

COMMON ERRORS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1. Unnecessary use of article 'The'

(A) Unnecessary use of 'the' with society.

- For eg. (a) A liar is a danger to the society. (×)
(b) A liar is a danger to society. (✓)

(B) Unnecessary use of 'the' with abstract nouns.

- For eg. (a) The bravery is a great virtue. (×)
(b) Bravery is a great virtue. (✓)

(C) Unnecessary use of 'the' before colors.

- For eg. (a) The black is a beautiful color. (×)
(b) Black is a beautiful color. (✓)

(D) Unnecessary use of 'the' with Church.

- For eg. (a) On every Monday, I go to the Church. (×)
(b) On every Monday, I go to Church. (✓)

(E) Unnecessary use of 'the' before language.

- For eg. (a) Tina speaks the French very well. (wrong)
(b) Tina speak French very well. (right)

2. Use Gerund (V + ing) Instead of Infinitive (To + V₁) in following cases:

(A) After prepositions/preposition phrases.

- For eg. without/etc. + V₁ + ing
(a) Do your homework without to speak. (wrong)
(b) Do your homework without speaking. (right)

(B) After some preposition taking words.

- (a) succeed in + V₁ + ing, insist on + V₁ + ing, be + used to + V₁ + ing, Object + to + V₁ + ing, tired of + V₁ + ing, Fond of + V₁ + ing, Prevent from + V₁ + ing.

Some examples are:

- (a) (i) The hot weather prevented me to go. (×)
(ii) The hot weather prevented me from going. (✓)
- (a) (i) He is quite capable to do that. (×)
(ii) He is quite capable of doing that. (✓)

- (a) (i) He objects to be treated like this. (×)
(ii) He objects to being treated like that. (✓)

(C) After some certain verbs.

enjoy + V₁ + ing, practice + V₁ + ing, stop + V₁ + ing, avoid + V₁ + ing, mind + V₁ + ing, risk + V₁ + ing, finish + V₁ + ing

Some examples are as follows.

- (a) (i) Has she finished to speak? (×)
(ii) Has she finished speaking? (✓)
- (b) (i) You can't avoid to make mistakes. (×)
(ii) You can't avoid making mistakes. (✓)

(D) After some certain 'Phrases'.

It's no good + V₁ + ing, Have the pleasure of V₁ + ing, There is no harm in + V₁ + ing, It's no use + V₁ + ing, Would you mind + V₁ + ing, I can't help + V₁ + ing.

Some examples are as follows:-

- (a) (i) It's no good to get sad. (×)
(ii) It's no good getting sad. (✓)
- (b) (i) I can't help to do this task. (×)
(ii) I can't help doing this task. (✓)

3. 'Unnecessary use of prepositions'.

(A) Leave → depart from

Hence using leave from/left **from** is wrong.

- For eg. (a) (i) Anu left from Italy last Saturday. (×)
(ii) Anu left Italy last Saturday. (✓)

(B) Reach → Arrive at

'Avoid using any preposition after reach'

- For eg. (a) (i) We reached at the office early. (×)
(ii) We reached the office early. (✓)

(C) Answer → Reply to

- For eg. (a) (i) Please answer to my question. (×)
(ii) Please answer my question. (✓)

(D) Resemble → be similar to

- For eg. (a) (i) Does he resemble to his brother? (×)
(ii) Does he resemble his brother. (✓)

(E) Outside → On the exterior of

- For eg. (a) (i) We stood outside of the restaurant. (×)
(ii) We stood outside the restaurant. (✓)

(F) Ask → put a question to

- For eg. (a) (i) She told to me to come at once. (×)
(ii) She told me to come at once. (✓)

(G) Behind → at the back of

- For eg. (a) (i) Sameer hid behind of a large hall. (×)
(ii) Sameer hid behind a large hall. (✓)

(H) Allow → give permission to.

- For eg. (a) (i) The driver allowed to Ram to sit in the front seat. (×)
(ii) The driver allowed Ram to sit in the front seat. (✓)

4. Wrong use of other Important English Expressions :-

(A) Wrong use of 'what'/'which' after 'everything'.

- For eg. (a) (i) He heard everything which/what she said. (wrong)
(ii) He heard everything that she said. (right)

⇒ Relative pronoun 'which'/'what' can't be used after all, some, any, something, everything, anything, much, little and nothing. They only take relative pronoun 'that'.

(B) Wrong use of 'both' in negative sentence, instead use 'neither'.

- For eg. (a) (i) Both of them didn't go to office today. (×)
(ii) Neither of them went to office today. (✓)

⇒ In negative sentence, convert 'both' to 'neither'.

(C) Wrong use of 'If', instead use 'whether'.

- For eg. (a) (i) I asked Neha if she was going. (×)
(ii) I asked Neha whether she was going. (✓)

⇒ When the answer of a question is either yes or no, then 'whether' will be used. If the answer is anything else, then we will use 'if'.

For eg. I shall speak to her if she comes. (✓)

(D) Wrong use of 'also' or 'too', instead use 'either' in negative sentences.

- For eg. (a) (i) Sheena hasn't come also/too. (×)
(ii) Sheena hasn't come either. (✓)

⇒ In negative sentences, 'also' and 'too' change to 'either'.

(E) Use (in my opinion) instead of 'according to my opinion'.

- For eg. (a) (i) According to my opinion, Aniket is right. (×)
(ii) In my opinion, Aniket is right. (✓)