrect: I slept longer **then** I did yesterday.

Correct: I slept longer **than** I did yesterday.

Incorrect: The child went over to **there** house for a sleepover.

Correct: The child went over to **their** house for a sleepover.

Capitalization

Missing capitalizations or capitalizing words that do not need to be capitalized can be misleading to readers. Proper nouns should be capitalized because they refer to specific groups of people, places, or things. Common nouns, on the other hand, refer to general groups of people, places, or things.

Tip: One way to identify the difference is to place **the** (or another article like **a** or **an**) before the word. If you can place **the** before the noun and it portrays the correct meaning, then it is likely a common noun.

Ex. the game, a dog, an ice cream cone

Examples:

Incorrect: joe went to boston to watch the red sox play. While at the Game, he caught a Baseball.

Correct: Joe went to Boston to watch the Red Sox play. While at the game, he caught a baseball.

*Joe is the individual's name, Boston is a city, and the Red Sox are an official sports team, so all of these nouns need to be capitalized. The nouns **game** and **baseball** are common nouns and do not need to be capitalized.

Sentence-Level Stuff

Run-ons and Comma Splices

A **run-on sentence** combines two complete thoughts or independent clauses without correct punctuation or sentence structure.

Tip: Remember you must have some kind of boundary between your independent clauses. These boundaries can include a period, semicolon (with or without a conjunctive adverb, like **however**, **therefore**, **then**, etc.), or a comma **with** a coordinating conjunction (for, and, not, but, or, yet, so).

A **comma splice** occurs when a comma is used to separate two independent clauses rather than a period, semicolon, or a coordinating conjunction.

Tip: A comma splice acts similarly to a run-on sentence. The difference is that it includes a comma incorrectly. It can be corrected in the same ways as a run-on by adding a period, a semicolon, or just placing a coordinating conjunction after the comma.

Examples:

Incorrect:

Run On: Fred went to the store he bought some candy. Or

Comma Splice: Fred went to the store, he bought some candy.

Correct:

Fred went to the store. He bought some candy. Fred went to the store; he bought some candy.

Fred went to the store; **then**, he bought some candy. Fred went to the store, **and** he bought some candy.

Subject-Verb Agreement

This grammatical component has to do with the balance of a sentence. The subject and the verb of a sentence must agree with one another in number whether they are singular or plural. If the subject of the sentence is singular, its verb must be as well; and if the subject is plural, the verb must also be plural. Tip: If there's a singular subject, the verb usually ends in s. If there's a plural subject, then the verb does not usually end in s.

Examples:

Incorrect: My mom respect me.

Correct: My mom respects me.

* **Mom** is singular, so the verb **respect** must match by adding an **s**. **Incorrect:** My mom and dad respects me.

Correct: My mom and my dad respect me.

* **Mom and dad** is plural, so the verb **respect** does not end in an **s**.

Common English Usage Problems

English serves as the native language for nearly 400 million people, a second language for another 400 million people, and a foreign language to 800 million people across the globe.

However, despite its worldwide use, English is still considered the most difficult European language to learn and read, primarily because its unique characteristics hinder non-native English speakers from obtaining a strong command of it. English syntax, with its strict subject-verb-object structure, is particularly difficult to grasp. English is also unique in its uses of articles. When combined with the fact that English is an unphonetic language and possesses other small peculiarities, it is a daunting challenge to learn and master.

Below, there is a compiled list of common English usage problems that can cause confusion in both writing and speaking. Also, the chapter provides corresponding examples to illustrate these problems and demonstrate proper usage. Remember, the only way to develop a good command of the English language is to master its rules and apply them accordingly in your everyday speech and writing.

Common English usage problems:

1. Much, more, less (some nouns occur only in the singular form) Incorrect: There is much dusts. There is more courage's. He had less funs. Correct: There is much dust. There is more courage. He had less fun.
2. Less, fewer (countable nouns) Incorrect: There were less people. Correct: There were fewer people.
3. Possession shared by two nouns

Incorrect: It was John's and Peter's car. Correct: It was John and Peter's car.

4. His/hers/its (If you don't know an animal's gender, you use "it".) Incorrect: The dog lost his bone. (You don't know the gender.) Correct: The dog lost its bone.
5. That/who

Incorrect: I have written to my sister that lives in France. Correct: I have written to my sister who lives in France.

6. Me/I

Incorrect: Give it to I. Jason and me took the class. He read as well as me. Correct: Give it to me. Jason and I took the class. He read as well as I.

7. This/that/those/these

Incorrect: These/those is my child. That/this are my children. Correct: This/that is my child. Those/these are my children.

8. Happy (well/good) Incorrect: She feels well. Correct: She feels good.

9. Quality (well/good) Incorrect: She sings good. Correct: She sings well.

10. Adverbs with "ly"

Incorrect: She spoke to him quiet. He shouted not as loud as the rest of the group. Correct: She spoke to him quietly. He shouted not as loudly as the rest of the group.

11. Linking verbs take the adjective form (bad/badly) Incorrect: The meat smells badly. I feel badly. Correct: The meat smells bad. I feel bad.

12. Answering when there is an either/or question

Incorrect: "Either you go home or stay here." "Yes."

Correct: "Either you go home or stay here." (Select one choice)

13. Subject/verb agreement

Incorrect: One of the planes are late. Each of the cars are fast. Correct: One of the planes is late. Each of the cars is fast.

14. Plurals and Their Correct Verbs

Incorrect: The wages is little. The scissors are broken. The police is coming. Correct: The wages are little. The scissors is broken. The police are coming.

15. Misplaced verb as modifier (If you put the modifier in a different place in the sentence, it means something different.)

Incorrect: Josh threatened to divorce her often. (This is not what you intend to say.)

Correct: Josh often threatened to divorce her.

16. Misplaced noun as modifier

Incorrect: We gave the flowers to the customer in the refrigerator. Correct: We gave the flowers in the refrigerator to the customer.

17. Misplaced adverbs (Be careful where the adverb is placed in the sentence as it has a different meaning.)

Incorrect: She almost washed all of the dishes. He offered to paint the fence last night. (This is not what you intend to say.)

Correct: She washed almost all of the dishes. Last night, he offered to paint the fence.

18. Omission of second part of comparison Incorrect: Carla ranks Mary higher than Betty.

Correct: Carla ranks Mary higher than she ranks Betty.

19. Any other

Incorrect: Alaska is bigger than any state in the United States. Correct: Alaska is bigger than any other state in the United States.

20. Parallel verb phrases

Incorrect: She was late for work and fired by her boss. Correct: She was late for work and was fired by her boss.

21. Old friend/long time

Incorrect: She was my old friend. (You may have known her for a long time, but she might be offended if you use the word “old” as it implies age.)

Correct: She was a friend who I have known for a long time.

22. Parallelism and verb agreement

Incorrect: He learned to play tennis, to swim and sail. Correct: He learned to play tennis, to swim and to sail.

23. Avoid lengthy sentence beginnings that offer nothing to the sentence

Incorrect: It goes without saying it is a nice day ... With reference to your question I don't really know ... At this point in time I would like to work for the bank ...

Correct: It is a nice day ... I don't really know ... I would like to work for the bank ...

24. Redundant phrases

Incorrect: advanced planning, close proximity, end results, grateful thanks. Habitual customs, local residents, mutual cooperation, old adage, past history, self-confessed, successful achievements, true facts, usual customary, young teenager, absolute truth, redo again

Correct: Use one word or the other not two words that mean nearly the same thing

25. Circumlocution/talking around the subject

Incorrect/correct: ahead of schedule/early, am in possession/have, at an early date/soon, at this point in time/now, best of health/well, caused injuries to/injured, draw attention to/point out, during the time that/while, give rise to/cause, in advance of/before, in the event that/if, in this day and age/today, made a statement saying/stated or said, made an escape/escaped, owing to the fact that/because, put in an appearance/appeared, render assistance to/help, succumbed to injuries/died, take action on the issue/acted, the reason why is that/because, this is a topic that/topic, was of the opinion that/thought, was witness to/saw

26. An/a

Incorrect: It is a old television set, but it still works. It is an costly purchase. Correct: It is an old television set, but it still works. It is a costly purchase.

27. Alternative/alternate

Incorrect: We will alternative playing the video games. The salad is a healthier alternate.

Correct: We will alternate playing the video games. The salad is a healthier alternative.

28. Amicable (used to describe arrangements or settlements agreed peacefully by parties)/ Amiable (used to describe people who are kind, gentle and friendly)
Incorrect: The soccer teams were amicable

Correct: The soccer teams were amiable

29. Among/between

Incorrect: She could not decide among the two guys. Correct: She could not decide between the two guys.

30. Beside (means “next to”)/besides (means “in addition to”) Incorrect: Ask him to sit besides me.

Correct: Ask him to sit beside me.

31. Bimonthly (every 2 months)/Semi-monthly (2 times a month)

Incorrect: I get paid bimonthly (every 2 months when you want to say every 2 months). Correct: I get paid semi-monthly (every 2 months).

32. Bring (action towards)/take (action away)

Incorrect: He will take the book to his friend’s. Correct: He will bring the book to this friend’s.

33. Can (applies ability)/may (asks permission)

Incorrect: I may drive because I passed the driving test. Correct: I can drive because I passed the driving test.

34. Deadly (if can cause death)/deathly (like the silence of death but does not kill)

Incorrect: A bee sting can be deathly.

Correct: A bee sting can be deadly.

35. Farther (refers to physical distance)/further (refers to degree or extent) Incorrect:

We will drive no further tonight.

Correct: We will drive no farther tonight.

36. Had ought/ought (ought is not used with helping verb) Incorrect: They had ought to call the pizza delivery. Correct: They ought to call the pizza delivery.

37. Hardly/barely/scarcely

Incorrect: He was not hardly/barely/scarcely finished with the paper. Correct: He was hardly/barely/scarcely finished with the paper.

38. Kind of/sort of/type of/variety of (never use “a” or “an” after these expressions) Incorrect: It was kind of a hot day.

Correct: It was kind of hot today.

39. Last (that what comes at the end)/latest (last in time, but not necessarily the final occurrence)

Incorrect: It is the latest game of the season. Correct: It is the last game of the season.

40. Lay/lie/laid (to put down) – lie/lay/lain (to recline or repose) Incorrect: I will lie the paper on the table.

Correct: I will lay the paper on the table.

41. Learn (acquire information)/teach (impart knowledge) Incorrect: I will learn the English to him.

Correct: I will teach the English to him.

42. Presently (soon or shortly)/at present (now, currently, at this time) Incorrect: Presently, the boss is in his office.

Correct: At present, the boss is in his office.

43. Regardless (despite)/irregardless (a nonstandard word)

Incorrect: Irregardless of what you want, the restaurant does not have it. Correct: Regardless of what you want, the restaurant does not have it.

44. Rare (implies value)/scarce (applied to ordinary things that are no longer in abundant) Incorrect: The painting was very scarce.

Correct: The painting was very rare.

45. Future tense

Incorrect: Tomorrow we go shopping. Correct: Tomorrow we will go shopping.

46. Since/for

Incorrect: I've been in America since 3 months. Correct: I've been in America for 3 months.

47. Adjectives in right order

Incorrect: Have you bought the blue china antique vase? I like ice cream vanilla the most. Correct: Have you bought the antique blue china vase? I like vanilla ice cream the most.

48. Work/job

Incorrect: My boyfriend has a new work. Correct: My boyfriend has a new job.

49. Misused Irony

Incorrect: It's a free ride if you pay. Correct: You need to pay.

50. Couldn't care less (not care at all)/could care less (care a little but not much)

Incorrect: I couldn't care less that it is raining (to mean not to care at all when you care a little).

Correct: I could care less that it is raining.

51. Literally (event must happen)/figuratively (event could not happen) Incorrect: He literally flew out the door.

Correct: He figuratively flew out the door.

52. Repeating subject

Incorrect: My English it is improving. My friend Mary she is going out with me.

Correct: My English is improving. My friend Mary is going out with me.

53. Incorrect preposition

Incorrect: In January 13th, I will be twenty. Correct: On January 13th, I will be twenty.

54. Nobody/anybody

Incorrect: At the party, I didn't meet nobody. Correct: At the party, I didn't meet anybody.

55. Possessive

Incorrect: She lives with she's father. Correct: She lives with her father.

56. Of come/have come

Incorrect: I would of come if I had a car. Correct: I would have come if I had a car.

57. Loan/borrow

Incorrect: I loaned the book from the library. Correct: I borrowed the book from the library.

58. Grade/year

Incorrect: I am in the third grade of college. My little brother is in the third year of school. Correct: I am in the third year of college. My little brother is in the third grade of school.

59. Irregular plurals

Incorrect: I saw two deers in the woods. My foots hurt. Correct: I saw two deer in the woods. My feet hurt.

60. Confusion over wording of idiom

Incorrect: The boss told me to dot my t's and cross my i's. Correct: The boss told me to dot my i's and cross my t's.

61. Was/were after "if" and "wish"

Incorrect: If I was going to the movies ... I wish I was seeing an action thriller.
Correct: If I were going to the movies ... I wish I were seeing an action thriller.

62. Answering a common expression with a question Incorrect: “See you later!”
“When?”

Correct: “See you later!” “Sure, good bye!”

63. Confusion over gender

Incorrect: My mother will be coming to America. He is excited. Correct: My mother will be coming to America. She is excited.

64. Themselves/themselves

Incorrect: They cooked dinner by themselves. Correct: They cooked dinner by themselves.

65. Comfortable/convenient

Incorrect: Is that chair convenient for you? Is it comfortable that I come over to your apartment?

Correct: Is that chair comfortable for you? Is it convenient that I come over to your apartment?

66. Expressing that you are sorry Incorrect: I am sorry to her. Correct: I apologized to her.

67. Look/see/watch verbs

Incorrect: I will see for you. I will look the movie.

Correct: I will look/watch for you. I will see/watch the movie.

68. Differences between want/hope/expect Incorrect: I want that the store has a funny video.

Correct: I hope/expect that the store has a funny video.

69. Very/really

Incorrect: I felt very fantastic. Correct: I felt really fantastic.

70. "Played" as in having fun

Incorrect: (If in reference to adults, and if not in a sport or a game) I played with my friends Friday night. Correct: I hung out/went out/had fun with my friends Friday night.

71. Superlatives

Incorrect: It is more hot now. Correct: It is hotter now.

72. Most/all/some

Incorrect: Most of Koreans like kimchi.

Correct: Most Koreans like kimchi or Most of the Koreans I know like kimchi.

73. Do you? Would you? (asking at the present time) Incorrect: Do you like a glass of wine?

Correct: Would you like a glass of wine?

74. Missing word(s)

Incorrect: My cousin is having 4 cats. Although I wasn't born, I feel like a real American. I'm from Italy, but I've been living for 4 years. I tried eating American food at restaurants, but now I cook myself as much as I can.

Correct: My cousin's cat is having 4 kittens. Although I wasn't born here, I feel like a real American. I'm from Italy, but I've been living her for 4 years. I tried eating American food at restaurants, but now I cook it myself as much as I can.

75. Misuse of plural

Incorrect: Someday, I'll find the men to marry. Correct: Someday, I'll find the man to marry.

76. All/over

Incorrect: I want to travel all/over the world.

Correct: I want to travel all over the world (use both words together).

77. Incorrect use of word form

Incorrect: Her father paid for her fly to Canada. He has been eaten at expensive restaurants. Correct: Her father paid for her flight to Canada. He has been eating at expensive restaurants.

78. By my own – on my own/by myself Incorrect: I got the new job by my own.

Correct: I got the new job on my own/by myself.

79. In my point of view – From .../In my view ...

Incorrect: In my point of view, the language learning program really helps.

Correct: From my point of view, the language learning program really helps or In my view, the language program really helps.

80. Do/make

Incorrect: I need to do my bed. I need to make my makeup. Can you make me a favour? Correct: I need to make my bed. I need to do my makeup. Can you do me a favour?

81. I suggested them to/I suggest that they Incorrect: I suggested them to go swimming.
Correct: I suggested that they go swimming.

82. The/my/his

Incorrect: I go to the house (the house is yours). He drove the car (the car is his).
Correct: I am going to my house. He drove his car.

83. On/in

Incorrect: I was born on 1988. Correct: I was born in 1988.

84. Day/date answer to a question

Incorrect: "What day were you born?" "1990"

Correct: "What day were you born?" "The 27th."

85. Then (reference to time)/than (reference to comparison) Incorrect: I can speak much better then before.

Correct: I can speak much better than before.

86. In/at

Incorrect: My flight departs in 5:00 p.m. It is at 15 minutes from now. Correct: My flight departs at 5:00 p.m. It is in 15 minutes from now.

87. During/for

Incorrect: My sister studied during five hours. She studied for the football game.

Correct: My sister studied for five hours. She studied during the football game.

88. Always go/go always

Incorrect: I go always to school by bus. Correct: I always go to school by bus.

89. Using a thesaurus so the words are more formal and don't fit Incorrect: I was crusading/locomotion home from work. Correct: I was coming home from work.

90. Late/lately

Incorrect: I always sleep lately. Late, I have been going to the movies. Correct: I always sleep late. Lately, I have been going to the movies.

91. Who/whom

Incorrect: His boss was the one whom gave him the raise. Who were they talking about? Please help whomever needs it.

Correct: His boss was the one who gave him a raise. Whom were they talking about? Please help whoever needs it.

92. Possessive case

Incorrect: I would like the amount of gas to be \$40.00. Correct: I would like \$40 worth of gas.

93. Making one syllable words that end in “ed” into two syllable words Incorrect: I chang – ged my mind.

Correct: I changed my mind.

94. Having difficulty pronouncing certain vowel sounds and letter sounds (th, ch, j, ld, rd) and leaving off endings completely

Incorrect: I would like to go to the batroom (bathroom). It is a hard wod (word) to say. The weather is very cod (cold). I see the ba (bear).

Correct: bathroom, word, cold, bear

95. Saying impolite expression(s)

Incorrect: Can I have more (when eating at someone’s house and the person is not your very closest friend)? You sure goofed up or that’s not very organized (to your boss). I have to go to the bathroom (have to use the restroom).

Correct: Wait to be asked for seconds and then say Yes, I really like ... or Yes, please. To your boss say, Do you need any help or Perhaps it could be organized this way ... Say, I have to use the restroom or where is the restroom?

96. Ending sentences with the word “but” Incorrect: I would like to go, but.

Correct: I would like to go, but (finish the sentence or don’t use the connecting word). I would like to go, but I can’t.

97. Accurate word choice

Incorrect: She was boring in class (the teacher or the student?).

Correct: Mrs. Jones (the teacher) was boring in class. I was bored with the class (student).

98. Could be better than that/Couldn’t be better than that

Incorrect: It could be better than that (when it is the best)! It couldn’t be better than that (when there is need for improvement)!

Correct: It couldn’t be better than that (when it is the best)! It could be better than that (when there is room for improvement)!

99. Using double negatives

Incorrect: I don’t need not to be upset. I don’t want no coffee. Correct: I don’t need to be upset. I don’t want any coffee.

100. Stumbling for word choice

Incorrect: I am all wet (hot). I can’t read (implying you don’t know how to read as in a menu but you really can’t see to read the menu).

Correct: I am all sweaty. I can’t see to read the menu.

REFERENCES

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