

used forms

Using the wrong preposition

Mistakes are often made by using the wrong preposition after certain words. The following list includes the words which most often give trouble:

- 1 **Absorbed** (- very much interested) **in**, not *at*.

Don't say: The man was absorbed **at** his work.

/ Say: The man was **absorbed in** his work.

- 2 **Accuse of**, not *for*.

Don't say: She accused the man **for** stealing.

/ Say: She **accused** the man **of** stealing.

Note: Charge takes **with**. The man was charged **with** murder.

- 3 **Accustomed to**, not *with*.

Don't say: I'm accustomed **with** hot weather. */*

Say: I'm **accustomed to** hot weather.

Note: Also used **to**: He is used **to** the heat.

- 4 **Afraid of**, not *from*.

Don't say: Laura **is** afraid **from** the dog. */*

Say: Laura **is afraid of** the dog.

Part 1

5 **Aim at**, not *on* or *against*.

Don't say: She aimed **on** {or against} the target.

/ *Say:* She **aimed at** the target,

Note Use the preposition **at** to denote direction, throw **at**, shout **at**, fire **at**, shoot **at**. Shoot (without the at) means to kill. He shot a bird (= he hit and killed it)

6 **Angry with**, not *against*.

Don't say: The teacher was angry against **him**. /

Say: The teacher was **angry with** him.

note 1 We get angry with a person but at a thing. He was angry at the weather ('not with the weather')

Note 2 Also annoyed with, vexed with, indignant with a person, but at a thing.

7 **Anxious** (= troubled) **about**, not *for*.

Don't say: 'They're anxious for his health.'

•/ *Say:* **They're anxious about** his health.

Note Anxious meaning wishing very much takes for. Parents are anxious for their children's success.

8 **Arrive at**, not *to*.

Don't say: We arrived to the village at night.

/ *Say:* We **arrived at** the village at night.

Note Use arrive in with countries and large cities. Mr Smith has arrived in London (or New York, India, etc)

9 **Ashamed of**, not *from*.

Don't say: He's now ashamed from his conduct. /

Say: He's now **ashamed of** his conduct.

Note it isn't correct to use ashamed of meaning shy. Ashamed means feeling shame or guilt about something. Shy means feeling nervous with someone. Instead of saying, I'm ashamed (or shamed) of my teacher, say I'm shy of my teacher

Misused forms

10 Believe in, not *to*.

Don't say: We believe **to** God.

/ Say: We believe **in** God.

Note: To believe in means to have faith in. To believe (without the in) means to regard something as true: / believe everything he says.

11 Boast of or about, not *for*.

Don't say: James boasted **for** his strength.

/ Say: James boasted **of** (or about) his strength.

12 Careful of, with or about, not *for*.

Don't say: Elke's very careful **for** her health.

/ Say: Elke's very careful **of/about** her health.

Or: You should be more careful with your money.

Note Take care of He takes care of his money.

13 Travel by train, etc., not *with the train*, etc.

Don't say: He travelled **with the train** yesterday. /

Say: He travelled **by train** yesterday.

Note: We say: by train, by boat, by plane, by bike; also, by land, by sea, by air, by bus; in a bus or on a bus; by car or in a car, by taxi or in a taxi; on horse-back, on a donkey, on a bicycle; on foot.

14 Complain about, not *for*.

Don't say: Annette complained **for** the weather. /

Say: Annette complained **about** the weather.

Note When talking about illness we use complain of. We say She complained of a sore throat.

15 Composed of, not *from*.

Don't say: Our class **is composed from** thirty students. /

Say: Our class **is composed of** thirty students.

16 **Confidence in**, not *to*.

Don't say: I have great confidence **to** you.

/ *Say:* I have great **confidence in** you.

Note In confidence : Let me tell you something in confidence { = a i a secret }

17 **Conform to**, not *with*.

Don't say: 'We must conform with the rules. /

Say: We must **conform to** the rules.

Note comply takes with. We'll comply with your request.

18 **Congratulate on**, not *for*.

Don't say: I congratulate you **for** your success. /

Say: I **congratulate** you **on** your success.

19 **Consist of**, not *from*.

Don't say: A year consists from twelve months. /

Say: A year **consists of** twelve months.

Note Take great care never to use consist in the passive form.

20 **Covered with**, not *by*.

Don't say: The mountains are covered **by** snow.

/ *Say:* The mountains are **covered with/in** snow.

21 **Cure of**, not *from*.

Don't say: The man was cured from his illness.

/ *Say:* The man was **cured of** his illness.

Note The noun cure takes for. There is no cure for that disease

22 **Depend on** or **upon**, not *from*.

Don't say: It depends from her.

/ *Say:* It **depends on** (or **upon**) her.

Note Rely on or upon ' can't rely on (or upon) him.

Misused forms

- 23 Deprive **of**, not *from*.

Don't say: Nelson Mandela was deprived from his freedom.

/ *Say:* Nelson Mandela was **deprived of** his freedom.

- 24 Die **of** an illness, not *from an illness*.

Don't say: Many people have died from malaria. /

Say: Many people have **died of** malaria.

Note People die of illness, of hunger, of thirst, of or from wounds; from overwork; by violence, by the sword, by pestilence; in battle; for their country, for a cause, through neglect; on the scaffold; at the stake.

- 25 Different **from**, not *than*.

Don't say: My book is different than yours. /

Say: My book is **different from** yours.

- 26 **Disappointed by, about or at**, not *from*.

(a) by /at /about :

Don't say: Phillipa was disappointed from the low mark she got in the test .

/ *Say:* Phillipa was **disappointed by/about/at** the low mark she got in the test.

(b) with/in:

Don't say: Jane was disappointed from her son. /

Say: Jane was **disappointed with/in** her son.

Note: Before a person we use with or in, before a thing we use at, about or by and before a gerund we use at: Keith is very disappointed at not winning the prize. We use that (optional before a new clause) 'was disappointed (that) I didn't get an invitation.

- 27 Divide **into parts**, not *in parts*.

Don't say: I divided the cake in four parts. /

Say: I **divided the cake into** four parts .

Note A thing may be divided in half or in two Paul divided the apple in half (or in two).

28 **No doubt (n) of or about**, not *for*.

Don't say: I've **no doubt for** his ability.

/ *Say:* I've **no doubt of (or about)** his ability.

Note – Doubtful of: / am doubtful of his ability to pass

29 **Dressed in**, not *with*.

Don't say: The woman was dressed with black. /

Say: The woman was **dressed in** black.

Note: The woman was in black is also correct

30 **Exception to**, not *of*.

Don't say: This is an exception of the rule. /

Say: This is an **exception to** the rule.

Note: We say with the exception of: She liked all her subjects with the exception of physics

31 **Exchange for**, not *by*.

Don't say: He exchanged his collection of matchboxes by some foreign stamps.

/ *Say:* He **exchanged** his collection of matchboxes **for** some foreign stamps.

Note: In exchange for He gave them his old car in exchange for a new one.

32 **Fail in**, not *from*.

Don't say: Steven failed from maths last year. /

Say: Steven **failed in** maths last year.

33 **Full of**, not *with* or *from*.

Don't say: The jar was full with (or from) oil.

/ *Say:* The jar was **full of** oil.

Note: Fill takes with Jane filled the glass with water

34 Getrid of, not from.

Don't say: I'll be glad to get rid from him. /

Say: I'll be glad to getrid of him.

35 Glad about, not from or with.

Don't say: Francis was glad from (or with) receiving your letter.

/ Say: Francis was glad about receiving your letter.

36 Good at, not in.

Don't say: My sister's good in maths. /

Say: My sister's good at maths.

Note 1 : B a d at , clever at , quick at , slow at , etc. However, w e a k in : *He's weak in grammar.*

Note 2 : *He's good in class* means that his conduct is good.

37 Guard against, not from.

Don't say: You must guard from bad habits. /

Say; You must guard against bad habits.

38 Guilty of, not for.

Don't say: He was found guilty for murder.

/ Say: He was found guilty of murder

39 Independent of, not from.

Don't say: Clare's independent from her parents.

/ Say: Clare's independent of her parents.

Note: W e say dependent on : A *child* is dependent on *its* *parents*.

40 Indifferent to, not for.

Don't say: They're indifferent for politics. /

Say;They're indifferent to politics.

41 **Insist on**, not *to*.

Don't say: He always insisted **to** his opinion.

/ Say: He always **insisted on** his opinion.

No't.e Persist take ; , in He persisted in his silly ideas

42 **Interested in**, not *for*.

Don't say: She's not interested **for** her work.

/ Say: She's not **interested in** her work.

Note Also take an interest in She takes a great interest in music

43 **Jealous of**, not *from*.

Don't say: He's very jealous **from** his brother. /

Say: He's very **jealous of** his brother.

44 **Leave for a place**, not *to a place*.

Don't say : They're leaving **to** England soon. /

Say: They're **leaving for** England soon.

45 **Live on**, not *from*.

Don't say: He lives **from** his brother's money. /

Say: He **lives on** his brother's money.

.Note Feed on: Some birds feed **on** insects

46 **Look at**, not *to*.

Don't say: Look **to** this beautiful picture. /

Say: **Look at** this beautiful picture.

Note: Also gaze at, stare at, etc B u i . look after (= take care of); look for (= tr, to find), look over (= examine); look into (= examine closely), look on or upon (= consider), look down on (= have a low opinion of), look up to (= respect), look forward to (= expect); look forward to (= expect with pleasure), look to (= rely on)

Misused forms

47 **Pfe-rded to** , not *with*.

Dcrfi say : Angela was married with a rich man.

J Say: Angela was **married to** a rich man-

Note Also engaged to Sally was engaged to Peter for a year be'cre they go; married.

48 **Opposite to** , not *from*

Don't say :Their house is opposite from ours. -/

Say: Their house is **opposite to** ours.

Note Opposite ours is also correct

49 **Pass by a place**, not *from a place*.

Don't say: Will you pass from the post-office? /

Say: Will you **pass by** the post-office?

Note Also pass the post-office is correct .

50 **Play for a team**, not *with a team*.

Don't say: He plays regularly with that team . /

Say: He **plays** regularly **for** that team.

51 **Pleased with**, not *from*.

Don't say:The teacher is pleased from me. /

Say: The teacher is **pleased with** me.

Note . We say pleased at or pleased with if an abstract noun or a clause follows ; They were pleased at (or with) what he said; They were pleased et (or with) her results

52 **Popular with**, not *among*.

Don't say: John's popular .among his friends. /

Say: John's **popular with** his friends.

53 **Prefer to**, not *from*.

Don't say: I prefer a blue pen from a red one. *J*

Say: I prefer a blue pen **to** a red one.

Note A'so preferable to This car is preferable to niy old one.

54 **Preside at** or **over**, not *in*.

Don't say: Who presided **in** the last meeting?

/ *Say:* Who **presided at** (or **over**) the last meeting?

55 **Proud of**, not *for*.

Don't say: He's very proud **for** his promotion . /

Say: He's very **proud of** his promotion .

Note We say take \ai pride in A craftsman takes a pride in his work

56 **Rejoice at** or **in**, not *for*.

Don't say: We rejoiced **for** her success.

/ *Say:* We **rejoiced at** (or **in**) her success.

57 Related **to**, not *with*.

Don't say: Are you related **with** Simon **in** any way?

•/ *Say:* Are you **related to** Simon **in** any way?

Note Also relation to . Is he any relation to you?

58 **Repent of**, not *from*.

Don't say: He repented **from** his crime.

/ *Say:* He **repented of** his crime.

Note Repentance takes for.. He feels repentance for his sin

59 **Satisfied with**, not *from*.

Don't say: Are you satisfied **from** your marks? /

Say: Are you **satisfied with** your marks?

Note Also content with , delighted with , unhappy with , happy with , displeased with , dissatisfied with , disgusted with .

60 **Similar to**, not *with*.

Don't say: Your house is similar **with** mine. /

Say: Your house is similar **to** mine.

61 Sit at a desk etc., not on a desk etc.

Don't say: The bank manager was sitting on his desk. /

Say: The bank manager was sitting at his desk.

Note Also sit at a table. But on a chair, on a bench, on a sofa, etc; in an arm-chair, in a tree or up a tree. A bird sometimes perches (= sits) on a tree

62 Spend on, not for.

Don't say: \ spend a lot of time for my computer. /

Say: I spend a lot of time on my computer.

63 Succeed in, not at.

Don't say: I hope he'll succeed at his work. /

Say: I hope he'll succeed in his work.

Note. A person succeeds to a property, a title, or an office: Queen Elizabeth II succeeded to the throne in 1952. Also one person can succeed another.

64 Superior to, not from or than.

Don't say: This is superior from (or than) that.

/ 5«y. This is superior to that.

Note Also inferior to, junior to, senior to, subsequent to, prior to.

65 Sure of, not for.

Don't say: I'm quite sure for her honesty. /

Say: I'm quite sure of her honesty.

Note: Also certain of. I am quite certain of >t

66 Surprised at or by, not for.

Don't say: Harold was surprised for the loud bang. /

Say: Harold was surprised at/by the loud bang.

Note. Also astonished at/by, amazed at/by, alarmed at/by, puzzled at/by, shocked at/by

Have another look at . . .

Prepositions after certain words

Note carefully the prepositions used after the follow in words:

accuse <i>of</i>	guilty <i>of</i>
accustomed <i>to</i>	independent <i>of</i>
afraid <i>of</i>	indifferent <i>to</i>
aim <i>at</i>	insist
angry <i>with, at</i>	interested <i>in</i>
arrive <i>at, in</i>	jealous <i>of</i>
ashamed <i>of</i>	look <i>at</i>
believe <i>in</i>	married <i>to</i>
boast <i>of</i>	no doubt <i>of</i> or <i>about</i>
careful <i>of, with, about</i>	pleased <i>with</i> ^{it}
complain <i>about</i>	prefer <i>to</i>
composed <i>of</i>	proud <i>of</i>
conform <i>to</i>	related <i>to</i>
congratulate <i>on</i>	repent <i>of</i>
consist <i>of</i>	satisfied <i>with</i>
cure <i>of</i>	similar <i>to</i>
depend <i>on</i>	succeed <i>in</i>
deprive <i>of</i>	superior <i>to</i>
die <i>of</i>	sure <i>of</i>
different <i>from</i>	surprised <i>at, by</i>
dressed' m	suspect <i>of</i>
fail <i>in</i>	tired <i>of</i>
full <i>of</i>	translate <i>into</i>
good ^{Q1}	warn <i>of, about</i>
guard <i>against</i>	

Misused forms

67 **Suspect of**, not *for*.

Don't say: **I suspect Kate for stealing the pen.**

/ Say: **I suspect Kate of stealing the pen .**

Note Also suspicious of: Oogs are suspicious of strangers

68 **Take by» not from**.

Don't say: **Robert took his brother from the hand.**

/ Say: **Robert took his brother by the hand.**

Note: Also: hold by, catch by, seize by, snatch by, grasp by.

69 **Tie to**, not O.K.

*Don't say ;***The girl tied the string on the kite.**

*/ i'i7y:***The girl tied the string to the kite.**

U'.nt Also bind to : The prisoner was bound to r^p iMA-1?

70 **Tired of**, not *from*.

Don't say: The boys **are tired from** eating boiled eggs . /

.V<2y:Thc boys are **tired of** eating boiled eggs.

71 **Translate into**, not *to*.

Don't say ; Translate this passage to English. /

Say: **Translate this passage into** English.

72 **Tremble with cold**, etc., not *from cold*. etc.

Don't say: The man was trembling from cold.

*/ Sm':***The man was trembling with** cold.

Note? Also shake with and shiver with . The thief i^as shaking ywith le-')

73 **Warn (a person) of danger**, not *about danger*.

Don't say: **They were warned** about the danger.

/ Say: **They were warned of** the danger.

No'? i Use warn about for specific things rhy v/amed w, abom t., f'j - i, '.m
-th' road

Part 1

Note 2 We warn a person against a fault. His teacher warned him against breaking the rules.

74 Write **in ink**, not *with ink*.

Don't say: I've written the letter with ink. /

Say: I've **written** the letter **in ink**.

Note We use **in** when we are referring to the final work. The drawing was done in charcoal. Dora writes her letters in green ink. When we are referring to the instrument used we use **with**. The children are learning to write with a pen. Helen prefers to paint with a thin brush.

(See Exercises 73-76 on pages 168-170)

Misuse of the infinitive

Use the gerund and not the infinitive:

(a) After prepositions or preposition phrases:

75 **Without**, etc. + **-ing**.

Don't say: Do your work without to speak. /

Say: Do your work **without speaking**.

76 **Instead of**, etc. + **-ing**.

Don't say: He went away instead to wait. /

Say: He went away **instead of waiting**.

(b) After words which regularly take a preposition:

77 **Capable of** + **-ing**.

Don't say: They're quite capable to do that.

/ Say: They're quite **capable of doing** that.

Note Also incapable of; to + the infinitive follows able or unable. He is unable to do anything.

78 **Fond of + -ing.**

Don't say: She's always fond to talk.

/ Say: She's always **fond of talking**.

79 **Insist on + -ing.**

Don't say: Simon insisted to go to London.

/ Say: Simon **insisted on going** to London.

80 **Object to + -ing.**

Don't say: I object to be treated like this.

/ Say: I **object to being** treated like this.

81 **Prevent from + -ing.**

Don't say: The rain prevented me to go.

/ Say: The rain **prevented me from going**.

82 **Succeed in + -ing.**

Don't say: Paula succeeded to win the prize.

/ Say: Paula **succeeded in winning** the prize.

83 **Think of + -ing.**

Don't say: I often think to go to England.

/ Say: I often **think of going** to England.

84 **Tired of + -ing.**

Don't say: The customer got tired to wait.

/ Say: The customer got **tired of waiting**.

85 **Used to + -ing.**

Don't say: She's used to get up early.

/ Say: She's **used to getting** up early.

(c) After certain verbs:

86 **Avoid -i- -ing.**

Don't say: You can't avoid **to** make mistakes.

/ Say: You can't **avoid making** mistakes.

Note: Also can't help (= can't avoid). / can't help laughing.

87 **Enjoy + -ing.**

Don't say: I enjoy **to** play football.

/ Say: I **enjoy playing** football.

Note: Use the gerund or to + infinitive after verbs meaning to like or to dislike. He likes reading English books, or He likes to read English books.

88 **Excuse + -ing.**

Don't say: Please excuse me **to** be so late.

/ Say: Please **excuse my being** so late.

Or: Please excuse **me for being** so late.

89 **Finish + -ing.**

Don't say: Have you finished **to** speak? /

Say: Have you **finished speaking**?

Note, to + infinitive or the gerund follow verbs meaning to begin. She began to speak, or She began speaking.

90 **Go on (continue) + -ing.**

Don't say: The music went on **to** play all day.

/ Say: The music **went on playing** all day.

Note: Also keep on; She kept on playing the piano.

91 **Mind (object to) + -ing.**

Don't say: Would you mind **to** open the door?

/ Say: Would you **mind opening** the door?

Have another look at . . .

Use of the gerund

Use the gerund {and not the infinitive): 1

After prepositions.

Examples: He worked *without stopping*. She played *instead of working*.

2 After words which regularly take a preposition, such as *fond of, insist on, tired of, succeed in*.

Examples: I'm *tired of doing* the work again. He *succeeded in catching* the rat.

3 After certain verbs, such as *avoid, enjoy, finish, stop, risk, excuse*.

Examples: They *enjoy playing* football. The wind has *stopped blowing*.

4 After the adjectives *busy* and *worth*.

Examples: Lena was *busy writing* a book . This date is *worth remembering*.

5 After certain phrases , such as *it's no use, it's no good, I can't help, would you mind, look forward to*.

Examples: I think *it's no use trying* again. I *can't help feeling* angry about it.

Use the gerund or the infinitive after certain verbs, such as *begin, like, dislike, hate, love, prefer*.

Example: He began to talk *or* He began *talking*.

92 Practise + **-ing**.

Don't say: You must practise to speak English. /

Say: You must practise **speaking** English.

93 Remember + **-ing**.

Don't say: I don't remember to have seen *b\ra.* /

Say: I don't remember **seeing** him.

Or; I don't **remember having** seen him.

94 Risk + **-ing**.

Don't say: We couldn't risk to leave him alone .

/ *Say:* We couldn't risk leaving him alone.

95 Stop + **-ing**.

Don't say: The wind has almost stopped to *b\ra*v.

/ *Say:* The wind has almost stopped blowing.

Note give up ' = xto-pl g:,ve u:: smoking.

(d) *Afiei ce.rtah: adjectives:*

95 Busy + **-ing**.

Don't say: He was busy to revise the exams .

Say: He was busy revising for the exams .

97 Worth + **-ing**.

Don't say: Is today's film worth to see?

/ *Say:* Is today's film **worth seeing**?

(e) After certain phrases:

98 Have difficulty in + **-ing**.

Don't say: She has no difficulty to do it.

/ *Say:* She has no **difficulty in doing it**.

99 **Have the pleasure of + -ing.**

Don't say: I had the pleasure **to** meet him.

/ Say: **I had the pleasure of meeting** him.

Not? take pleasure in Ho takes great pleasure in h*tp't'<g others

100 **It's no use + -ing.**

Don't say: It's no use **to** cry like a baby. /

Say: **It's no use crying** like a baby.

101 **It's no good + -ing.**

Don't say: It's no good **to** get angry. /

Say: **It's no good getting** angry.

102 **Look forward to + -ing.**

Don't say: I look forward **to** see him soon.

/ Say: **I look forward to seeing** him soon.

103 **There is no harm in + -ing.**

Don't say: There's no harm **to** visit her now.

/ Say: **There's no harm in visiting** her now.

(See Exercises 63 and 64 on page 164.)

Use of the wrong tense

104 Using the past tense after **did** instead of the infinitive without **to**.

(a) To ask questions:

Don't say: **Did** you went to school yesterday? /

Say: **Did** you **go** to school yesterday?

(b) To make negatives:

Don't say: I **did not** went to school yesterday.

/ **Say: I did not go to school yesterday.**

Use the present infinitive without to, not the past tense after the auxiliary did.

Note: the answer to a question beginning with did is always in the past tense.

Did you see the picture? -Yes. I saw the picture; or Yes, I did.

105 Using the third person singular after does instead of the infinitive without to.

(a) To ask questions:

Don't say: Does the gardener waters the flowers? /

Say: Does the gardener water the flowers?

(b) To make negatives:

Don't say: The man doesn't waters the flowers. /

Say: The man doesn't water the flowers.

After the auxiliary does use the infinitive without to, and not the third person of the present.

Note The answer to a question beginning with Does is always in the present tense, third person: Does he like the cinema? - Yes, he likes the cinema, or

Yes, he does.

(For Sections 104 - 105 see Exercises 33 and 34 on pages 152 - 153.)

106 Using the third person singular after can, must, etc., instead of the infinitive without to.

Don't say: Ian can speaks English very well. /

Say: Ian can speak English very well.

After the verbs can, must, may, shall, and will, use the infinitive without to, and not the third person of the present.

107 Wrong sequence of tenses.

Don't say: Rachel asked me what I am doing. /

Say: Rachel asked me what I was doing.

When the verb in the main clause is in the past tense, use a past tense in subordinate clauses.

Misused forms

Note. This rule doesn't apply (1) to verbs within quotations. (2) to facts that are true at all times. We say:

1 She said, 'I am waiting for your answer.' 2 He said that London is a great city.

108 Using *will/ll* instead of **would/'d** in a subordinate clause.

Don't say: He said (that) he will/'ll come tomorrow. /

Say: He **said** (that) he **would/'d** come tomorrow.

Will/'ll changes to would/'d in subordinate clauses, when the verb in the main clause is in a past tense.

109 Using *may* instead of **might** in a subordinate clause.

Don't say: Last Sunday Ailsa told me that she may come.

/ *Say:* Last Sunday Ailsa told me that she **might** come.

May changes to might in subordinate clauses, when the verb in the main clause is in the past simple tense.

Note: The conjunction *that* is never preceded by a comma.

110 Using *can* instead of **could** in a subordinate clause.

Don't say: Ben thought he can win the prize.

/ *Say:* Ben **thought** he **could** win the prize.

Can changes to could in subordinate clauses, when the verb in the main clause is in the past simple tense.

(For Sections 107 - 110 see Exercises -22 and 23 on pages 147 - 148.)

111 Using the past simple tense after **to** + the infinitive.

Don't say: He tried to kicked the ball away.

/ *Say:* He tried **to kick** the ball away.

Don't use the simple past tense after *to*.

Part 1

- 112 Using the past simple tense after an auxiliary verb, instead of the past participle.

Don't say: I've forgot to bring my book.

*S Say: I've **forgotten** to bring my book .*

Use the past participle (and not the past tense) with the auxiliary verb have and its parts.

- 113 Using *must* or *ought to* to express a past obligation.

Don't say: You ought to come yesterday.

•/ *Say:* You **ought to have come** yesterday.

Or: You should **have come** yesterday.

Don't use must and ought to as past tenses. To express a past duty (which wasn't done) use the perfect infinitive without to after ought to or should, or expressions such as had to, was obliged to.

Note' In indirect speech use must and ought to as past tenses: He said *he* must do it.

- 114 Using the present perfect instead of the simple past tense.

Don't say: I have seen a good film yesterday. /

Say: I saw a good film yesterday .

Use the simple past tense (and not the present perfect) for an action completed in the past at a stated time.

Note' When a sentence has a word or a phrase denoting past time, like yesterday, last night, last week, last year, then, ago, etc., always use a simple past tense.

- 115 Using the simple past tense instead of the present perfect.

Don't say: **I saw** the Parthenon of Athens .

/ *Say:* **I have seen** the Parthenon of Athens .

If we are speaking of the result of a past action rather than of the action itself we must use the present perfect tense. When somebody says, / have seen Parthenon, he or she is not thinking so much of the past act of seeing it, as the present result of that past action.

Misused forms

116 Using the simple past tense with a recent, action, instead of the present perfect.

Don't say: The clock struck.

/ Say: The clock has struck.

If we are speaking of an action just finished, we must use the present perfect instead of the simple past tense. For example, immediately after the clock strikes, we shouldn't say The clock struck, but The clock has struck.

117 Using the simple present instead of the present perfect.

Don't say: I'm at this school two years.

/ Say: I've been at this school two years.

Use the present perfect (and not the simple present) for an action begun in the past and continuing into the present. I've been at this school two years means I'm still here.

118 Using the simple present instead of the present perfect after a **since** clause of time.

Don't say: Since he came, we're happy.

/ Say: Since he came, we've been happy.

The verb after a since clause of time is generally in the present perfect tense.

19 Using the simple present instead of the present continuous.

Don't say: Look! Two boys fight.

/ Say: Look! Two boys **are fighting**.

Note. We also use the present continuous for the future 'when something is pre-arranged or expected with some certainty' Lorna is arriving tomorrow at six. Tom and I are eating out tonight.

20 The continuous form of the tense misused.

Don't say: I'm understanding the lesson now. /

Say: I **understand** the lesson now.

As a rule, verbs denoting a state rather than an act have no continuous forms, like understand, know, believe, like, love, belong, prefer, consist, mean, hear, see, etc.

Part 1

- 121 Using the present continuous for a habitual action, instead of the simple present.

Don't say: Every morning I'm going for a walk. /

Say: Every morning **I go** for a walk.

Use the simple present (and not the present continuous) to express a present habitual action.

Note. Use the present continuous to express a habitual action with the word *always* or with a verb denoting a continuous state: He is always talking in class; He is living in London.

- 122 Using the verb *to use* for the present habitual action.

Don't say: I use to get up at six every morning.

/ Say: **I get up** at six every morning.

Or: **I'm accustomed to** getting up at six, etc.

The verb *to use* doesn't express a habit in the present. / *use* means / employ. I use a pen to write with.

Note. *Used to* expresses a past state or habit and it usually refers to some old situation which no longer exists: / *used to* see him every day; My father used to play football very well.

- 123 Using the past continuous for a habitual action, instead of the simple past tense.

Don't say: Last year I was walking to school every day. /

Say: Last year **I walked** to school every day.

Use the simple past tense to express a habit in the past, and not the past continuous.

Note: Use the past continuous tense to describe events in the past happening at the time another action took place: / *was* walking to school when I met him.

- 124 Using the past tense instead of the past perfect.

Don't say: The train already left before I arrived.

/ Say: The train **had already left** before I arrived.

Use the past perfect when the time of one past action is more past than that of another. Put the action which was completed first in the past perfect and the second action in the past tense.

Misused forms

Note: Don't use the present tense and the past perfect in the same sentence. It would be incorrect to say: My brother says that he had not gone to the cinema last night.

125 Using the past perfect instead of the simple past tense.

Don't say: I'd finished the book yesterday

/ Say: I finished the book yesterday.

Don't use the past perfect unless there is another verb in the past tense in the same sentence.

(See Section 124.)

126 Using the future in a clause of time, instead of the present tense.

Don't say: I'll see you when I shall come back. /

Say: I'll see you when I come back.

If the verb in the main clause is in the future, the verb in the time clause must be in the present tense.

127 Using the future in the if clause instead of the present tense.

Don't say: If he'll ask me, I will/'ll stay. /

Say: If he asks me, I will/'ll stay.

Use the present tense in a future conditional in the if clause and the future tense in the main clause.

Note: But the future tense may be used in an if clause expressing a request: If you will/'ll give me some money I will/'ll buy you a drink.

128 Using the present tense after as if or as though instead of the past.

Don't say: Janine talks as if she knows everything. /

Say: Janine talks as if she knew everything.

Use the past tense after the phrase as if or as though. He talks as if he knew everything, means He talks as he would talk if he knew everything.

Note: Use the subjunctive were with the verb to be after as if: We act as if he were a rich man.

129 Using the past conditional of wish instead of the present indicative.

Don't say: I would wish to know more English. /

Say: I wish (that) I knew more English.

Use the present tense of wish to express a present meaning, followed by a that clause containing a past tense.

130 Using a wrong tense with an improbable condition.

Don't say: If he would/'d ask me, I would/'d stay.

/ Say: If he asked me, I would/'d stay.

Express an improbable condition by the past tense and use the conditional in the main clause. This use of the past tense doesn't indicate a time but a degree of probability

131 Using a wrong tense with a counterfactual condition.

Don't say: If he would/'d have asked me, I would/'d stay.

/ Say: If he had/'d asked me, I would/'d have stayed.

Express a counterfactual (that didn't happen) condition by the past perfect and use the past conditional in the main clause. This use of the past perfect doesn't indicate a time but an impossible happening.

132 Using the infinitive instead of a finite verb.

Don't say: Sir, to go home to get my book?

/ Say: Sir, may I go home to get my book?

The infinitive simply names an action without reference to person, number or time. Therefore, it can't make sense without the help of a finite verb.

133 Mixing up the tenses.

Don't say: They asked him to be captain, but he refuses.

/ Say: They asked him to be captain, but he refused.

If you begin with a verb referring to past time, keep the verb forms in the past. The same rule applies to tenses throughout a composition.

(See Exercises 24-30 on pages 148-151.)

Haw **look at ...**

Use of certain tenses

1 Use the Simple Present for habitual or frequent actions, and use the Present Continuous for actions taking place at the present moment.

Examples: I *read* the newspaper every day. I'm *reading* an English book (now).

2 Use the Simple Past when a definite time or date is mentioned, and use the Present Perfect when no time is mentioned.

Examples: I *did* my homework *last night*. I've *done* my homework (so I can watch TV - or whatever - now).

2 Express habitual or repeated actions in the past either by the Simple Past or by the phrase *used to*.

Example: I *went* (or *I used to go*) to the cinema every week last year.

Note: Don't use the Past Continuous (/ was going) for a past habitual action, but for an action in the past continuing at the time another action took place. / was going to the cinema when I met him.

4 The only correct tense to use is the Present Perfect if the action began in the past and is still continuing in the present.

Example: I've *been* in this class for two months.

5 Be very careful not to use the future but the Present tense in a clause of time or condition, if the verb in the main clause is in the future.

Example: I will/ll visit the Parthenon *when* I *go* (or *if I go*) to Athens.

Miscellaneous examples

134 Confusion of gender.

Don't say: The door is open , please shut her. *S*

Say: The door is open , please shut **it**.

In English only names of people and animals have gender (masculine or feminine) Inanimate things are neuter, and take the pronoun *it* in the singular

Note: It's possible to use masculine or feminine pronouns when inanimate things are personified: England *is* proud of her navy.

135 Using the possessive 's with inanimate objects.

Don't say: Her room's window is open .

/ Say: The window **of** her room is open .

With inanimate objects we usually use the *of* structure The door of the car. The leg of the table The surface of the water With the names of places and organisations we can use either - London's streets = The streets of London. Italy's climate . = The climate of Italy. The school's main office = The main office of the school .

Note However, we do say a day's work , a night's rest , a week's holiday , a pound's worth , etc. , especially with similar measures of time

136 Using the objective case after the verb **to be**.

Don't say: It was him.

/ Say: It was **he**.

The pronoun coming after the verb *to be* must be in the nominative case, and not in the objective in written composition. However, the objective case is now usually used in conversation 'It's me .It was him /her /them , etc

137 Using the objective case after the conjunction **than**.

Don't say: My sister is taller than me .

/ Say: My sister is taller **than I (am)**.

The word *than* is a conjunction, and can only be followed by a pronoun in the nominative case The verb coming after the pronoun is generally omitted.

Note Use the objective case in spoken English. You're much taller than me

Misused forms

138 Using the subject pronoun after **between**.

Don't say: It's a secret between you and I.

/ Say: It's a secret **between** you and **me**.

Between is a preposition, and all prepositions take the objective case

"hem

139 Using an object pronoun before a gerund.

Don't say: Him laughing at her was what made her angry.

/ Say: **His** laughing at her was what made her angry.

When we use an -ing verb as a noun, it is preceded by a noun or pronoun in the possessive case.

140 Using an object pronoun in a double genitive.

Don't say: A friend of him told us the news.

/ Say: A friend of **his** told us the news.

We use the double genitive: of + name + 's, his, mine, etc. when we want to emphasize the person who possesses rather than the thing. A friend of his is simply another way of saying one of his friends.

141 Misuse of **-self** forms.

Don't say: Michael and myself are here,

/ Say: Michael and **I** are here.

Use the reflexive pronouns I, you, he, etc. if no other person is mentioned.

ip'i-';i>';

Note: Use the -self pronouns when two or more persons are mentioned together. *She hurt herself.*

142 Using *hissself* or *then selves* instead of **himself** or **themselves**.

Don't say: They fell down and hurt theirselves. /

Say: They fell down and hurt **themselves**.

The reflexive pronouns, the person, are himself and themselves, and not hissself and theirseivei.

Part 1

3 Misuse of noun /verb homonyms .

Don't say: Becky played, a good play of chess. '

Say: Beck^y played a good game of chess.

Some verbs and nouns do have the same form and analogous meaning in English. The police fight a hard fight. Heather dreams long vivid dreams. If you lie the lie will eat you out. The company danced an African dance. However, we seldom use the same word like this. Usually we try to avoid it in some way: She fought a long battle with them. If you lie you will be caught out. The company did an African dance.

14 Using the relative pronoun *which* for persons .

Don't say: I've a brother which is at school.

*f Say: I've a brother **who** is at school.*

Only use *which* as a relative pronoun for animals or things. The right pronoun to use for people is *who* (whose, whom).

45 Using *what* or *which* after **everything**, etc.

Don't say: I heard everything which (or what) he said. /

*Say: I heard **everything (that)** he said.*

Don't use the relative pronouns *which* and *what* after *everything*, *anything*, *something*, *anything*, *a lot*, (not much), *little*, or *nothing*. We can use *that* after these words, or it can be omitted.

46 **Who** and **whom**.

Don't say: I saw the woman whom you said lived next door.

*/ Say: I saw the woman (**who**) you said lived next door.*

We rarely use *whom* in modern English. We still use it after prepositions *to*, *by*, *with*, *after*, *on*, etc. For example. The girl to whom you were speaking is Nigerian. We prefer to avoid this nowadays by changing the order of the sentence. The girl you were speaking to is Nigerian. You can also use *that* in place of *who*: The girl that you were speaking to is Nigerian.

(For Sections 144 - 146 see Exercise 18 on page 145.)

Misused forms

- 147 Using *who*, *whom*, *or which* after the superlative, instead of **that**.

Don't say: It's the best which I've seen. /

Say: It's **the best (that)** I've seen.

Use the relative **that** (not *who*, *whom*, or *which*) after a superlative. It can, however, be omitted.

- 148 The **same as/same that**.

Don't say: Amelia bought the same bag that me. /

Say: Amelia bought the **same bag as** me.

After the **same** we use **as** unless it's followed by a subordinate clause, in which case we use **that**, or omit it. Mr Smith ordered the same meal if that he ordered before.

Note Sometimes we use **that** instead of *who* or *which* after **same**. He wore the same dress that he wore on Sunday.

- 149 Using *who?* or *what?* instead of **which?**

Don't say: Who of the two boys **is** the taller?

</ *Say:* **Which** of the two boys is the taller?

Use the interrogative pronoun **which?** for both people and things, asks for one out of a definite number.

Note The interrogative pronoun **what?** doesn't imply choice. What's your telephone number? It's also used to ask for a person's profession. What's your father? – He's a /ai-vyer

(Compare Section 144.)

- 150 **Who? and Whom?**

(a) **Who?**

Don't say: Whom do you think will be chosen?

/ *Say:* **Who** do you think **will be chosen?**

(b) **Whom?**

Don't say: Who do you think I saw yesterday? /

Say: **Whom** do you think **I saw** yesterday?

In sentence (a) *who* is the subject of *will be chosen*, do you think is a

Part 1

parenthesis In sentence (b) whom is the object of I saw, do you think is a parenthesis

(For Sections 149 and 150 see Exercise 19 on page 145.)

51 Using *one other* instead of **another**.

Don't say: Please give me one other book. /

Say: Please give me **another** book.

Another is formed from an and other, but instead of being written another it's written ~~an~~ one word another.

52 Using the superlative instead of the comparative.

Don't say: John is the tallest of the two boys.

Say: John is the **taller** of the **two** boys.

Use the comparative when two people or things are compared See 154

53 Using *from* after the comparative instead of **than**.

Don't say: Amy is taller from her brother.

Say: Amy is **taller than** her brother.

Adjectives (or adverbs) in the comparative are followed by **than** and not by **from**

54 Using the comparative instead of the superlative.

Don't say: Cairo is the larger city in Africa.

Say: Cairo is the **largest** city in **Africa**.

Use the superlative when more than two persons or things are compared

55 Using *the more* instead of **most**.

Don't say: The more people will agree with me. /

Say: **Most** people will agree with me.

Use **most** (not the more) when you mean the majority of

Use the more in sentences like The more I complain, the more-
fought The more we write, the happier our furor becomes.

Misused forms

- 156 Using *more good* or *more bad* instead of **better** or **worse**.

Don't say: This one looks more good than that. /

Say: This one looks **better** than that.

The adjectives *good* and *bad* have irregular forms of comparison: *good, better, best* and *bad, worse, worst*.

(For Sections 151 - 156 see Exercises 7 and 8 on page 140.)

- 157 Using *home* instead of **at home**.

Don't say: In the afternoon I stay home. /

Say: In the afternoon I stay **at home**.

Use the phrase *at home* to mean 'in the house'. With such verbs as *come* or *go* no preposition is necessary: He wants to go *home*.

- 158 Using *from* instead of **one of** or **among**.

Don't say: She is from the nicest girls I know. /

Say: She is **one of the nicest** girls I know.

Avoid using *from* in the sense of *one of* or *among*.

- 159 Using the passive infinitive (**to be** + past participle) instead of the active (*to* + infinitive).

Don't say: English isn't easy to be learned. /

Say: English isn't easy **to learn**.

The adjectives *easy, difficult, hard, heavy, good, etc.*, are generally followed by the active infinitive.

- 160 Using an intransitive verb in the passive form.

Don't say: She was disappeared from the house.

/ Say: She **disappeared** from the house.

As a rule, don't use intransitive verbs, like *appear, seem, become, consist*, in the passive form. Intransitive verbs don't have an object.

Part 1

161 Mixing up one form of the verb with another.

Don't say: It's better **to** enjoy yourself when you're young rather than wasting time worrying about the future.

/ *Say:* It's better **to enjoy** yourself when you're young than **to waste** time worrying about the future.

Don't mix or reform of [he verb with another If the first verb in a comparison is in the infinitive, the second must also be in the infinitive

162 Wrong sequence of moods .

Don't say: If you would'd do me this favour, I will'll be very grateful to you.

/ *Say:* **If you would'd** do me this favour, **I would'd** be very grateful to you.

Or: **If you will'll** do me this favour, **I will'd** be very grateful to you.

163 The unrelated participle.

Don't say: Being in a hurry, the door was left open . /

Say: **Being in a hurry, he** left the door open .

Take care to provide the logical subject relating to the participle phrase In the sentence given, the logical subject to being in haste is he and not the door .

164 The question phrase *isn't it?* misused.

Don't say: He played well yesterday, isn't it? /

Say: He played well yesterday, **didn't he?**

Use the question phrase isn't it only when the preceding statement contains the word is: It is a hot day, isn't it!

Note In this form of question, use the same tense and person as in the preceding statement and use the correct auxiliary if, however, the preceding statement is in the negative form, the question phrase omits not. We say I They are on holiday, aren't they?

They aren't on holiday, are they?

7 You speak English, don't you?

You don't speak French; do you?

,

Misused forms

165 Misuse of the gerund to express purpose.

Don't say: I come here for learning English. /

Say: **I** come here **to learn** English.

Express purpose by using the infinitive, not the gerund

166 *Yes* or *No* in answer to negative questions.

Question: Didn't you see the game?

Answer: **Yes**, - that is, **I** saw it.

No, - that is, **I** didn't see it.

In answering negative questions, say **Yes** if the answer is an affirmation, and **No** if it's a negative. That is, answer without any regard to the negative form of the question.

16 Using a double negative.

Don't say: She says she's not afraid of nobody. /

Say: She says she's **not** afraid of **anybody**.

Or: She says she's afraid of **nobody**.

In English two negatives are equal to an affirmative statement. You should avoid using two negative words in the same clause when not is used, none changes to any, nothing to anything, nobody to anybody, no one to anyone, nowhere to anywhere, neither . nor to either or

(See Exercise 38 on page 155.)

168 Using *one time* or *two times* instead of **once** or **twice**.

Don't say: I was absent one time or two times.

/ Say: **I** was absent **once** or **twice**.

Use once and twice instead of one time and two times

169 Using *a day*, etc., instead of **one day**, etc.

Don't say: A day they went sight-seeing in Florence. /

Say: **One day** they went sight-seeing in Florence.

Use one (not a or an) with day, night, morning, afternoon and evening, when the one means on a certain ...

Part 1

170 Using *the other day* instead of She next day, etc.

Don't say: David slept well and was better the other day.

/ *Say:* David slept well and was better the next day (or on the following day).

Note The other day is an informal expression, a few days ago is more formal.
the other day

171 Using *one and a half*, instead of half past one, etc.

Don't say: Lessons begin at eight and a half.

/ *Say:* Lessons begin at half past eight.

Tell me, say half past one half past two, half past three, -it

172 Using *as usually* instead of as usual.

Don't say: As usually, he left his pen at home. /

S'nv As usual, he left his pen at home.

173 Using *according to my opinion* instead of hi my opinion.

Don't say: According to my opinion, she's right. /

Say: In my opinion, she's right.

Note Avoid using the phrase as I think instead of I think! Say He's lazy don't think he'll fail, not as I think

174 Using *at the end* instead of **in the end**.

Don't say: At the end they reached the city. /

Say: In the **end** they reached the city.

In the end means finally or at last at the end means at the farthest point or part
"here's an example. at the end of this book There's a holiday at the end of this month

175 Using *under the rain* instead of in **the** rain.

Don't say: They played football under the rain.

/ *Say:* They played football **in the** rain.

Note Also in the sun and in the shade He is sitting in the sun (01 in the shade)

Have another look at ...

Negatives

Express the negative in the present + past simple in one of two ways:

1 By putting *not* (*n't*) after the verb. Use this method with the following twenty-one verbs.

am, is, are, was, were: have, has, had; shall, should; will, would, can, could; may, might; must; need; dare; ought ... to; used ... to.

Examples: *I'm not* ready. You *mustn't* do that. He *can't* write well. He *oughtn't* to go.

In conversation, *not* is often shortened to *n't*. We say *don't* for *do not*, *doesn't* for *does not*, *didn't* for *did not*, *hadn't* for *had not*, *wouldn't* for *would not*, etc. (Bui we say *shan't* for *shall not*, *won't* for *will not*, *can't* for *cannot*.)

2 Use *do, does, did*, with *not* and the present infinitive (without *to*). Use this method with all verbs except those twenty-one given above.

The word order is:

SUBJECT + *do (does, did)* + *not* + INFINITIVE

Examples: I *don't* go there very often. He *doesn't* teach English. They *didn't* see the game.

3 Use other words of negative meaning to express negatives: *no, nobody, no one, nothing, nowhere*.

Example: They know *nothing*

or They do not (don't) know *anything*.

Part 1

176 Using *the reason is because* instead of **the reason is that**.

Don't say: The reason is because **I** believe **it**. /

Say: **The reason is that** I believe it.

The word reason denotes cause, therefore the reason is because is ~~fe~~
~~peiinon~~ The correct idiom is the reason is that ...

177 Using *a country* instead of **the country**.

Don't say: I spend my holidays in a country. /

Say: **I** spend my holidays in **the country**.

A country is a place like France, India, or Egypt. The country is a rural area w
here there are n o towns or cities.

178 Using *if* instead of **whether**.

Don't say: I asked Paul if he was going.

/ Say: **I** asked Paul **whether** he was going.

Where or not is implied, use whether, not if. Unlike whether, if does not
expect a Yes or No reply: 'sha" speak to him if he comes

179 Using *any* for two, instead of **either**.

Don't say: Any of these two books is good. /

Say: **Either** of these two books is good.

Either means one or the other of two, any means one of three or more Any of
these books will do.

180 Using *likes me* instead of **I like**.

Don't say: The cinema likes me very much. /

Say: **I like** the cinema very much.

Note The cinema appeals to me is coded, and means / like the cinema very
much

- 181 Using *neither ...or* instead of *neither ... nor*.
Don't say: Sara speaks neither English or French.
 / *Say:* Sara speaks neither English nor French.

Semembei Neither must be followed by nor and not by or. Either is followed by or
 she dunks either orange [juice or apple juice]

- 182 Using *both* in a negative sentence instead of *neither*.
Don't say: Both of them didn't go to school today.
 / *Say:* **Neither** of them went to school today.

Remembsr Change both into neither in a negative sentence and use h positive?
 vtrb

- 1 SB Using *also* or *too* in a negative sentence instead of *either*.
Don't say: Joe hasn't come also (or too). /
Say: Joe hasn't come either.

Rpmfvtrher L'ianqe also or too into wither in r. negative sentences

- 184 Using *and* in a negative sentence instead of *or*.
Don't say: I don't like red and orange. I want the blue one.
 / *Say:* I don't like red or orange. I want the blue one.

The meaning of the first sentence is that you don't like either of the two colours.
 The intended meaning is that you don't like either of them, even separately

Note If we join clauses with different subjects we use *and* even after a negative. He didn't write to me and I was worried.

- 185 Using *till* instead of **before** or **when**.
Don't say: I'd reached the school till the rain started.
 / *Say:* I'd reached the school **before** the rain started.
 Or Ed reached the school **when** the rain started.

Before or when introduces a clause of time, if the verb of the main clause denotes an action completed before that of the time clause.

Un-English expressions

Mistakes often result from too close a translation into English of foreign idiomatic expressions. The following are examples of such mistakes:

186 **Take an exam**, not *give an exam*.

Don't say: The pupil gave his exam.

/ Say: The pupil **took** his exam.

Not *?. The teacher gives or sets the exam. The student takes the exam or sits the exam

187 **To be right or wrong**, not *to have right or wrong*.

Don't say: You've right or You've wrong.

/ Say: You're **right or wrong**.

188 **To be busy**, not *to have work*.

Don't say: I have much work this morning. */*

Say: **I'm very busy** this morning.

Note. We can say I have a lot of work to do this morning

189 **It's cold**, etc., not *it has cold*, etc.

Don't say: It has cold this winter.

/ Say: **It's cold** this winter.

190 **Go for a walk**, not *make a walk*.

Don't say: We made a walk along the river.

/ Say: **We went for a walk** along the river.

Note. We can also say We had a walk or We took a walk along the river.

Misused forms

191 **Go for a ride on a bicycle**, etc., not *go for a walk on a bicycle*, etc.

Don't say: We went for a walk **on** our bicycles. /

Say: We went for a **ride on** our bicycles.

Note We ride on a bicycle, on horseback, etc., but we ride **in** a bus, train, or other public vehicle.

192 **Mount or get on a horse**, etc. not *ride a horse, etc.*

Don't say: Peter rode his horse and went home.

/ Say: Peter **got on** his horse and **rode** home.

Note To ride denotes a continuous action To mount or to get on denotes a simple action

193 **Dismount or get off a horse**, etc., not *come down from a horse*, etc.

Don't say: They came down from their horses.

/ Say. They **got off** their horses.

Note We get out of a taxi or a car We get on or off the tram, the bus, etc

194 **Go on foot**, not go *with the feet*.

Don't say: Shall we go there with the feet? /

Say: Shall we go there **on foot**?

195 **Take or have a shower**, not *make a shower*.

Don't say: I make a shower every morning.

/ Say: I **take** a shower every morning.

Or: I **have** a shower every morning.

Note When speaking of the sea or the river, say . to bathe , to have a bathe , to go for a bathe , to go bathing , to go for a swim or to go swimming

196 **Ask a question**, not *make a question*.

Don't say: Naomi made me several questions. /

Say: Naomi **asked** me several questions.

197 **Take an hour**, not *need an hour*, etc.

Don't say: I'll need an hour to do that.

/ Say: **It'll take me an hour** to do that.

198 **Give a discount**, not *make a discount*.

Don't say: He made me a small discount. /

Say: He **gave** me a small discount.

199 **Take exercise**, not *make exercise*.

Don't say: You ought to make more exercise. /

Say: You ought to **take** more exercise.

200 **Give or deliver a lecture**, not *make a lecture*.

Don't say: He made an interesting lecture.

/ Say: He **gave** an interesting lecture.

Or: He **delivered** an interesting lecture.

Note We say He *made* an interesting *speech*

201 Say one's prayers, not *make or do one's prayer*.

Don't say: I make my prayer before I go to bed.

/ Say: I **say** my prayers before I go to bed.

Note To say grace is to ask God's blessing before beginning a meal

202 **Pretend**, not *make oneself that*.

Don't say: She makes herself that she knows. /

Say: She **pretends** to know.

203 **Have a dream**, not *see a dream*.

Don't say: I saw a strange dream last night.

/ Say: I **had** a strange dream last night.

Or: I **dreamt** a strange dream last night.

204 **Smoke a cigarette**, etc., not *drink a cigarette*, etc.

Don't say: He drinks too many cigarettes.

/ Say: He **smokes** too many cigarettes.

Misused forms

205 **Make a mistake**, not *do a mistake*.

Don't say: I did one mistake in dictation. /

Say: I **made** one mistake in dictation.

206 **Tell or speak the truth**, not *say the truth*.

Don't say: Fiona always says the truth.

/ *Say:* Fiona always **tells** the truth .

Or: Fiona always **speaks** the truth.

Note Also to tell a lie (no! to say a lie): He *told* me a lie.

207 **See or watch a game**, not *to follow a game*.

Don't say: Did you follow the game?

/ *Say:* Did you **see** (or **watch**) the game?

Note Avoid saying to follow the lesson when you mean to attend the class.

208 **Turn (switch) the light on or off**, not *open or shut the light*.

Don't say: Please open (or shut) the light.

/ *Say:* Please **turn on** (or **off**) the light.

Or: Please **switch on** (or **off**) the light.

Note We light, blow out or put out a lamp, a candle, or a fire.

209 **Give an example**, not *bring an example*.

Don't say: Can you bring a better example? /

Say: Can you **give** a better example?

210 **Give a mark**, not *put a mark*.

Don't say: The teacher put me a good mark. /

Say: The teacher **gave** me a good mark.

Note. Avoid to put a lesson, to put a goal. Say instead, to give a lesson, to score a goal.

211 **Set a watch by**, not *put a watch with*.

Don't say: I put my watch with **the** radio news. /

Say: **I set my watch by** the radio news.

212 **A watch is slow or fast**, not *goes behind or in front*.

Don't say: My watch goes two minutes behind.

/ Say: My watch **is** two minutes **slow**.

Note We can also say My watch loses or gains

213 **Show a film**, not *play a film*.

Don't say: This film will be played shortly. /

Say: This film will **be shown** shortly.

214 **Have one's hair cut**, not *cut one's hair*.

Don't say: I'm going to cut my hair.

/ Say: I'm going **to have my hair cut**.

Note Avonj I'll make a pair of shoes for a suit of clothes. Say instead I'll have a pair of shoes (or a suit of clothes) made.

215 **Learn by heart**, not *learn from out*.

Don't say: We have a poem to learn from out. /

Sa^<: We have a poem to learn **by heart**.

216 **Put on weight**, not *put weight*.

Don't say: I've put at least three kilos.

/ Say: I've **put on** at least three kilos.

Note. The opposite of to put on weight is to lose weight: She has lost five kilos

217 **It works miracles**, not *it makes miracles*.

Don't say: That medicine makes miracles.

/ Say: That medicine **works miracles**.

Misused forms

218 **Getting on with**, not *going with*.

Don't say: How is Susan going with her work?

•/ *Say:* How is Susan **getting on with** her work?

219 **This morning**, etc., not *today morning*, etc.

Don't say: I haven't seen him today morning.

/ *Say:* I haven't seen him **this morning**.

Note Avoid today morning, today afternoon, today evening, yesterday night, tonight. Say: this morning, this afternoon, this evening, last night, tonight.

220 **Quietly**, not *slowly*, *slowly*.

Don't say: The boy came in slowly, slowly. /

Say: The boy came in **quietly**.

221 What's **the matter** not *What have you?*

Don't say: What have you today?

/ *Say:* **What's the matter with you today?**

Note What's wrong (with you/?), What's the trouble? 'with you'? and What's the problem? are also correct

222 **What do you call** . . . ? not *How do you call*

Don't say: How do you call this in English?

/ *Say:* **What do you call this in English?**

Note. If the question isn't about a thing, but about some expression, we'd say: How do you say this in English?

(See Exercise 62 on pages 163-164.)