



## METHODS OF CORRECTING GRAMMATICAL ERRORS

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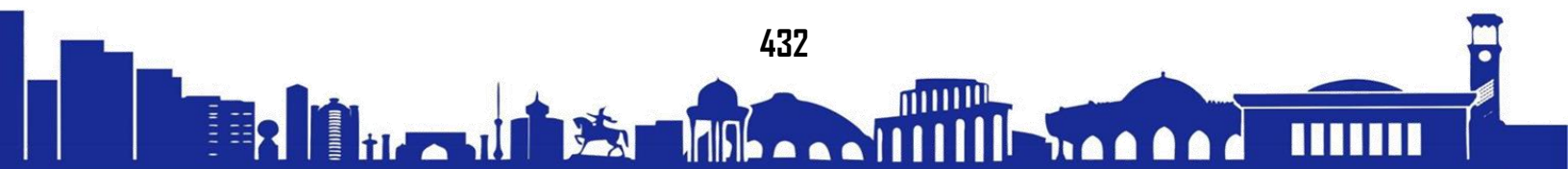
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**Abstract:** Grammatical error correction plays a crucial role in developing learners' accuracy and overall language proficiency in foreign language classrooms. This article explores the main methods of correcting grammatical errors, including explicit correction, implicit correction, recasts, elicitation, peer correction, and self-correction. It discusses how each method influences learners' awareness, motivation, and long-term language development. The study highlights the importance of selecting appropriate correction techniques based on learners' proficiency level, learning context, and instructional goals. Special attention is given to balancing accuracy and fluency, as excessive correction may hinder learners' confidence and communicative competence. The findings suggest that a combination of corrective methods, rather than reliance on a single approach, is most effective in promoting grammatical accuracy while maintaining learner engagement. The article concludes that thoughtful and context-sensitive grammatical error correction enhances both teaching effectiveness and learner autonomy in EFL classrooms.

**Keywords:** making mistakes, grammar mistakes, corrective feedback, correction, explicit correction, implicit correction, self-correction, language teaching strategies.

Modern educational technology based on information and communication technology plays a significant role in promoting the modernization of education. Modern education technology will have a significant impact on ideas, forms, process, methods, teaching and management of education. Application of modern educational technology in education will be a driving force to educational innovation. Using modern education theory and modern information technology in design, development, utilization, evaluation and management of the teaching process and then teaching resources will help to achieve the efficient





development of education. Everyone who has ever learned a new language has made mistakes. They are an inevitable part of the language learning process and learners should embrace them not to be afraid to make them. When embarking on a road to learn a new language, we all want to achieve fluency and to be able to use the language without any difficulties. However, we should bear in mind that every learning process including the language learning process has its ups and downs. Facing with downs and mistakes should not discourage learners; it should be seen as another learning opportunity. Making a mistake should not be regarded as a failure, but rather as a chance for progress.

### Grammar mistakes

Grammar is the foundation of clear and effective writing. In article and academic writing, correct grammar is very important because it helps the reader understand the message easily. When grammar mistakes appear in a text, the meaning may become unclear, and the quality of the writing is reduced. Many writers, especially learners of English as a foreign language, make similar grammar mistakes. These mistakes are common, but they can be avoided with awareness and practice. One of the most common grammar problems is **subject-verb agreement**. In English, the verb must agree with the subject in number. When the subject is plural, the verb should also be plural, and when the subject is singular, the verb must be singular. Writers often make mistakes when there are extra words between the subject and the verb, which causes confusion. Another frequent mistake is **incorrect use of verb tenses**. Writers sometimes change tenses without a clear reason. This makes the text confusing for the reader. To avoid this problem, it is important to keep the same tense throughout a sentence or paragraph unless the time reference changes. The **use of articles** (a, an, the) is also challenging for many learners. Articles are often omitted or used incorrectly. Since articles give information about whether something is general or specific, incorrect usage can affect the meaning of a sentence. **Prepositions** are another area where mistakes often occur. Many English prepositions do not follow logical rules and must be learned through practice. Using the wrong preposition may not stop communication, but it makes the writing sound unnatural. Writers also make mistakes with **sentence structure**, such as sentence fragments and run-on sentences. A sentence fragment is incomplete and does not express a full idea, while a run-on sentence joins ideas incorrectly without proper punctuation. Both types of errors reduce clarity and readability. Another important issue is **word form errors**. This

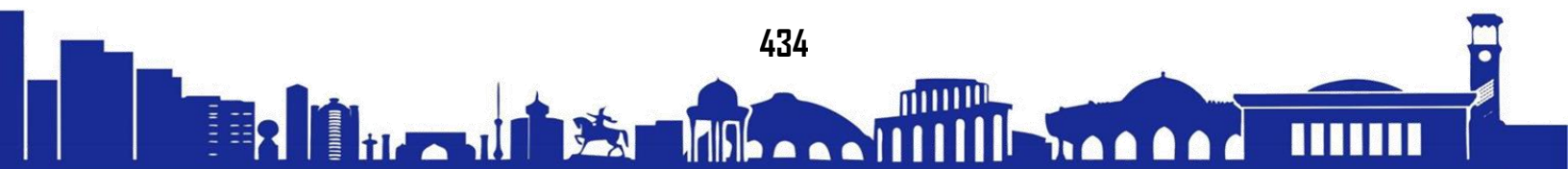




happens when a writer uses an adjective instead of an adverb, or a noun instead of a verb. Choosing the correct word form is necessary to make sentences grammatically correct and natural. **Pronoun reference mistakes** can also confuse readers. Pronouns must clearly refer to a specific noun. If the reference is unclear, the reader may not understand who or what is being discussed. **Punctuation and capitalization errors** are small but significant. Incorrect punctuation can completely change the meaning of a sentence, while incorrect capitalization makes writing look careless and unprofessional. Grammar mistakes are a natural part of language learning, but they should not be ignored in academic or article writing. By learning common grammar errors, proofreading carefully, and practicing regularly, writers can greatly improve the clarity and quality of their writing. Correct grammar helps ideas flow smoothly and allows the reader to focus on the message rather than the mistakes.

### Corrective Feedback

Corrective feedback is an essential part of the language learning process. It refers to the information given to learners about errors in their spoken or written language. The main purpose of corrective feedback is not to criticize learners, but to help them notice their mistakes and improve accuracy over time. When used appropriately, corrective feedback supports learning and increases students' confidence. There are different types of corrective feedback. One common type is **explicit feedback**, where the teacher clearly points out the error and provides the correct form. Another type is **implicit feedback**, such as recasting, where the teacher reformulates the learner's sentence correctly without directly saying that an error was made. This helps learners notice the correct form naturally. Corrective feedback can be given in both **oral and written forms**. Oral feedback is often used during speaking activities, while written feedback is common in essays and assignments. Written corrective feedback allows learners to reflect on their mistakes and make corrections at their own pace. The effectiveness of corrective feedback depends on timing and approach. Immediate feedback is useful for pronunciation and spoken errors, while delayed feedback is often more suitable for fluency activities. It is also important for teachers to consider learners' level and emotional state. Supportive and respectful feedback encourages learners, while excessive correction may discourage them. Corrective feedback plays a vital role in language teaching and learning. When it is clear, constructive, and well-balanced, it helps





learners develop accuracy and awareness of language rules. Teachers should use corrective feedback as a tool for guidance and improvement rather than punishment.

### **Explicit Correction**

Explicit correction is a type of corrective feedback in which the teacher clearly points out a learner's error and provides the correct form. Unlike implicit feedback, where errors are subtly indicated or rephrased, explicit correction leaves no doubt about what the mistake is and how it should be corrected. This method is direct and straightforward, making it very effective for teaching accuracy in language learning.

#### *Key Features of Explicit Correction:*

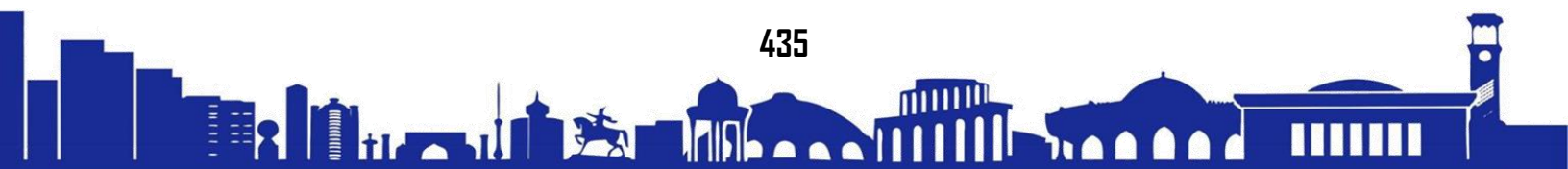
- Directness – The teacher explicitly states the error.
- Example:
  - Learner: He go to school yesterday.
  - Teacher: No, you should say “He went to school yesterday.”
- Immediate Feedback – It is often given right after the error is made, so learners can notice and correct it quickly.
- Focus on Accuracy – Explicit correction is particularly useful for grammatical mistakes, pronunciation errors, and word choice.
- Clarity for Beginners – This method helps lower-level learners understand exactly what is wrong without confusion.

#### *Advantages:*

- Learners clearly understand their mistakes.
- It improves accuracy and reinforces correct language forms.
- Useful for essential grammar and pronunciation corrections.

#### *Disadvantages:*

- Overuse may discourage learners if they feel constantly corrected.
- It can interrupt the flow of communication, especially in speaking activities.



Explicit correction is a direct and effective feedback strategy that helps learners notice and correct their errors. When used carefully and sparingly, it improves learners' accuracy while maintaining confidence. Teachers should balance explicit correction with other feedback methods to support both fluency and accuracy in language learning.

### Implicit Correction

In language learning, there are various methods to correct mistakes. Among them, **implicit correction** is an effective approach that subtly helps learners notice and correct their own errors. In this method, the teacher or learning material does not directly point out the mistake but creates an opportunity for the learner to recognize and self-correct it. For example, if a student says, "He go to school yesterday," the teacher might respond, "Oh, he went to school yesterday?" Here, the error is not explicitly highlighted, but the student is guided toward the correct form. Implicit correction not only addresses grammatical mistakes but also develops the learner's ability to think independently and apply language rules internally.

#### *Advantages:*

- Learners notice and correct their own mistakes.
- It promotes self-monitoring and reflective learning.
- It reduces psychological pressure since mistakes are not directly criticized.

However, the effectiveness of implicit correction depends on factors such as the learner's age, proficiency level, and the lesson context. For beginners, sometimes direct explanations may still be necessary. Implicit correction is a valuable tool in language learning, fostering independent thinking and helping learners acquire language more naturally and effectively.

### Self-correction

Self-correction is the process through which a learner or individual identifies and corrects their own mistakes without direct external help. This skill is particularly important in language learning, education, and problem-solving. Self-correction allows learners to take responsibility for their own learning and encourages reflective thinking. In language learning, self-correction often happens naturally during speaking, writing, or reading activities. For example, a student might say, "She go to the market yesterday," and then immediately realize the mistake and correct it: "She went to the market yesterday." By



noticing and correcting errors independently, learners reinforce correct language forms and improve their fluency.

*Benefits of Self-Correction:*

- **Learner Autonomy:** Self-correction promotes independence, as learners do not rely solely on teachers or materials to recognize mistakes.
- **Better Retention:** Correcting errors on one’s own helps the brain store and remember correct forms more effectively.
- **Critical Thinking:** Learners develop the ability to monitor their own language use, problem-solve, and make decisions.
- **Confidence Building:** Successfully correcting mistakes increases learners’ self-confidence and encourages risk-taking in communication.

Self-correction is often compared to implicit correction. While implicit correction involves subtle guidance from teachers or materials, self-correction relies entirely on the learner’s awareness and initiative. Both methods are valuable, but self-correction is especially effective for developing independent and reflective learners. Self-correction is an essential skill in language learning and other areas of education. By fostering independence, critical thinking, and confidence, it helps learners achieve long-term success and become more active participants in their own learning process.

**Strategies for correcting grammar and wording errors**

- Don’t spend a lot of time fixing your grammar and wording errors until you are satisfied with your paper’s content and organization. Focusing on errors before your content and organization are finished often means wasting your energy and time—you may fix errors that become irrelevant when you delete and/or add in words, phrases, sentences, and perhaps paragraphs.
- Focus on identifying and fixing patterns of errors at a time. For many students, it is better not to try to correct all your grammar and wording errors at once; instead, it is better to focus on patterned errors—ones that you know you likely have a lot of problems with. For example, if you know that you normally have a lot of problems with run-on sentence, fragments, and verb tenses, look for each of these patterned errors one at a time.

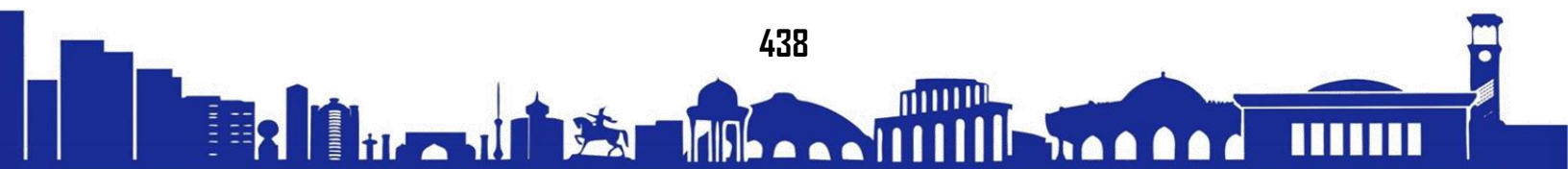




- Also focus on fixing the errors that interfere the most with your reader's comprehension first. While you should correct as many errors as possible, focus your time and efforts on types of errors that interfere the most with peoples' ability to understand your writing. Specifically, focus areas such as word order, run-on sentences, sentence fragments, verb tenses, and word forms more than areas such as articles, subject-verb agreement, and prepositions, which generally interfere less with comprehension.
- Make sure to look at the right part of the sentences when correcting grammatical errors. For example, when checking the accuracy of your verb tenses, find all your verbs. When checking for run-on sentences and fragments, look for your subjects, verbs, direct objects, coordinating and subordinating conjunctions, etc.
- Consider highlighting or circling the concept that you are focusing on. For example, you may want to highlight all verbs when looking at verb tenses and highlight only verbs taking subject/verb agreement when looking at subject/verb agreement. Highlighting or circling can help keep you focused.
- Consult handbooks, handouts, and dictionaries to find the rules to fix your errors. Few people—even native English writers—know all the rules to fix their grammar and wording errors; instead of relying on your memory you should consult available handbooks, handouts, and dictionaries. Looking at resources will also help you learn the rules, recognize which rules you don't know, and train you in using references to correct your errors. Don't forget that dictionaries are also valuable for information such as what prepositions should follow certain verbs.

## Conclusion

Correcting grammatical errors is a crucial aspect of language learning that can be approached in multiple ways. Explicit correction is clear and effective for beginners, while implicit and self-correction encourage reflection and learner independence. Peer correction fosters collaborative learning, and systematic error analysis allows targeted improvement. Using a combination of these methods ensures that learners not only understand their mistakes but also develop the skills to monitor and improve their language use independently. Effective correction contributes to both language accuracy and learner confidence, making it an essential tool in any language classroom.





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