

Incorrect omissions

Omission of prepositions

The following are examples of mistakes made through the omission of the preposition after certain words:

223 **Ask for a thing**, not *ask a thing*.

Don't say: She came and asked my book .

/ Say: She came and **asked for** my book.

224 **Dispose/get rid of a thing**, not *dispose/get rid a thing*.

Don't say: He'll dispose/get rid all his property.

/ Say: He'll **dispose/get rid of** all his property.

225 **Dream of a thing**, not *dream a thing*.

Don't say: Young men dream glory and riches. /

Say: Young men **dream of** glory and riches.

226 **Explain to a person**, not *explain a person*.

Don't say: She explained me the matter.

/ Say: She **explained** the matter **to** me.

227 **Knock at the door**, not *knock the door*.

Don't say: Who is knocking the door?

/ Say: Who is **knocking at** the door?

Incorrect omissions

228 **Listen to a person or thing**, not *listen a person or thing*.

Don't say: They were listening the music. /

Say: They were **listening to** the music.

229 **Pay for a thing**, not *pay a thing*.

Don't say: How much did you pay the book? /

Say: How much did you **pay for** the book?

Note. A person can pay another person. He/She can also pay a bill, an account, or a subscription. He/She pays for a thing that he/she buys.

230 **Point to or at a person or thing**, not *point a person or thing*.

Don't say: He pointed the map on the wall.

/ Say: He **pointed to** the map on the wall.

Or: He **pointed at** the map on the wall.

Note. Also point out. He pointed out the boy who did it. To point (without any preposition) means to direct: Don't point the gun this way.

231 **Remind a person of something**, not *remind a person something*.

Don't say: Please remind me that later. /

Say: Please **remind me of** that later.

232 **Reply to a person**, not *reply a person*.

Don't say: She's not replied me yet,

/ Say: She's not **replied to** me yet.

233 **Say to a person**, not *say a person*.

Don't say: Kevin said me, 'Come tomorrow.'

/ Say: Kevin **said to** me, 'Come tomorrow.'

234 Search for a **lost thing**, not *search a lost thing*.
Don't say: They're searching the ball.

/ *Say:* They're **searching for** the ball.

Note. In search of: The wolf goes in search of sheep To search someone or something (without the for) means to look in one's pockets or house: The policeman searched the man and his house.

235 Share with a **person**, not *share a person*.
Don't say: My friend shared me his book .

/ *Say:* My friend **shared** his book **with** me .

236 Speak **to** a **person**, not *speak a person*.
Don't say: I'll speak him about that.

/ *Say:* I'll **speak to** him about that.

Note: I'll speak to him means I'll do all the speaking; I'll speak with him means I'll have a conversation with him.

237 Supply a **person with something**, not *supply a person something*.

Don't say: Can you supply me all I need ?

/ *Say:* Can you **supply me with** all I need ?

Note: Also provide a person with: She provided her son with all he needed.

238 Think **of** a **person or thing**, not *think a person or thing*.

Don't say: Think a number and then double it.

/ *Say:* **Think of** a number and then double it.

239 Wait for a **person or thing**, not *wait a person or thing*.
Don't say: I'll wait you at the cinema.

/ *Say:* I'll **wait for** you at the cinema.

Note. Await takes no preposition: I'm awaiting your reply.

Incorrect omissions

240 Wish for a thing, not *wish a thing*.

Don't say: He doesn't wish any reward.

/ Say: He doesn't wish for any reward.

241 Write to a person, not *write a person*.

Don't say: I'll write her tomorrow.

/ Say: I'll write to her tomorrow.

NOTE When the direct object of write is expressed, omit the preposition
I'll write him a letter.

(See Exercises 84 and 85 on pages 173 - 174.)

Miscellaneous examples

242 The -s or -es of the third person singular omitted.

Don't say: He speak English very well.

/ Say: He speaks English very well.

Take great care not to leave out the -s or -es from the present tense, when the subject is he, she, it, or a noun in the singular

(See Exercise 31 on page 151.)

243 Using *don't* instead of *doesn't*.

Don't say: He don't care what he says. /

Say: He doesn't care what he says.

Use don't (= do not) with I, we, you, they, and with plural nouns. Use doesn't (= does not) with he, she, it, and with singular nouns.

(See Exercise 32 on page 152.)

244 The -d or -ed of the past tense omitted.

Don't say: I receive a letter yesterday.

/ Say: I received a letter yesterday.

Take care not to leave out the -d or -ed from the past tense of regular verbs. When speaking, pronounce the ending of the past tense clearly.

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Third person singular, simple present

1 With the pronouns **he, she, it**, or any singular noun , the verb in the present tense takes a special ending, **-s, -es** gr **-ies**: *he works, it catches, the sun rises, she worries.*

2 When the first person of the verb ends in **s, x, ch, sh**, or **o**, the third person singular takes **-es**:

I watch	I finish	I fix	I go
he watches	he finishes	he fixes	he goes

3 When the first person of the verb ends in **-y** with a consonant before it, form the third person singular by changing **y** into **ies**:

I carry	I study	3 fly
he carries	he studies	he flies

Note: If there is a vowel before the **-y**, we only add **s** for the third person singular: he *plays*, he enjoys, he obeys.

4 A few verbs are irregular in the third person singular:

I am	I have
he is	he has

5 Modal verbs such as *will, can, may, must*, and *ought* do not change their form in the third person singular:

I will	I can	I may	I must
he will	he can	he may	he must

Remember : The third person singular of verbs in the present tense takes **-s, -es** or **-ies**.

Incorrect omissions

- 245 The -s, -es or **-ies** of the plural form omitted.

Don't say: I paid six pound for the book.

/ Say: I paid **six pounds** for the book.

Take care not to leave out the -s, -es or -ies of the plural number.

Note the following nouns have irregular plurals, man, men; woman, women; child, children; ox, oxen; foot, feet; tooth, teeth; goose, geese; mouse, mice.

- 246 The possessive ending omitted.

Don't say: A hen's egg is different from a pigeon. /

Say: A hen's egg is different from a pigeon's.

If the first noun in a comparison is in the possessive case, the second must also be in the possessive: My mother's nose is bigger than my father's

- 247 Omission of the article before a countable noun in the singular.

Don't say: I've no money to buy car. /

Say: I've no money to buy **a car**.

As a rule, use either the or a or an before a countable noun in the singular

- 248 Omission of **a** or **an** after the verb **to be**.

Don't say: I'm not teacher, I'm student .

/ Say: I'm not **a** teacher, I'm **a** student.

Use the indefinite article a or an to express a singular noun-complement of the verb to be There's an animal in there. It's a mouse.

- 249 Omission of **a** or **an** after the word **half**.

Don't say: He drank half glass of milk.

/ Say: He drank **half a glass** of milk.

Note. Half a glass (an hour, a day, a mile, etc.) is the shortened form of half of a glass (of an hour, of a day, of a mile, etc.)

- 250 Omission of **a** or **one** before **hundred**, etc.

Don't say: Hundred years make a century.

Part 2

/ Say: **A hundred** years make a century.

Or: **One hundred** years make a century.

Use the indefinite article **a** or the numeral **one** before **hundred** and **thousand**. See also Section 527.

251 Omission of **a** or **an** from **make a noise**, etc.

Don't say: **I** told them not to make noise.

/ Say: **I** told them not **to make a noise**.

Note Also to make a mistake, to make a fortune, to make a will, to make an impression, to make an experiment, to make an attempt.

252 Omission of **the** before names of nationalities.

Don't say: English are fond of sports.

/ Say: **The English** are fond of sports.

Place the definite article before the names of nationalities, describing a people collectively the British, the French, the Dutch, the Swiss, the Chinese, the Sudanese, etc

253 Omission of **the** before names of musical instruments.

Don't say: I play violin, but not piano.

/ Say: I play **the violin**, but not **the piano**.

Use the definite article before the names of musical instruments.

254 Omission of **the** before the word **cinema**, etc.

Don't say: On Saturday **I** go to cinema.

/ Say: On Saturday **I go to the cinema**.

Use definite article before the words cinema, theatre, concert, etc

(For Sections 247 - 254 see Exercises 16 and 17 on page 144.)

255 Omission of the verb **to be** from the passive.

Don't say: Charles Dickens born in 1812.

/ Say: Charles Dickens **was born** in 1812.

Form the passive form by using the verb **to be**, combined with the past participle of the verb required (to be + past participle)

Have another look at . . .

Indefinite article

Use the indefinite article:

1 Before every common noun in the singular, if it isn't preceded by *the* or some word such as *this*, *that*, *my*, *his*: *I bought a new book* (*not*: I bought new book).

2 Before the words *hundred* and *thousand*: *A hundred soldiers were in the camp*.

3 After the verb *to be* when a countable noun in the singular follows; *Mary's father is a lawyer*

4 In certain phrases : to make *a* noise, *a* mistake, *a* fortune, *an* impression; to have *a* headache , *a* pain, *a* cold, *a* cough.

Don't use the indefinite article:

1 Before singular nouns that aren't used in the plural, such as *advice*, *information*, *work*, *furniture*, *bread*
Example: He gave me good advice (*not*: a good advice).

2 After the phrase **kind of** or **sort of**: *What kind of pen do you want?*

a, an or one

Many languages use the numeral **one** instead of the indefinite article **a** or **an**. This is not so in English.

One man went into one shop ought to be *A man went into a shop*. **One** is used only when the *number* is emphatic: *One should not make a summer*.

256 Omission of the auxiliary do from questions.

Don't say: You understand the problem?

He understands the problem?

She understood the problem?

/ Say: Do you understand the problem?

Does he understand the problem?

Did she understand the problem?

Place the auxiliary verb *do* (does, did) before the subject to ask questions in the simple present and simple past tenses.

Note: Don't use the auxiliary *do* with modal verbs, like *can*, *may*, *must*: Can you meet me tomorrow?

(See Exercise 3 4 on page 153.)

257 Omission of auxiliary do when do is a principal verb.

Don't say: Do pupils their work carefully?

/ Say: Do pupils do their work carefully?

In the correct form of the sentence, the first *do* means nothing on its own and only helps to make the question. The second *do* is the principal verb of the sentence, and has the meaning of perform.

258 Omission of the preposition indicating time.

Don't say: I was born the third of December.

/ Say: I was born on the third of December.

As a rule, don't use a noun without a preposition to show the time of some action.

Note: Don't use a preposition with *last year*, *next year*, *some day*, *one day*, *this afternoon*, etc.

259 Omission of the preposition after the infinitive.

Don't say: They've no houses to live.

/ Say: They've no houses to live in.

The infinitive of an intransitive verb (like *live*, etc.): it must have a preposition after it.

Have another look at . . .

Verb *TO BE*

<i>Present Tense</i>	I am /'m , you are /'re, he (she, it) is /'s; We, you. they are /'re.
<i>Past Tense</i>	It was , you were , he (she, it) was ; We, you, they were .
<i>Future Tense</i>	I, you, he (she, it) will /'H be ; We, you, they will /'H be .
<i>Present Perfect</i>	I, you, have /'ve been , he (she, it) has /'s been ; We, you. they have /'ve been .
<i>Past Perfect</i>	I, you, he (she, it) had /'d been ; We, you, they had /'d been .
<i>Future Perfect</i>	I, you, he (she, it) will /'ll have been ; We, you, they will /'H have been .

Uses of the verb *TO BE* as auxiliary

Use the verb *to be*:

1 With the Present Participle to form the Continuous Tenses. .

To be + Present Participle

Example : The sun *was shining* in the sky,

2 With the Past Participle to form the Passive Form.

To be + Past Participle

Example : The letter *was written* by John,

Part 2

:60 Omission of there as an introductory word.

Don't say: Once lived a great king.

/ Say: Once there/Tiere once lived a great king.

Use the adverb there to introduce the subject of a sentence in which the verb stands before the subject.

!61 Omission of how after the verb to know.

Don't say: She knows to play the piano.

/ Say: She knows how to play the piano.

After the verb to know the adverb how always comes before an infinitive.

!62 Omission of other after a comparative.

Don't say: Homer was greater than all the Greek poets.

/ Say: Homer was greater than all the other Greek poets.

Since Homer was a Greek poet, the first sentence makes him greater than himself, which is illogical.

163 Omission of before in comparisons.

Don't say: I'd never seen such a thing.

/ Say: I'd never seen such a thing before.

Don't leave out the word before in making a comparison between one thing and all others of the same kind.

>64 Omission of else after everybody, etc.

Don't say: She is stronger than everybody.

/ Say: She is- stronger than everybody else.

Use the word else in making a comparison between one person or thing and all others of the same kind after everybody, anybody, anything, etc.

165 Omission of the demonstrative pronoun one.

Don't say: This is the only that I like.

/ Say: This is the only one that I like.

Incorrect omissions

Use the demonstrative pronoun **one** (plural **ones** * in place of a noun mentioned before.

- 266 Omission of the personal pronoun before the infinitive.

Don't say: I want to tell me the truth .

/ Say: I want **you to tell me** the truth .

Express the subject of the infinitive after verbs like **want** , **like** , **wish** , etc , if it is different from that of the main verb .

- 267 Omission of **it** as subject of an impersonal verb.

Don't say: Is very hot in the Sudan.

/ Say: It's very hot in the Sudan.

Use the pronoun **it** as the subject of an impersonal verb

- 268 Omission of the pronoun subject from the principal clause.

Don't say: When he saw the teacher, stood up. /

Say: When he saw the teacher, **he** stood up.

In a sentence beginning with an adverbial clause , express the personal pronoun as the subject of the main clause

- 269 Omission of the personal pronoun after a quotation .

Don't say: 'I'm learning English,' said.

/ Say: 'I'm learning English,' **he** said.

After a quotation , express the personal pronoun as the subject of the reporting verb

- 270 The object of the transitive verb omitted .

Don't say: I asked her for some paper, but she had not .

/ Say: I asked her for some paper, but she had **none/didn't have any**.

As a rule , every transitive verb must have an expressed object here , **none** (equivalent to **not any**) is the object of **had**

- 271 Omission of the direct object when there are two objects.

Don't say: I asked him for some ink, and he gave me.

/ Say: I asked him for some ink, and he gave me **some**.

Some transitive verbs, like give, bring, send, tell, buy, show, must have two expressed objects, direct and indirect here, some is the direct object of gave

- 272 The object of the verb **enjoy** omitted.

Don't say: I enjoyed during the holidays. /

Say: **I enjoyed myself** during the holidays.

Or: **I enjoyed my holidays.**

Don't follow the verb enjoy by a preposition. It must always have an object, which may either be a reflexive pronoun or a noun.

Note. We say I had a good time, as this is an idiomatic expression, but we can't say / enjoyed my time. We must specify. / enjoyed my time in Greece.

- 273 Omission of the noun after an adjective.

Don't say: The unfortunate was shot dead.

/ Say: The **unfortunate man** was shot dead.

The noun that comes after an adjective can't be understood; it must be expressed

Note Omit the noun after an adjective only when the adjective is used as a noun in the plural The poor envy the rich

- 274 Omission of the word **and** between numbers.

Don't say: Eight thousand thirty-seven.

/ Say: Eight thousand **and** thirty-seven.

Use the conjunction and to connect hundred, thousand, million to a number of tens or units

- 275 Omission of the word **or** between numbers.

Don't say: I've only two, three friends.

/ Say: I've only **two or three** friends.

We must always insert the conjunction or between numbers like this two or three men, five or six pages, eight or ten days.

Incorrect omissions

276 Omission of the word **old** from age.

Don't say: My sister is fifteen years.

/ Say: My sister **is fifteen years old.**

Note: We can also say My sister is fifteen years of age, or Simply, My sister is fifteen

277 *For this* used instead of **for this reason.**

Don't say: For this he wants to leave.

/ Say: **For this reason** he wants to leave.

The phrase for this is incorrect. Say for this reason or for that reason Also owing to that or because of that

278 *Better* used instead of **had better.**

Don't say: Better go home at once.

/ Say: **You'd better** go home at once.

The correct phrase is had better. You had better go means It would be a good thing for you to go.

279 *Up and down* used instead of **upstairs and downstairs.**

Don't say: He's up, he's down.

/ Say: He's **upstairs, he's downstairs.**

He's up means he's out of bed. He's upstairs (downstairs) means he's on the upper (lower) floor of the building

280 *Throw it* used instead of **throw it away.**

Don't say: It's dirty, throw it.

/ Say: It's dirty, **throw it away.**

Throw it means to throw a thing at someone or somewhere, such as a ball. Throw it away means to get rid of it by throwing it aside

281 */ don't think* used instead of **I don't think so.**

Don't say: I don't think.

/ Say: **I don't think so.**

I don't think means I don't use my brains, while I don't think so means I am not of that opinion.

Part 2

282 *Before yesterday, etc.*, used instead of **the day before yesterday**, etc .

Don't say: Lynne arrived before yesterday.

/ Say: Lynne arrived **the day before yesterday**.

The phrases before yesterday after tomorrow, after next week are incorrect

Say instead, the day before yesterday, the day after tomorrow, the week after next .

283 *Thank you* used instead of **No, thank you**.

Don't say: Thank you (if you want to refuse an offer).

/ Say: **No, thank you**.

Note Use thank you to accept an offer, it generally means Yes, please .