

Unnecessary words

Unnecessary prepositions

The words below do not require a preposition to go with them because they have within them the meaning of the preposition.

284 Answer (= reply to).

Don't say: Please answer **to** my question. /

Say: Please **answer my question**.

Note The noun answer takes to . His answer to my question was wrong.

285 Approach (- come near to).

Don't say: Don't approach **to** that house. /

Say: Don't **approach that house**.

286 Ask (= put a question to).

Don't say: I asked **to** the teacher about it. /

Say: I **asked the teacher** about it.

287 Attack (= go and fight against).

Don't say: They attacked **against** the enemy. /

Say: They **attacked the enemy**.

Note We say, to make an attack on : They made an attack on the enemy

288 Comprise (= consist of).

Don't say: The book comprises **of** five chapters.

/ *Say:* The book **comprises** five chapters.

Or: The book **is comprised of** five chapters.

Part 3

>89 Enter (= go into).

Don't say: We entered into the classroom. /

Say: We **entered the classroom**.

Note: We enter into a conversation, a debate, or a discussion.

290 Finish (= come to the end of).

Don't say: I've finished from my work. /

Say: I've **finished my work**.

291 Leave (= depart from).

Don't say: Brian left from England last week. /

Say: Brian **left England** last week.

292 Obey (= act according to).

Don't say: We should obey to our teachers. /

Say: We should **obey our teachers**.

293 Allow (to) or let (= give permission to).

Don't say: The driver allowed/let to John (to) sit in the front seat.

/ *Say:* The driver **allowed/let** John (to) sit in the front seat.

Note Permit has a similar meaning to let, though it's used in more formal situations. The teacher doesn't permit us to talk in class.

294 Reach (- arrive at).

Don't say: We reached at the school early.

/ *Say:* We **reached the school** early.

295 Resemble (- be similar to).

Don't say: Does she resemble to her father?

/ *Say:* Does she **resemble her father**?

Note resemblance takes to or between. She bears no resemblance to her father. There is no resemblance between them.

Unnecessary words

296 **Tel! (= say to).**

Don't say: I told to him to come at once. /

Say: **I told him** to come at once.

297 **Behind (= at the back of).**

Don't say: Edward hid behind of a large tree. /

Say: Edward hid **behind a large tree.**

298 **Inside (= in the interior of).**

Don't say: The boys went inside of the room. /

Say: The boys went **inside the room.**

299 **Outside (= on the exterior of).**

Don't say: They stood outside of the door. /

Say: They stood **outside the door.**

300 **Round (= on all sides of).**

Don't say: The earth goes round of the sun. /

Say: The earth goes **round the sun.**

Note. Around is similar in meaning and use to round

(See Exercises 86 and 87 on page 174.)

Unnecessary articles

301 **Wrong use of *the* with proper nouns.**

Don't say: The Sarah will go to the England. /

Say: **Sarah will go to England.**

Don't use the definite article with proper nouns.

Note. Generally place **the** before the names of rivers, seas, oceans, bays, gulfs, mountain ranges, groups of islands, and countries or provinces consisting of an adjective and a noun. *Example:* the Nile, the Mediterranean, the Atlantic, the S. of Biscay, the Persian Gulf, the Alps, the Dodecanese, the United States, the Central Provinces of India.

302 Wrong use of *the* with proper nouns in the possessive,
Don't say: The Euripides' tragedies are famous.

J Say: Euripides' tragedies are famous.

Don't use the definite article with proper nouns in the possessive case

Note. If the name ends in *s* or *x* or is difficult to pronounce with the extra syllable's we omit the final *s* Maria *Caf/as'* voice is divine.

303 Wrong use of *the* with abstract nouns .
Don't say: The bravery is a great virtue.

/ Say: Bravery is a great virtue .

Abstract nouns, if used in a general sense, can't take the article .

Note Abstract nouns, used in a particular sense, use the article *The* *bravery*
of the Spartans was *renowned*

304 Wrong use of *the* with material nouns .
Don't say: The gold is a precious metal .

/ Say: Gold is a precious metal .

Don't use *the* article with material nouns, if used in a general sense .

Note Material nouns, used in a particular sense, require the definite article
The coal from *the* Midlands is exported to many countries

305 Wrong use of *the* with plural nouns used in a general sense.

Don't say: The dogs are faithful animals. /

Say: Dogs are faithful animals.

Omit the definite article before common nouns in the plural if used in a general sense .

306 Wrong use of *the* with names of languages.
Don't use: Tim speaks the English very well.

/ Say: *Tim* speaks English very well.

Never use the definite article before the names of languages .

Note We can say He speaks *the* English language very well

Unnecessary words

307 Wrong use of *the* with names of meals.

Don't say: We'll start after the breakfast.

/ Say: We'll start **after breakfast**.

Don't use the definite article before the names of meals, breakfast, lunch, dinner, or supper unless you are referring to a particular meal: The lunch they provided was excellent

308 Wrong use of *the* with names of games.

Don't say: My favourite game is the football. /

Say: My favourite game is **football**.

Don't use an article before the names of games like football, hockey, tennis, cricket, volley-ball, basket-ball

309 Wrong use of *the* with names of diseases.

Don't say: The cholera is a dreadful disease. /

Say: **Cholera** is a dreadful disease.

As a rule, don't use the definite article before the names of diseases

Note The indefinite article is needed with common names of illnesses: I was suffering from a cold (a fever, a cough, a headache).

310 Wrong use of *the* with names of colours.

Don't say: The green is a beautiful colour. /

Say: Green is a beautiful colour.

Don't use the definite article before the names of colours when used as nouns.

311 Wrong use of *the* with the names of the senses.

Don't say: The sight is one of the five senses. /

Say: **Sight** is one of the five senses.

Don't use an article before the names of the five senses: sight, smell, hearing, taste and touch.

Part 3

312 Wrong use of *the* with names of days and months .

Don't say: The Sunday can be a day of prayer.

The December is the last month .

/ *Say:* Sunday can be a day of prayer.
December is the last month .

Don't use the definite article before the names of days and months

Note We say the Sunday before last, the December of 1940, etc.

313 Wrong use of *the* with man denoting the human race.

Don't say: The man is born a sinner.

/ *Say:* Man is born a sinner,

Use man, denoting the human race, without the definite article. Also, mankind requires no article "Disease is the enemy of mankind"

314 Wrong use of *the* with school.

Don't say: My sister goes to the school. /

Say: My sister goes to school.

To go to school means to be a student, while to go to the school, means to visit the school

Note - Similarly, to leave school means to stop being a student and to leave the school means to go away from the school premises

315 Wrong use of *the* with church.

Don't say: On Sunday I go to the church. /

Say: On Sunday I go to church.

To go to church means to go and pray, while to go to the church means to go and visit the church.

Note Similarly, distinguish between go to bed and go to the bed, go to prison and go to the prison, go to market and go to the market, go to hospital and go to the hospital, sit at table and sit at the table

316 Wrong use of *the* with nature.

Don't say: The nature is beautiful in spring. /

Say: Nature is beautiful in spring.

Note: Use the definite article if nature is used in other meanings: *It is in the nature of a dog to be faithful*

317 Wrong use of *the* with society.

Don't say: A thief is a danger to the society. /

Say: A thief is a danger to society.

Note: Use the definite article if society is used (» in a particular sense : The society of the Greeks was based on freedom; (2) in the sense of companionship; / enjoy the society of my friends.

318 Wrong use of *the* in the phrase in future (= from now on).

Don't say: You must be careful in the future. /

Say: You must be careful in future.

Note: In the future means in the time to come: *Nobody knows what will happen in the future.*

319 Wrong use of *the* after whose.

Don't say: The boy whose the father is ill has left. /

Say: The boy whose father is ill has left.

Don't use the article after the relative determiner whose, because it takes the place of the article.

320 Wrong use of the indefinite article before work, etc.

Don't say: Gillian has found a work at the bank.

/ Say: Gillian has found work at the bank.

Don't use the indefinite article before such words as work, fun, health, permission.

(See Exercise 17 on page 144.)

Have another look at ...

Definite article

As **a** rule, nouns in English take no article when used *in a general sense*, but if they're used *in a particular sense* the article is needed . Note the difference in the use or omission of the article:

1 With plural nouns:

Horses are strong animals.

The horses in the field belong to the farmer.

2 With abstract nouns:

Wisdom is **a** great virtue .

The wisdom of Solomon was famous.

3 With material nouns :

Water is necessary to life.

The water in the kitchen is hot.

4 With days, months , and seasons:

Summer is a hot season

The summer of '99 was very hot.

5 With names of languages:

English is spoken all over the world.

The English she speaks is not correct.

6 With names of meals:

Breakfast is at eight o'clock.

The breakfast I had this morning was delicious.

7 With names of colours:

Blue is my favourite colour.

The blue in that picture has faded.

Use of the infinitive

Mistakes are frequently made by using the infinitive without to after the following verbs, which do not require it.

321 Can + infinitive without **to**.

Don't say: My mother can to swim very well. /

Say: My mother **can swim** very well.

Note: Always write the negative form cannot as one word. Alternatively, the short form can't can be used informally.

322 Could + infinitive without **to**.

Don't say: I could not to see you yesterday.

/ Say: **I could not/couldn't** see you yesterday.

323 May + infinitive without **to**.

Don't say: May **I** to visit you next weekend? /

Say: **May I visit** you next weekend?

324 Might + infinitive without **to**.

Don't say: He might to come in the morning. /

Say: He **might come** in the morning.

325 Must + infinitive without **to**.

Don't say: **I** must to see her at her office. /

Say: **I must see** her at her office.

326 Let + infinitive without **to**.

Don't say: Tom's father would not let him to go out. /

Say: Tom's father would not **let him go** out.

327 Make (to force) + infinitive without **to**.

Don't say: You can't make Emma to understand. /

Say: You can't **make Emma understand**.

Part 3

328 See + infinitive without *to*.

Don't say: They saw him to leave the house.

/ Say: They **saw him leave** the house .

Note: They saw him leaving the house is also correct .

329 Watch + infinitive without *to*.

Don't say: I watched the girls to play hockey.

/ Say: I **watched the girls** play hockey.

Note: / watched (the girls playing hockey is also correct

330 Hear + infinitive without *to*.

Don't say: We heard him to speak in English. /

Say: We **heard him speak** in English.

Note: We heard him speaking in English is also correct

331 Feel + infinitive without *to*.

Don't say: I could feel her heart to beat, /

Say: I could **feel her heart beat**.

Or: I could **feel her heart beating**.

Note: if the verbs make, see, watch, hear, feel, are used in the passive, to must be used. He was seen to leave the house. He was heard to speak in English.

(See Exercise 65 on page 165.)

Miscellaneous examples

332 Wrong repetition of subject.

Don't say: My little brother he is at school, /

Say: My **little brother** is at school.

Never repeat the subject by using a pronoun after the noun. My little brother, and he denote the same person. Therefore, use one or the other as subject, but not both.

Unnecessary words

333 Wrong repetition of subject in a compound sentence.

Don't say: **I** went to the market and **I** bought fruit.

/ Say: **I** went to the market and bought fruit.

In a compound sentence, express the same subject once only and don't repeat it before each verb, unless the sentence is long and complicated

334 Wrong repetition of subject after an adjectival clause,

Don't say: David, who is a careless pupil, **he** lost his book,

/ Say: David, who is a careless pupil, **lost his book.**

335 Wrong repetition of subject after a non-finite verb phrase .

Don't say: Karen and Tom, having signed the register, they left the church.

J Say: **Karen and Tom**, having signed the register, left **the church.**

336 Wrong use of personal pronoun in a relative clause.

Don't say ; The book which **I** lost it was new.

/ .Say: The book which I lost was new.

Don't use a personal pronoun as well as a relative in the relative clause if they both refer to the same noun In the first sentence both which and it refer to book .

337 Wrong repetition of object.

Don't say: The doctor **I** know him very well. /

Say: **I know the doctor** very well.

In the sentence given, the words doctor and him denote one and the same object Therefore , use either doctor or him , but not both in the same sentence .

In general we don't put the object before the verb so the word order in The doctor I know him very well is also wrong

Part 3

338 Wrong repetition of object with infinitive.

Don't say: I bought an English book to read it. /

Say: I bought an English book **to read**.

Don't repeat an object with an infinitive of purpose if the verb takes an object

(For Sections 332 - 338 see Exercise 20 on page 146.)

339 Wrong use of *that* in direct speech.

Don't say: She said that, 'Em sure to pass.' /

Say: **She said**, 'I'm sure to pass.'

We can't use *that* in direct speech, i.e. when we repeat the words that some other person has spoken without any change

Note, in indirect speech we say: He said that he was sure to pass.

340 Using a double comparative.

Don't say: He's more stronger than John .

/ *Say:* He's **stronger** than John .

Double comparatives are incorrect more stronger ought to be only stronger . However, we can say much stronger .

341 Misuse of adjectives that can't be compared .

Don't say: My work is more perfect than his.

/ *Say:* My work **is superior** to his.

Or: My work **is better** than his.

Certain adjectives can't be compared perfect , unique , preferable , supreme , right , correct , etc

342 *Return back* used instead of **return**.

Don't say: She has returned back to school. /

Say: She has **returned** to school

Don't use the word back with return , because return means to come back

Unnecessary words

343 *Begin from* used instead of **begin**.

Don't say: Exams begin from Thursday. /

Say: Exams **begin on Thursday**.

A Hung can begin un h a t a p o m i o l n m e The word can't be used \o apply to the whole time during which a thing is being done.

344 *Consider as* used instead of **consider**.

Don't say: Robert considers me as his best friend.

•/ *Say:* Robert **considers me his best friend**.

Don't as *; a s after the word consider We say He regards me as his best friend o i Robert considers me to be his best friend.

345 For *to* used instead of **to**.

Don't say: I came here for to learn English. /

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

346 From *where* used instead of **where**.

Don't say: From where can I buy a good watch? /

Say: **Where** can I buy a good watch?

Where means at what place, while from where denotes the point of origin from where do tourists come?

347 *And etc.* used instead of **etc.**

Don't say: I, you, we, and etc. are pronouns. /

Say: I, you, we, **etc.**, are pronouns.

Etc. is the short form of et cetera, a Latin phrase meaning and other things The combination and etc. is wrong because it would mean and and other things

Note However, students are advised to avoid using etc. in a n e s s a y a n d t o use phrases such as and other things, and so on instead.

348 *So ... so that* instead of **so ... that**.

Don't say: I'm so tired so that I can't go.

Part 3

/ Say: I'm **so tired that** I can't go.

When **so** or **such** is completed by a clause of result, introduce the clause by **that** and not by **so that**

349 *From now and on* used instead of **from now on**.

Don't say: From now and on I'll study hard.

/ *Say:* **From now on** I'll study hard.

The phrase *from now and on* is incorrect Say, *from now on*

350 *Although/Though ... yet* used instead of **although/though**.

Don't say: Although it's raining, yet he'll go. /

Say: Although **it's** raining, **he'll** go.

Although (though) is the conjunction introducing the subordinate clause, and a second one (yet or still) isn't required.

351 *Go to home* used instead of **go home**.

Don't say: When school is over I go to home. /

Say: When school is over **I go home**.

The expression (*go to home*) is wrong Say, *go home*.

352 Using *far* with a phrase of definite distance.

Don't say: Mary lives two miles far from here. /

Say: Mary lives **two miles from here**.

When we use a phrase of definite distance (like *two miles*) in a sentence, don't use the word *far* We can say, *Mary lives two miles, away*

353 The adverb of definite time misplaced.

Don't say: I last night went to the cinema.

•/ *Say:* I went to the cinema **last night**.

Adverbs or adverbial phrases of definite time, like yesterday, today, tomorrow, last week, two months ago, are usually placed at the end of the sentence. If we want to emphasise the time, we put the adverb at the beginning. Yesterday I was very busy.

Note: if there is more than one adverb of definite time in a sentence, put the more exact expression before the more general. He was born at two o'clock in this morning on April 12th 1942.

354 The adverb of indefinite time misplaced.

Don't say: They come always to school by bus. /

Say: They always **come** to school by bus.

Pat. "Adverbs of indefinite time, like ever, never, always, often, seldom, soon, sometimes and the adverbs almost, scarcely, hardly, nearly, even, before the principal verb

Note: With the verb to be place the adverb of indefinite time after the verb. They are always beautifully dressed

355 The adverb of time placed before the adverb of place.

Don't say: The builders will be tomorrow here.

/ *Say:* The builders will be **here tomorrow**.

When using an adverb of time and an adverb of place together in a sentence, the adverb of place must come first

Part 4

356 *The* adverb misplaced with a transitive verb.

Don't say: Janet wrote carefully her essay.

/ Say: Janet wrote her essay **carefully**.

With a transitive verb, the adverb generally comes after the object.

Note. If, however, the object is long, the adverb may come after the transitive verb.
She wrote carefully all the essays she had to do.

357 The adverb **enough** misplaced.

Don't say: Is the room enough large for you? /

Say: Is the room **large enough** for you?

Place the adverb enough after the word it qualifies and not before.

Note. When enough is an adjective it comes before the noun: We have enough food for six people.

358 **Not** misplaced with a compound verb.

Don't say: I should have not gone ...

/ Say: I should **not** have gone ...

Position not in a compound verb after the first auxiliary

Note. With the present or perfect participle, place not at the beginning:

Not having set the alarm, he was late for work. Not being rich, he couldn't afford it.

359 **Not** misplaced with the negative infinitive.

Don't say: I told Liz to not come on Monday. /

Say: I told Liz **not to come** on Monday.

Position not in the negative infinitive immediately before the word to, and not after it.

(See Exercises 66 and 67 on pages 165 - 166.)

Miscellaneous examples

360 The subject of the sentence misplaced

Don't say: Last week visited our school a man. /

Say: A man visited our school last week.

in most English sentences place the subject first, the verb next, then the object with the rest following

361 The subject misplaced in questions.

Don't say: You were at the cinema yesterday?

They'll come with us tomorrow?

/ *Say:* Were you at the cinema yesterday

Will they come with us tomorrow?

in interrogative sentences place the subject after the verb. If the response is compound, the subject comes after the auxiliary, and the verb follows.

Note: Exception: In English, this rule is occasionally made in 'polite' English, but students are advised to follow the rule.

362 The subject misplaced in questions beginning with an interrogative word.

Don't say: Why you were absent last Friday? /

Say: Why were you absent last Friday?

in questions beginning with an interrogative word like what, when, where, how, place the verb before the subject as in all questions

(For Sections 361 - 362 see Exercise 35 on page 153.)

363 The subject misplaced after never, etc.

Don't say: Never I have heard of such a thing. /

Say: Never have I heard of such a thing.

When never, seldom, rarely, neither, nor, not only, no sooner, etc. are placed at the beginning of a complete clause, the verb must come before the subject as in a question

Part 4

364 *All... not* used instead **of Not** all.

Don't say: All people are not hard-working.

</ *Say:* Not all people are hard-working.

The first sentence is wrong because it makes all people lazy

Note Similarly, Everybody doesn't like dancing should be Not every body likes dancing

365 The subject misplaced in indirect questions.

Don't say: The teacher asked me what games did I play?

</ *Say:* The teacher asked me what games **I** played.

In indirect questions follow the usual order of words: subject first and then verb

(See Exercise 37 on page 154.)

366 The direct object misplaced.

Don't say: He touched with his hand the ball.

</ *Say:* He **touched the ball** with his hand.

The object of a transitive verb generally comes directly after the verb

367 The indirect object misplaced.

Don't say: I showed to her some of my stamps. /

Say: I showed some of **my stamps to her**.

If the indirect object is preceded by a preposition, place it after the direct object

Note The indirect object usually comes first without a preposition / showed her some of my stamps.

368 The qualifying adjective misplaced.

Don't say: My uncle has a garden very large. /

Say: My uncle has a very **large garden**.

Put the adjective immediately before the noun, it qualifies