

**Mistakes English students make:****1-using double negatives**

EX: When I called the number, nobody doesn't answer it.

Correct: When I called the number, nobody answered it.

**Correct these sentences.**

- a) I didn't see nothing.
- b) I did not have neither her email or phone number.
- c) They never paid me no money.
- d) I didn't think no one was coming to the party.
- e) They aren't going nowhere for the Christmas holidays.

**2-Confusing gerund and infinitives:**

EX: To take a calculator in class was a big problem.

Correct: Taking a calculator into class was a big problem

**Choose the infinitive or the gerund:**

- a) Rebecca recommended (eating/ to eat) in a dim sum restaurant while we're in Hong Kong.
- b) I demand (speaking/ to speak) to the manager of the restaurant.
- c) She refused (speaking/ to speak) to me after I insulted her father.
- d) The adventure course involves (climbing/ to climb) a 10,000 foot mountain.
- e) She pretended (being/ to be) a student in order to get the student discount.
- f) The boy denied (stealing/ to steal) the candy.
- g) Lars and Emma discussed (moving/ to move) to the country where the children would have more room (playing/ to play).
- h) He wanted (refusing/ to refuse) the offer because it paid poorly, but he needed a job badly.
- i) (To start/ Starting) a sentence with a gerund is acceptable.
- j) (Eating/ To eat) ice cream on a windy day can be a messy experience.
- k) (Hiking/ To hike) Yellowstone National Park in the winter is something I have always wanted to do.

**3-Using "the" where it is not needed.**

EX: The technology has a lot affect in my life.

Correct: Technology has a big effect in my life.

*Note: Change a lot of to a big. We don't say "a lot effect or a lot of effect"*

Remember when you are talking in general terms, don't use "the". If you are talking about a specific thing, use "the". EX: Cats generally shed lots of hair in summer.      The cats that live next door shed lots of hair in summer.

**4-Subject-Verb Agreement and Incorrect Preposition**

EX: In one of our math class exam, they asked hard questions.

Correct: **On** one of our math class **exams**,...

**Choose in, on or at in these sentences.**

- a) He lives \_\_\_\_\_ Chicago.    He lives \_\_\_\_\_ Wabash Avenue.    He lives \_\_\_\_\_ 2338 Wabash Ave.
- b) After visiting the dentist, the child was \_\_\_\_\_ tears.
- c) We asked Dad's opinion \_\_\_\_\_ what kind of car to buy.
- d) We're going \_\_\_\_\_ vacation this fall.
- e) \_\_\_\_\_ my birthday, we will drive to San Marcos for dinner.
- f) My brother is \_\_\_\_\_ the army. He played \_\_\_\_\_ a soccer team in college.

- g)Hurry, it's time to get \_\_\_\_\_ the plane.
- h)We're going \_\_\_\_\_ a field trip to the science museum.
- i)We participated \_\_\_\_\_ a study to determine the best exercises to strengthen your back.
- j)I left my towel \_\_\_\_\_ the beach.
- k)He dropped his hat \_\_\_\_\_ the water.
- l)\_\_\_\_\_ October 31st, we'll go trick or treating.
- m)He has a picture of me \_\_\_\_\_ his website.
- n)\_\_\_\_\_ the face of it, the problem looks easy to solve, but as you get deeper into the problem, you see it's quite complex.
- o)The test we had was \_\_\_\_\_ using prepositions.
- p)I have a coffee stain \_\_\_\_\_ my shirt.
- q)You'll find many good coffee grinders \_\_\_\_\_ the market today.
- r)I'm \_\_\_\_\_ the market for a used car. You don't know of anyone selling a car, do you?
- s)I've invested \_\_\_\_\_ the stock market since I was a young man.
- t)I'm going to lunch now. I'll be back \_\_\_\_\_ the hour.
- u)If you need me, I'm \_\_\_\_\_ the back.
- v)Mike is working \_\_\_\_\_ a new program that will be able to detect planets millions of miles away.
- w)Write your answer \_\_\_\_\_ the blank.
- x)\_\_\_\_\_ June of 2010, my youngest son graduated from Harvard.
- y) \_\_\_\_\_ math class, we studied differential equations.
- z) \_\_\_\_\_ the math test, there were problems about differential equations.

**Check the subject-verb agreement in these sentences. Correct if necessary.**

- a)Both the piano and the organ has to be tuned before the concert.
- b)Neither of my two suitcases are large enough for this trip.
- c)There are a list of committee members on the table.
- d)A few of the students is doing well enough they can skip the next lesson.
- e)Everyone in the class has done a good job this semester.
- f)The jury take their seats in the courtroom before the judge comes in.
- g)Neither the student nor the teacher seem to understand the problem.
- h)Has either my father or my brother made a payment on this furniture.
- i)One of my instructors have written a letter of recommendation for me.
- j)Some of the apples have gone bad.
- k)Hartford is one of those cities that are working hard to reclaim the riverfront.