

Typical EL Errors

Countable/Uncountable Nouns and Corresponding Quantity Terms

Misidentify the noun (countable—many, few, a few/uncountable—much, little, a little)

The teacher gave us many informations about the test.

Adjectives Acting as Nouns

Treat adjectives fully as nouns.

The youngs go to kindergarten.

Articles

Indefinite article not normally associated with uncountable nouns, usually not plural forms.

an advice

advices

Use of *the* with certain abstract nouns

We must protect the nature, but We must protect the environment.

Use of abstract nouns not post-modified.

The life is not easy, but The life of a single parent is not easy.

Use of a determiner before singular countable nouns. (Polish, Persian, Indian dialects)

In traditional Indian family, house where family lives belongs to man of family.

We are angry because price of gas goes up daily.

Some of class was unable to attend.

Agreement of Noun Determiners

Need agreement between noun and its demonstrative modifier and between numbers and nouns. (Spanish)

This doctors has an office close to my house.

She gave me a five-dollars bill.

The beautifuls evenings are my favorite time of day. (Romance)

Progressive Verb Forms

Need distinction between progressive, continuous and simple tenses.

I am reading the newspaper every day.

Now we read Neruda in the literature class.

Present Perfect Verb Forms

Use for action begun in past but continues in present.

I am here for six months now, but I have been here for six months now.

I have seen him yesterday. (French, German use present perfect differently)

Modal Auxiliaries

Need to agree in number with the subject

He cans do it.

Followed by simple verb.

He can does it.

Different meanings of must not and don't.

You could have helped. (Meaning: You didn't)

She couldn't have passed that test. (Meaning either: I think she didn't or I'm surprised she did.)

Passive/Active Voice

Intransitive verbs aren't passive.

Such events had never been happened before.

Psychologically reversed verbs & frequently misused active/passive forms.

I am quiet interesting in this matter, but I am quite interested in this matter.

That class is so long I always bore in it, but I am always bored in it.

Vietnam locates in Southeast Asia.

Sequence of Tenses

Difficulty for students whose languages do not show time changes in the verb. (Asian) Stay with the same tense unless there is a marker indicating need to switch tenses.

Verb Forms

Need gerunds instead of simple verb forms after prepositions and as subjects of sentences.

By stop the destruction of the Amazon Valley, we can slow down global warming.

Cut down trees creates hotter conditions.

We need forests for increase the world's oxygen.

Verb Components

Need to memorize which verbs take which compliments.

They wanted that the new rule would begin immediately, but They expected that the new rule would begin immediately.

I wish I will get a good grade in this course, but I hope I will get a good grade in this course.

They stopped to negotiate, but They refused to negotiate.

Adjective Clauses

Decide whether an adjective clause if restrictive or non-restrictive.

The car hit the post had crossed the street. (Asian-omit clause markers.)

The biggest problem (that) we have to face it continues to be the war. (Persian, Arabic don't eliminate the pronoun.)

Past vs. present participial phrases imply past present times or tenses.

Worked all day, the club finally came to an agreement.

Frying in oil, chips have a lot of calories.

Adverb Clauses

Some families are too poor that they can hardly have enough to eat.

Because of their visa does not permit work, they can only get jobs that pay little money.

Noun Clauses and Reported Speech

I was not aware of that I had to sign up early.

They asked that what was happening.

Non-referential Pronoun Subjects

Confusion of it and there to hold the subject place. (Spanish & Russian)

After the game, it was a big party in the gym.

We are five from Mexico on the team.

Fragments and Run-on Sentences

Periods required to join a series of related thoughts, where other languages require commas. (Spanish) Need punctuation required in association with connective words, such as but, however, and although. In some languages exact rules for punctuation are not agreed upon or do not exist.

Students are required to take some English courses; although, they may not want to.

Most students survive high school, however they have many adjustments to make.

Prepositions

Idiomatic usage must be learned on a case-by-case basis. Learn which prepositions appear in association with which words.

To talk about versus *to mention about or to discuss about*

To be in need of (need as a noun) versus to need of (need as a verb)

To put on (clothes) versus to put off (an engagement-not the opposite of to put on) versus to put out (a fire)

i.e., To make up, To get over, To get away, or To get by.