



Linguistic Exercises

بيانات أساسية

الكلية: الآداب

قسم: اللغة الإنجليزية

الفرقة: الثانية

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Table of Contents

Chapter I: English Idioms

Chapter II: Homonyms

Chapter III: Homophones

Chapter IV: Synonyms

Chapter V: Antonyms

Chapter VI: Morphemes Suffixes, Prefixes, Roots

Chapter VII: Common Errors in Spoken English

Chapter VIII: A Brief Guide to Common Punctuation Errors

Chapter IX: Common English Usage Problems

REFERENCES

Chapter 1

English Idioms

English idioms

English idioms, proverbs, and expressions are an important part of everyday English. They come up all the time in both written and spoken English. Because idioms don't always make sense literally, you'll need to familiarize yourself with the meaning and usage of each idiom. You can do a Google search to find examples of each one in use. It may seem like a lot of work, but learning idioms is fun, especially when you compare English idioms to the idioms in your own language.

Common English idioms

These English idioms are extremely common in everyday conversation in the United States. You will hear them in movies and TV shows and can use them to make your communication in English smoother.

| Idiom | Meaning | Usage |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| A blessing in disguise | a good thing that seemed bad at first | as part of a sentence |
| A dime a dozen | Something common | as part of a sentence |
| Beat around the bush | Avoid saying what you mean, usually because it is uncomfortable | as part of a sentence |
| Better late than never | Better to arrive late than not to come at all | by itself |
| Bite the bullet | To get something over with because it is inevitable | as part of a sentence |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Break a leg | Wishing someone good luck | by itself |
| Call it a day | Stop working on something | as part of a sentence |
| Cut somebody some slack | Don't be so critical | as part of a sentence |
| Cutting corners | Doing something poorly in order to save time or money | as part of a sentence |
| Idiom | Meaning | Usage |
| Easy does it | Slow down | by itself |
| Get out of hand | Get out of control | as part of a sentence |
| Get your act together | Work better or leave | by itself |
| Give someone the benefit of the doubt | Trust what someone says | as part of a sentence |
| Go back to the drawing board | Start over | as part of a sentence |
| Hang in there | Don't give up | by itself |
| Hit the sack | Go to sleep | as part of a sentence |
| It's not rocket science | It's not complicated | by itself |
| Let someone off the hook | To not hold someone responsible for something | as part of a sentence |

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Make a long story short | Tell something briefly | as part of a sentence |
| Miss the boat | It's too late | as part of a sentence |
| No pain, no gain | You have to work for what you want | by itself |
| On the ball | Doing a good job | as part of a sentence |
| Idiom | Meaning | Usage |
| Pull someone's leg | To joke with someone | as part of a sentence |
| Pull yourself together | Calm down | by itself |
| So far so good | Things are going well so far | by itself |
| Speak of the devil | The person we were just talking about showed up! | by itself |
| That's the last straw | My patience has run out | by itself |
| The best of both worlds | An ideal situation | as part of a sentence |
| Time flies when you're having fun | You don't notice how long something lasts when it's fun | by itself |
| To get bent out of shape | To get upset | as part of a sentence |
| To make matters worse | Make a problem worse | as part of a sentence |

| | | |
|--|---|-----------------------|
| Under the weather | Sick | as part of a sentence |
| We'll cross that bridge when we come to it | Let's not talk about that problem right now | by itself |
| Wrap your head around something | Understand something complicated | as part of a sentence |
| You can say that again | That's true, I agree | by itself |
| Idiom | Meaning | Usage |
| Your guess is as good as mine | I have no idea | by itself |

Slightly less common English idioms & expressions

These English idioms are used quite regularly in Canada. You may not hear them every day, but they will be very familiar to any native English speaker. You can be confident using any of them when the context is appropriate.

| Idiom | Meaning | Usage |
|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| A perfect storm | the worst possible situation | as part of a sentence |
| A picture is worth 1000 words | Better to show than tell | by itself |
| Actions speak louder than words | Believe what people do and not what they say | by itself |
| Add insult to injury | To make a bad situation worse | as part of a sentence |
| Bite off more than you can chew | Take on a project that you cannot finish | as part of a sentence |

| | | |
|---|--|-----------------------|
| Break the ice | Make people feel more comfortable | as part of a sentence |
| By the skin of your teeth | Just barely | as part of a sentence |
| Costs an arm and a leg | Very expensive | as part of a sentence |
| Do unto others as you would have them do unto you | Treat people fairly. Also known as "The Golden Rule" | by itself |
| Idiom | Meaning | Usage |
| Don't count your chickens before they hatch | Don't count on something good happening until it's happened. | by itself |
| Don't give up your day job | You're not very good at this | by itself |
| Every cloud has a silver lining | Good things come after bad things | by itself |
| Get a taste of your own medicine | Get treated the way you've been treating others (negative) | as part of a sentence |
| Give someone the cold shoulder | Ignore someone | as part of a sentence |
| Go on a wild goose chase | To do something pointless | as part of a sentence |
| Good things come to those who wait | Be patient | by itself |
| Hit the nail on the head | Get something exactly right | by itself |
| Ignorance is bliss | You're better off not knowing | by itself |

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| It takes one to know one | You're just as bad as I am | by itself |
| It's a piece of cake | It's easy | by itself |
| It's raining cats and dogs | It's raining hard | by itself |
| Let the cat out of the bag | Give away a secret | as part of a sentence |
| Live and learn | I made a mistake | by itself |
| Idiom | Meaning | Usage |
| On thin ice | On probation. If you make another mistake, there will be trouble. | as part of a sentence |
| Once in a blue moon | Rarely | as part of a sentence |
| Play devil's advocate | To argue the opposite, just for the sake of argument | as part of a sentence |
| Rain on someone's parade | To spoil something | as part of a sentence |
| Saving for a rainy day | Saving money for later | as part of a sentence |
| Slow and steady wins the race | Reliability is more important than speed | by itself |
| Spill the beans | Give away a secret | as part of a sentence |
| Take a rain check | Postpone a plan | as part of a sentence |

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Take it with a grain of salt | Don't take it too seriously | as part of a sentence |
| The ball is in your court | It's your decision | by itself |
| The best thing since sliced bread | A really good invention | as part of a sentence |
| The devil is in the details | It looks good from a distance, but when you look closer, there are problems | by itself |

| Idiom | Meaning | Usage |
|---|---|-----------------------|
| The early bird gets the worm | The first people who arrive will get the best stuff | by itself |
| The elephant in the room | The big issue, the problem people are avoiding | as part of a sentence |
| The whole nine yards | Everything, all the way. | as part of a sentence |
| There are other fish in the sea | It's ok to miss this opportunity. Others will arise. | by itself |
| There's a method to his madness | He seems crazy but actually he's clever | by itself |
| There's no such thing as a free lunch | Nothing is entirely free | by itself |
| Throw caution to the wind | Take a risk | as part of a sentence |
| You can't have your cake and eat it too | You can't have everything | by itself |
| You can't judge a book by its cover | This person or thing may look bad, but it's good inside | by itself |

Familiar English idioms & proverbs

These English idioms and proverbs are familiar and easily understood by native English speakers, but they are not usually used in everyday conversation. If you haven't mastered the more frequent idioms above yet, they are a better place to start, but if you're already familiar with those expressions, the idioms below will further spice up your English.

| Idiom | Meaning | Usage |
|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| A snowball effect | Events have momentum and build upon each other | as part of a sentence |
| A snowball's chance in hell | No chance at all | as part of a sentence |
| An apple a day keeps the doctor away | Apples are good for you | by itself |
| As right as rain | Perfect | as part of a sentence |
| Burn bridges | Destroy relationships | as part of a sentence |
| Calm before the storm | Something bad is coming, but right now it's calm | as part of a sentence |
| Come rain or shine | No matter what | as part of a sentence |
| Curiosity killed the cat | Stop asking questions | by itself |
| Fit as a fiddle | In good health | as part of a sentence |
| Get a second wind | Have more energy after having been tired | as part of a sentence |
| Get wind of something | Hear news of something secret | as part of a sentence |
| Have your head in the clouds | Not be concentrating | as part of a sentence |

| Idiom | Meaning | Usage |
|--|---|-----------------------|
| Hear something straight from the horse's mouth | Hear something from the person involved | as part of a sentence |
| He's off his rocker | He's crazy | by itself |
| He's sitting on the fence | He can't make up his mind | by itself |
| It is always darkest before the dawn | Things are going to get better | by itself |
| It takes two to tango | One person alone isn't responsible. Both people are involved. | by itself |
| Jump on the bandwagon | Follow a trend, do what everyone else is doing | as part of a sentence |
| Leave no stone unturned | Look everywhere | as part of a sentence |
| Let sleeping dogs lie | Stop discussing an issue | as part of a sentence |
| Like riding a bicycle | Something you never forget how to do | as part of a sentence |
| Like two peas in a pod | They're always together | as part of a sentence |
| On cloud nine | Very happy | as part of a sentence |
| Once bitten, twice shy | You're more cautious when you've been hurt before | by itself |
| Out of the frying pan and into the fire | Things are going from bad to worse | by itself |

| Idiom | Meaning | Usage |
|---|--|-----------------------|
| Run like the wind | Run fast | as part of a sentence |
| Shape up or ship out | Work better or leave | by itself |
| That ship has sailed | It's too late | by itself |
| There are clouds on the horizon | Trouble is coming | by itself |
| Those who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones | People who are morally questionable shouldn't criticize others | by itself |
| Through thick and thin | In good times and in bad times | as part of a sentence |
| Time is money | Work quickly | by itself |
| Waste not, want not | Don't waste things and you'll always have enough | by itself |
| We see eye to eye | We agree | by itself |
| Weather the storm | Go through something difficult | as part of a sentence |
| When it rains, it pours | Everything is going wrong at once | by itself |
| You can catch more flies with honey than you can with vinegar | You'll get what you want by being nice | by itself |
| You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink | You can't force someone to make the right decision | by itself |

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 vĭs') a noun meaning "an opinion"
advise (ăd vĭz') 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 (ĭ 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 (lūz) 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, though-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 |

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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|------------------|--------------|----------|---------------|-----------|
| 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 |

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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|--------------|-----------|----------|-----|---------|
| Frank | Secretive | Timidity | Shy | Evasive |
|--------------|-----------|----------|-----|---------|

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 |
|-----------------|------|--------|--------|------------|

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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|----------------|-----------|---------|------------|------------|
| 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 hundred rupees have been spent- Incorrect.

Reason: Units such as: dozen, hundred, thousand, million, billion, 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. |
|----------------------------|---|

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 here 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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