25 Common English Mistakes

Clear explanations. Real examples. More confident everyday English.

SPOT IT	UNDERSTAND IT	PRACTICE IT
Notice the common mistake.	Learn the simple rule.	Use the correction in context.

How to use this guide

For each item, read the incorrect sentence, say the corrected sentence aloud, and notice the short explanation. Then read the example and make a new sentence about your own life. Complete the quiz at the end to check what you remember.

Language note: English varies across regions and situations. This guide focuses on common patterns used in standard everyday English, with examples familiar to American English learners.

Words Connect Worlds.

The 25 Mistakes

Each correction includes a simple reason and an example you can use in real life.

01. I have hungry.

✗ **Common mistake:** I have hungry.

✓ **Better: I am hungry.**

Why: “Hungry” describes how a person feels, so use a form of **be** (am/is/are) before it. “Have” is used for things you possess, not for this feeling in English.

Example: I’m hungry, so I’m going to make lunch.

02. I am agree.

✗ **Common mistake:** I am agree.

✓ **Better: I agree.**

Why: Agree is already a verb. In a simple present sentence, use the verb by itself with the subject: “I agree.” Use “am” with an adjective or an -ing verb, such as “I am happy” or “I am agreeing with you now” (less common).

Example: I agree with your idea.

03. She go to work every day.

✗ **Common mistake:** She go to work every day.

✓ **Better: She goes to work every day.**

Why: In the simple present, most verbs take **-s** or **-es** with **he, she,** or **it**. This ending helps show who does the action. With “I/you/we/they,” use “go.”

Example: He works downtown. / They go by bus.

04. He don’t like coffee.

✗ **Common mistake:** He don’t like coffee.

✓ **Better: He doesn’t like coffee.**

Why: Use **doesn’t** with he, she, and it. The word “does” already carries the present-tense ending, so the main verb stays in its base form: “doesn’t like,” not “doesn’t likes.”

Example: She doesn’t drive.

05. Did you went home?

✗ **Common mistake:** Did you went home?

✓ **Better: Did you go home?**

Why: Use **did** to show that a question is about the past. Because “did” already marks past time, the next verb stays in its base form: “did go,” not “did went.”

Example: Did you see the message?

The 25 Mistakes (continued)

06. I didn't saw it.

✗ **Common mistake:** I didn't saw it.

✓ **Better: I didn't see it.**

Why: The same pattern applies in negative past sentences: **didn't + base verb**. "Didn't" already tells us the action is in the past, so use "see," "eat," or "go," not "saw," "ate," or "went."

Example: I didn't hear the phone.

07. I am living here since 2020.

✗ **Common mistake:** I am living here since 2020.

✓ **Better: I have lived here since 2020.**

Why: When something began in the past and is still true now, English commonly uses the **present perfect**: have/has + past participle. Use **since** for the starting point and **for** for the length of time.

Example: I have worked here for three years. / I have lived here since 2020.

08. I have 30 years old.

✗ **Common mistake:** I have 30 years old.

✓ **Better: I am 30 years old.**

Why: English uses the verb **be** to state a person's age. Some languages use a verb that means "have," but in English we say "I am 30," not "I have 30."

Example: My brother is 22 years old.

09. People is friendly here.

✗ **Common mistake:** People is friendly here.

✓ **Better: People are friendly here.**

Why: People is the plural form of "person" in this meaning, so it takes a plural verb: "people are." Use "a person is" for one individual.

Example: The people are waiting outside.

10. There have many options.

✗ **Common mistake:** There have many options.

✓ **Better: There are many options.**

Why: To say that something exists or is available, use **there is** with a singular noun and **there are** with a plural noun. "Have" usually describes possession: "I have two options."

Example: There is a bus stop nearby. / There are two buses.

The 25 Mistakes (continued)

11. I am boring.

✗ **Common mistake:** I am boring.

✓ **Better: I am bored.**

Why: Use **bored** for the feeling a person has. Use **boring** for the person, activity, or thing that causes that feeling. The -ed form often describes how someone feels; the -ing form often describes what creates the feeling.

Example: The movie is boring, so I'm bored.

12. I'm interesting in music.

✗ **Common mistake:** I'm interesting in music.

✓ **Better: I'm interested in music.**

Why: Interested is an adjective describing how you feel about something. It is commonly followed by the preposition **in**: "interested in music," "interested in learning," or "interested in the job." The phrase "interested in" is not a phrasal verb; it is an adjective plus a preposition. After "in," use a noun or an -ing form.

Example: I'm interested in art. / She's interested in learning English.

13. I look forward to meet you.

✗ **Common mistake:** I look forward to meet you.

✓ **Better: I look forward to meeting you.**

Why: In the expression **look forward to**, "to" is a preposition, not the infinitive marker. A preposition can be followed by a noun or an -ing form, so say "look forward to meeting," "look forward to the trip," or "look forward to hearing from you."

Example: I look forward to hearing from you.

14. Can you explain me this?

✗ **Common mistake:** Can you explain me this?

✓ **Better: Can you explain this to me?**

Why: The usual pattern is **explain something to someone**. Put the thing being explained first, then use "to" before the person who receives the explanation.

Example: Could you explain the instructions to us?

15. I discussed about the problem.

✗ **Common mistake:** I discussed about the problem.

✓ **Better: I discussed the problem.**

Why: The verb **discuss** takes the topic directly, without "about." Say "discuss the problem." You can use "talk about the problem," but not normally "discuss about the problem."

Example: We discussed the schedule.

The 25 Mistakes (continued)

16. I depend of my family.

✗ **Common mistake:** I depend of my family.

✓ **Better: I depend on my family.**

Why: The usual preposition with the verb **depend** is **on**. English often pairs certain verbs with particular prepositions, so learn the combination as a useful phrase: “depend on.”

Example: It depends on the weather.

17. I’m good in English.

✗ **Common mistake:** I’m good in English.

✓ **Better: I’m good at English.**

Why: Use **good at** to talk about a skill, subject, or activity. “Good in” can occur in other contexts, but when describing ability, “good at” is the usual pattern.

Example: She’s good at cooking. / He’s good at math.

18. I arrived to the airport.

✗ **Common mistake:** I arrived to the airport.

✓ **Better: I arrived at the airport.**

Why: Use **arrive at** for a specific point or place, such as an airport or station. Use **arrive in** with a city or country. We generally do not say “arrive to.”

Example: We arrived at the airport early. / We arrived in Cairo last night.

19. I went to home.

✗ **Common mistake:** I went to home.

✓ **Better: I went home.**

Why: When **home** means the place you are going to, it commonly works like an adverb, so we do not put “to” before it. Compare “go home” with “go to my home” (where “home” is a noun phrase).

Example: I’m going home now.

20. I made a party.

✗ **Common mistake:** I made a party.

✓ **Better: I had a party. / I threw a party.**

Why: For organizing or hosting a party, everyday English usually uses **have a party** or **throw a party**. “Make” is used for creating or producing something, such as making dinner or making a cake.

Example: We’re having a party on Saturday.

The 25 Mistakes (continued)

21. I passed time with my friends.

✗ **Common mistake:** I passed time with my friends.

✓ **Better: I spent time with my friends.**

Why: Use **spend time with** someone to mean being together. **Pass the time** usually means doing something to make a wait feel shorter, such as reading while waiting for a bus.

Example: I spent the weekend with my cousins. / I read to pass the time.

22. I have a good news.

✗ **Common mistake:** I have a good news.

✓ **Better: I have good news.**

Why: News is an uncountable noun in standard English. It does not normally take "a" and it uses a singular verb: "The news is good." You can say "a piece of good news" when you want to count one item.

Example: I have some good news. / That's a piece of good news.

23. Can you borrow me your pen?

✗ **Common mistake:** Can you borrow me your pen?

✓ **Better: Can you lend me your pen? / Can I borrow your pen?**

Why: Lend means give something temporarily to someone. **Borrow** means receive or use something temporarily from someone. The choice depends on whose point of view you are describing.

Example: Could you lend me your charger? / Could I borrow your charger?

24. I'm waiting you.

✗ **Common mistake:**I'm waiting you.

✓ **Better: I'm waiting for you.**

Why: Use **wait for** before the person or thing you are expecting. "Wait" usually needs "for" when you name what or whom you are waiting for.

Example: I'm waiting for the bus.

25. She explained me how it works.

✗ **Common mistake:** She explained me how it works.

✓ **Better: She explained how it works to me.**

Why: Use the pattern **explain something to someone**. You can say "She explained the process to me" or "She explained how it works to me," but not usually "explained me."

Example: He explained the rules to the class.

Practice Quiz

Choose the correct option or fill in the blank. Check the answer key when you finish.

1. a) I have hungry. b) I am hungry.
2. She _____ (go / goes) to work every day.
3. Did you _____ (see / saw) my message?
4. I'm interested _____ music. (in / on)
5. I'm waiting _____ the bus. (for / to)
6. a) I agree. b) I am agree.
7. I have lived here _____ 2020. (since / for)
8. Could you explain it _____ me? (to / for)
9. I _____ time with my friends yesterday. (spent / passed)
10. Can I _____ your pen? (borrow / lend)
11. There _____ many options. (is / are)
12. The movie is boring, and I'm _____. (bored / boring)
13. We arrived _____ the airport early. (at / to)
14. I'm going _____ now. (home / to home)
15. I have some good _____. (news / a news)

Make it personal

16. Write a sentence using "I agree."

_____

17. Write a sentence using "I'm good at …".

_____

18. Write a sentence using "I look forward to …".

_____

19. Write a sentence using "I didn't …".

_____

20. Ask someone politely to repeat something.

_____

Answer Key

Quiz Answers

1. b) I am hungry.
2. goes
3. see
4. in
5. for
6. a) I agree.
7. since
8. to
9. spent
10. borrow
11. are
12. bored
13. at
14. home
15. news

Self-check

Can you explain the reason behind each correction? If one is difficult, return to that item, say the corrected sentence aloud three times, and create your own example.

Keep practicing!
Small, regular practice can help you use English more confidently in everyday situations.