

Have another look at ...

Questions

Questions can be formed in three ways:

1 By putting the verb before the subject. Only 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; used.

Examples : Are you ready? Can you write well?

Will he come tomorrow ? May I go now?

2 By using *do, does, did*, followed by the subject and then the infinitive (without *to*). Use this form with all verbs except the twenty -one given above. The word order is:

Do (does, did) + SUBJECT + INFINITIVE

Examples: Do you come here every day? Does the child learn English? Did they go to the theatre ?

3 By using question words. The question word always begins the question , but the verb must be put before the subject as in questions of types 1 and 2 .

Examples: Why are you late? When did you come? Where is it? Whom did you see? Which book do you want?

If the question word is the subject of the sentence , put the verb *after* the subject:

Who wrote the letter? Whose dog bit the man?

369 The past participle misplaced.

Don't say: The ordered goods haven't arrived. /
Say: The goods ordered haven't arrived.

The goods ordered is a shortened form of The goods which have been ordered.

370 The relative clause misplaced.

Don't say: A girl has a pony who is in our class. /
Say: A girl who is in our class has a pony.

Put the relative clause immediately after the noun to which it refers.

Note Enclose a relative clause that may be omitted between commas. *My brother George, who is in another class, has a new bicycle.* A relative clause that can't be omitted is not enclosed within commas: *The boy who spoke to me is my brother.*

371 The conjunction misplaced in a time clause.

Don't say: Emma when she arrived the boat had already gone.
/ Say: When Emma arrived the boat had already gone.

Place the conjunction introducing an adverbial clause of time at the beginning of a clause.

372 Correlative conjunctions misplaced.

Don't say: Paul neither speaks English nor French. /
Say: Paul speaks neither English nor French.

Place correlative conjunctions (that is, conjunctions used in pairs, like neither . . . nor, not only . . . but also) before words of the same part of speech.

373 The ordinal numeral misplaced.

Don't say: I've read the two first chapters. /
Say: I've read the first two chapters.

Place ordinal numerals before cardinal numerals. There can't be two **first** chapters, only one. Similarly, we must say. *The last two (three, etc.), and not The two (three, etc.) last.*

Misplaced words

374 The indefinite article misplaced with **such**.

Don't say: I never met **a** such good man before. /

Say: I never met **such a** good man before.

Place the indefinite article **a** or **an** after **such**: such a good man.

375 The definite article misplaced with **half**.

Don't say: The half year **is** nearly finished. /

Say: Half the **year** **is** nearly finished.

Half the year is shortened form of half of the year.

376 *The most* used instead of **most of the**.

Don't say: The most **of** girls are not present. /

Say: **Most of the** girls are not present.

The phrase the most of is incorrect. Say, most of the.

377 The apostrophe (') misplaced with contractions.

Don't write: Did'nt, has'nf, is'nt, are'nt, etc.

/ Write: **Didn't, hasn't isn't, aren't**, etc.

(See Exercises 39 and 40 on pages 155 - 156.)

378 Mentioning oneself first.

Don't say: Only **I** and my mother are present. /

Say: Only **my mother and I** are present.

English idiom requires that when a person is speaking of himself/herself and others, he/she must mention the other person or persons first and leave himself/herself last.

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Correct order of words

1 Subject

2 Verb

3 Object

1 The object is usually placed immediately after the verb.
Example: I speak English very well.

2 The indirect object usually comes before the direct object *without a preposition*.
Example: I gave him the money.

3 An expression of time comes after an expression of place.
Example: We stayed there all day.

4 Place adverbs of time and degree, such as *always, often, never, nearly, hardly, scarcely*, before the verb, or between the auxiliary and the verb.
Examples: I *never* see that man; *or* I have *never* seen that man.

Note: With the verb *to be* place the adverb after the verb: He *is never* late.

5 In indirect questions the subject comes first and then the verb.
Example: I want to know where they went.

6 In compound verbs with two auxiliaries, place *not* after the first one.
Example: She could *not* have been there .

7 In the negative infinitive, *not* comes before *to*.
Example: I told him *not to go* there.