

No	Type of Error	Rule	Notes															
1	Nouns	Plural Nouns – referring to more than one thing	There are some things which are thought of as being plural rather than singular, so some nouns have only a plural form. For example, you can buy ‘goods’ , but not ‘a good’. These are called plural nouns. Other nouns have only a plural form when they are used with a particular meaning. For example, an official meeting between American and Russian leaders is usually referred to as ‘talks’ rather than ‘a talk’. In these meanings, these nouns are also called plural nouns. Eg. Union leaders met the country for wage <u>talks</u> on October 9. It is inadvisable to sell <u>goods</u> on a sale or return basis. All <u>proceeds</u> are going to charity. Employees can have meals on the <u>premises</u>. Note that some plural nouns do not end in ‘-s’: for example ‘clergy’, ‘police’, ‘poultry’, ‘evidence’, ‘audience’.															
		Uncountable Nouns	Words that end in -ch, x or s sounds, will require an -es for the plural: • Witches, boxes, gases, buses Do not insert the plural marker –s for uncountable nouns. Here is a list of the most common uncountable nouns of this type: <table><tr><td>money</td><td>progress</td><td>knowledge</td><td>advice</td><td>research</td></tr><tr><td>baggage</td><td>luggage</td><td>homework</td><td>news</td><td>spaghetti</td></tr><tr><td>traffic</td><td>information</td><td>machinery</td><td>hair</td><td>furniture</td></tr></table>	money	progress	knowledge	advice	research	baggage	luggage	homework	news	spaghetti	traffic	information	machinery	hair	furniture
money	progress	knowledge	advice	research														
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	Quantifiers	We use quantifiers to express quantity. Some common examples
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			are all, any, both, each, enough, every, few, little, many, much, a lot of... 1) <i>All, a lot of or lots of, enough, more, most, other</i> and <i>some</i> are used with plural nouns and <u>uncountable nouns</u> Eg. All students must wear a uniform. Peter considers all philosophy absurd. Sandra has to do a lot of work. 2) <i>Another, each and every</i> are used with singular nouns only Eg. I am going to send you another postcard. Each student is given a test paper. Every toilet is cleaned regularly. 3) <i>Many</i> is used with plural nouns while <i>much</i> is used with uncountable nouns. Steven can speak many languages. I have spent too much money this month. 4) <i>Few, a few and fewer</i> are used with plural nouns while <i>little, a little and less</i> are used with uncountable nouns. Eg. A few people attended the party Since, I have a little money, I will buy myself a can of coke. <i>Few and little</i> are used to say that something is not enough. <i>Fewer and less</i> are used to compare an amount of something with another amount. Eg. Jenny has few friends because she is inconsiderate. Jenny has fewer friends than Karen. Jenny has little money so she needs to borrow some from you. Jenny has less money than Karen.
2	Tenses	The Simple Past Tense – Stating a definite time in the past 1) You use the simple past tense to talk about things that happened in the past whether a long time ago or recently: Eg. Dr Johnson's famous dictionary was published in 1755 I bought a new camera last week. 2) The simple past is used for an activity that was ongoing but has now stopped: Eg. My sister attended this school for six years.	The Simple Past Continuous You use the past continuous for the situation that was ongoing when a certain single action took place: Eg. I was doing a tricky job on my computer when a power cut destroyed all my data. The past continuous is also used for an activity that was ongoing at a certain point in the past: Eg. At half past eight, Sam was eating his breakfast.

Tenses (continued)	Simple Present Tense	Subject verb agreement (sv) When you use the singular form of a countable noun as the subject of a verb, you use a singular verb. When you use the plural form of a countable noun as the subject, you use a plural verb. Examples: A <u>dog</u> <u>likes</u> to eat far more meat than a human being. Bigger <u>dogs</u> <u>cost</u> more.
	The Present Perfect – The past in relation to the Present	You use the present perfect for past events that affect or explain the present situation: Eg. I have lost my address book so I can't give you Sue's new address. You also use the present perfect for situations that began in the past and still exist: Eg. Grandma has lived in this house since she was a girl. The present perfect is used with already, yet and just Eg. The money has already been spent. Harry has just phoned to invite us to his party.
	The Present Perfect Continuous	You use the present perfect continuous for ongoing activities that began in the past and are still continuing: Eg. David has been trying to fix my computer, but he hasn't succeeded yet.
	The Past Perfect – Events before a particular time in the past	You use the past perfect to mention something that happened before an action or event in the <u>simple past</u>: Eg. The bus had already left by the time I <u>reached</u> the bus stop. The villagers who had lost their homes in the earthquake <u>were given</u> food and blankets. You use the past perfect continuous to talk about activities that were ongoing until an action or event in the <u>simple past</u>: Eg. We had been walking for about an hour when the storm <u>broke</u>.
	Talking about the future	When we know about the future, we normally use the present tense. 1. We use the present simple for something scheduled: We have a lesson next Monday. The train arrives at 6.30 in the morning. The holidays start next week. It's my birthday tomorrow. 2. We can use the present continuous for plans or arrangements: I'm playing football tomorrow. They are coming to see us tomorrow. We're having a party at Christmas. 3. We use will: when we express beliefs about the future: It will be a nice day tomorrow. I think Brazil will win the World Cup.

			I'm sure you will enjoy the film. to mean want to or be willing to: I hope you will come to my party. George says he will help us. to make offers and promises : I'll see you tomorrow. We'll send you an email. to talk about offers and promises: Tim will be at the meeting. Mary will help with the cooking. 4. We use be going to: to talk about plans or intentions: I'm going to drive to work today. They are going to move to Manchester. to make predictions based on evidence we can see: Be careful! You are going to fall. (= I can see that you might fall.) Look at those black clouds. I think it's going to rain. (= I can see that it will rain.) 5. We use will be with an -ing form for something happening before and after a specific time in the future: I'll be working at eight o'clock. Can you come later? They'll be waiting for you when you arrive. 6. We can use will be with an -ing form instead of the present continuous or be going to when we are talking about plans, arrangements and intentions: They'll be coming to see us next week. I'll be driving to work tomorrow. 7. We often use verbs like would like, plan, want, mean, hope, expect to talk about the future: What are you going to do next year? I'd like to go to university. We plan to go to France for our holidays. George wants to buy a new car. 8. We use modals may, might and could when we are not sure about the future: I might stay at home tonight or I might go to the cinema. We could see Mary at the meeting. She sometimes goes. 9. We can use should if we think there's a good chance of something happening: We should be home in time for tea. The game should be over by eight o'clock.
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3	Verbs	Modal Verbs and infinitive 'to'	The modal verbs are: shall, should, will, would, can, could, may, might, must 1) All modals (except ought) are followed by the base form of the verb. 2) Ought is followed by a "to" infinitive. e.g. She can speak German. My sister should lose weight. My sister ought to lose weight.						
4	Parts of Speech	Nouns, Adjectives	Examples He was feeling pretty stressed about the deadline. (adjective) You seem really stressed right now, so maybe you should try to do something more relaxing. (adjective) Your headaches are due to stress (noun) Janet has been under a lot of stress since her mother's illness (noun) Rob looks so stressed out since he started this new job (adjective, informal, so worried and tired that you cannot relax) Moving to a new house is a stressful experience (adjective, a job, experience, or situation that is stressful makes you worry a lot)						
			Confident, Confidence. Eg. He gave her a confident smile (adjective – sure that you can do something successfully) Eg. Our first priority is to maintain the customer's confidence in our product (noun- feeling somebody/something to be good)						
		Verbs and Nouns	List of verbs and nouns that are similar and always gets confused. <table border="1"> <tr> <td>verb</td><td>advise</td><td>practise</td><td>devise</td></tr> <tr> <td>noun</td><td>advice</td><td>practice</td><td>device</td></tr> </table> Examples: She practi<u>s</u>es playing the piano daily. (verb) She attends piano practi<u>c</u>e. (noun)	verb	advise	practise	devise	noun	advice
verb	advise	practise	devise						
noun	advice	practice	device						

5	Pronouns	Relative pronouns: joining clauses together.	‘Which’ always refers to things. It can be used as the subject or object or a relative clause or as the object of a preposition. Examples: ... a region which was threatened by growing poverty. ... two horses which he owned												
			‘That’ can refer to either people or things. It can be used as a subject or the object of a relative clause or the object of a preposition. Examples: ... the games that politicians play. He’s the boy that sang the solo last night.												
			‘Who’ and ‘whom’ always refer to people. ‘who’ can be the subject of a relative clause. Eg. ...mathematicians who are concerned with very difficult problems. A man who I met recently. In the past, ‘whom’ was normally used as the object of a relative clause. Nowadays, ‘who’ is more often used. There is a woman over there who I can’t help noticing. ... two girls whom I met in Edinburgh												
			‘Whose’ shows who or what something belongs to or is connected with. Note that it cannot be used by itself, but must come in front of a noun. Eg. The thousands whose lives have been damaged. There was a chap there whose names I’ve forgotten.												
	Demonstrative Pronouns – referring to a particular person or thing		‘This’ and ‘That’ are usually used as pronouns only when they refer to things. They are used to refer to a singular countable noun or uncountable noun. Eg. This is a list of the rules. The biggest problem was the accent. That was difficult for me. That looks interesting.												
			‘These’ and ‘those’ can be used as pronouns instead of a plural countable noun. They are most often used to refer to things, although they can be used to refer to people. Eg. ‘I bought you these.’ Adam held out a bag of grapes. These are no ordinary students. It may be impossible for them to pay essential bills, such as those for heating. Those are easy questions to answer. There are a great number of people who are seeking employment, and a great number of those are married women.												
		Reflexive pronoun referring back to the subject	When you want to show that the object or indirect object of a verb is the same person or thing as the subject of the verb, you use a reflexive pronoun. <table><tr><td></td><td>singular</td><td>plural</td></tr><tr><td>1st person</td><td>myself</td><td>ourselves</td></tr><tr><td>2nd person</td><td>yourself</td><td>yourselves</td></tr><tr><td>3rd person</td><td>himself herself itself</td><td>themselves</td></tr></table>		singular	plural	1 st person	myself	ourselves	2 nd person	yourself	yourselves	3 rd person	himself herself itself	themselves
	singular	plural													
1 st person	myself	ourselves													
2 nd person	yourself	yourselves													
3 rd person	himself herself itself	themselves													

6	Articles	definite article – the	Determiners – Identifying what you are talking about. ‘The’ is the commonest specific determiner, it is sometimes called the definite article. Because ‘the’ is the commonest specific determiner, you can put ‘the’ in front of any common noun. Eg. She dropped the can into the grass. The girls were not in the house. In these examples, the use of ‘the can’ means that <u>a can has already been mentioned</u>: ‘the grass’ is probably definite because it has <u>already been stated</u> that ‘she’ is outside and the presence of grass may also have been stated or is presumed: ‘the girls’, like ‘the can’ must have been mentioned before and ‘the house’ means the one where the girls were staying at the time. You use “the” with a singular uncountable noun when you are referring to a particular person or thing, or when there is only one: Eg. You ought to speak to the doctor who gave you this medicine.
		Indefinite Articles – a or an	Indefinite Articles are used before a singular noun that has a plural form. ‘A’ is used before a consonant sound and ‘an’ is used before a vowel sound. e.g. an hour, a university, an egg You use a or an when you are not referring to any particular person or thing from a number of possible ones: Eg. You ought to speak to a doctor. I took an umbrella with me.
7	Conjunctions - is a word or a group of words used to connect words, phrases, or clauses.	Coordinating conjunctions connect words, phrases, or clauses of equal grammatical rank.	To help you remember coordinating conjunctions, think of “fanboys”: For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So. For is used to express causal relation – one element is a cause of the other. e.g. He ran away, for he was frightened by what he saw. And is used to join elements in order to stress what they have in common. e.g. He saw a spider, a bat, and a ghost. Nor is used when the alternative is negative. e.g. He did not stop running, nor did he look back over his shoulder. But is used to emphasise the difference between the elements it joins. e.g. He felt foolish, but he couldn’t help it. Or is used to indicate an alternative. e.g. He must stay out of haunted houses, or he will have a stroke. Yet is used to emphasize the difference between the elements it joins. Unlike but, it also suggests that the second element is something that might not ordinarily be expected. e.g. He was warned that the house was haunted, yet he went in anyway. So suggests a purpose – the second element is needed because of the first. e.g. He was curious, so he paid no heed to the warnings.

		Subordinating conjunctions connect a subordinate clause to the main clause Time <i>after, before, once, since, until, when, whenever, while</i> e.g. After you have handed in your report, you cannot revise it. Reason or Cause <i>as, because, since</i> e.g. Because you have handed in your report, you cannot revise it. Purpose or Result <i>in order that, so that, that</i> e.g. I want to read your report so that I can evaluate it. Condition <i>if even, if, provided that, unless</i> e.g. Unless you have handed in your report, you can revise it. Contrast <i>although, even though, though, whereas, while</i> e.g. Although you have handed in your report, you can ask to revise it. Choice <i>than, whether</i> e.g. You took more time to revise than I did before the lab report deadline. Place or Location <i>where, wherever</i> e.g. Wherever you say, I'll come to hand in my report.	
		Correlative conjunctions emphasise the relationship set up by coordinating conjunctions Correlative conjunctions come in pairs. The word correlative (adjective) means a similar relationship of some kind. Thus correlative conjunctions join similar concepts in a sentence together. Correlatives are: <i>both ... and, either ... or, neither ... nor, not, only ... but, also, and whether ... or.</i> 1. We talked both to her parents and her doctor. 2. Jason not only speaks Chinese, but also Japanese and Korean. 3. Not only are they tired, but they are also disgusted. 4. You can have either pie or a cake. 5. She neither liked the hotel nor the restaurant. 6. Everything depends on whether he gets the teaching job in June or the one in September.	
8	Homonyms	Two (or more) words which look or sound the same, but have distinct and unrelated meanings. Accept (to receive) and Except (excluding) Affect (to influence) and Effect (result) There (a place) and Their (belongs to them) Principal (head of a school/sum of money) and Principle (a basic truth) Than (a comparison) and then (shows time) To (a preposition) and Too (an adverb) and Two (a number)	

9 Prepositions - words which show the relationship between a noun or a pronoun object and some other words in the sentence.

They are always followed by nouns or pronouns.

There are three groups of prepositions:

- Prepositions of place, position and direction
- Prepositions of time
- Prepositions for other relationships

PLACE	POSITION	DIRECTION	TIME	OTHER
above across along among at	beyond by down from in	on opposite out (of) outside over	after before at by for	except as like about with

1. At, In, On

(a) TIME

At is used for **exact time**

In is used for **months** and **years**

On is used for **dates** and **days**

at	in	on
at four o'clock	in September	on 6 th September 2012
at noon	in summer	on Sunday
at midnight	in winter	on my birthday
at bedtime	in the past	on National Day

Eg. The school day begins **at** 7.00 a.m.

The school closes **in** June.

The party is **on** Sunday.

The show is **in** the morning.

(b) PLACE

At is used for an exact place.

In is used for an enclosed place.

On is used for a surface

at	in	on
at the beach	in the school	on the table
at the market	in the room	on the ground
at the table	in the sand	on the shelf

Examples:

The book is **on** the table.

The match is **in** the stadium.

The boy is **at** the entrance.

2. To

DIRECTION

The preposition **to** is used to show **movement**

			Example: She is going to the market. The dog runs to me. 3. For, Since <u>TIME</u> For is used to show - a period of time (I walked for one hour.) - a specific distance (I walked for two kilometres.) - a purpose (This pen is for you.) Since is used to show a particular period of time. Examples: I have been here since an hour ago. Margaret has done ballet since she was six.
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Reference: Collins Birmingham University International Language Database, *Collins Cobuild English Grammar Distinction in English: Grammar Handbook*, Marshall Cavendish Education
 Anne Seaton, Rosalind Fergusson, *Grammar plus*, Learners Publishing