

FAN, TA'LIM, TEXNOLOGIYA VA ISHLAB CHIQRARISH INTEGRATSIYASI ASOSIDA RIVOJLANISH ISTIQBOLLARI COMMON GRAMMATICAL ERRORS AND HOW TO AVOID THEM

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Annotation: This article addresses some of the most common grammatical errors that writers often make and provides practical tips for avoiding them. It covers a range of issues, including subject-verb agreement, misplaced modifiers, comma splices, and improper parallel structure. Each error is explained clearly, with examples of incorrect and correct usage, making the information accessible to writers at various skill levels. The article also emphasizes the importance of proofreading, learning grammar rules, and using tools to enhance writing accuracy. The overall tone is informative and supportive, encouraging readers to refine their writing skills for more effective communication. This resource is valuable for anyone looking to improve their grammar and avoid common mistakes in both professional and personal writing.

Key words: subject-verb agreement, misplaced modifiers, comma splices, pronoun-antecedent disagreement, homophones, sentence fragments, passive voice, word choice, apostrophe misuse, parallel structure, proofreading, grammar tools, writing clarity, effective communication, writing skills, grammar rules

Clear and effective communication depends on proper grammar. Yet, even the most experienced writers occasionally stumble over common grammatical pitfalls. These errors, while often small, can detract from the clarity and professionalism of your writing. Understanding these mistakes and how to avoid them is essential for anyone who wants to improve their writing skills.

One of the most frequent issues in writing is subject-verb agreement. This occurs when the subject and verb do not match in number. For example, sentences like “The list of items are on the table” are incorrect because the subject “list” is singular, while the verb “are” is plural. To avoid such mistakes, focus on the subject itself and ignore intervening phrases, such as “of items,” that do not affect the verb. Paying close attention to the subject-verb relationship can help ensure consistency.

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Another common issue involves misplaced modifiers. When modifiers are not placed correctly in a sentence, they can create confusion or ambiguity. For example, consider the sentence, “He almost drove his kids to school every day.” This implies that he didn’t quite drive them but came close. The correct phrasing, “He drove his kids to school almost every day,” clarifies the meaning. To prevent this problem, place modifiers next to the words they are meant to modify and reread sentences aloud to check for unintended meanings.

Comma splices are another trap that many writers fall into. A comma splice occurs when two independent clauses are incorrectly joined by a comma, such as, “I love to write, it helps me relax.” To fix this, you can separate the clauses with a period, use a semicolon, or add a coordinating conjunction like “and” or “because.” Understanding the rules for joining independent clauses ensures your writing flows smoothly without grammatical errors.

Pronoun-antecedent disagreement is another frequent issue. Pronouns must agree in number with their antecedents. For instance, in the sentence, “Everyone should bring their books,” the singular pronoun “everyone” clashes with the plural pronoun “their.” The correct version is, “Everyone should bring his or her books.” Alternatively, you can revise the sentence to make it plural: “All students should bring their books.” Staying mindful of this agreement can make your writing more precise.

Homophones—words that sound alike but have different meanings—are also a common source of confusion. Words like “their,” “there,” and “they’re” are often mixed up. This type of error can easily slip through proofreading because spellcheck tools may not catch it. To avoid such mistakes, take the time to learn the distinctions between commonly confused words and double-check sentences where they appear.

Sentence fragments are another pitfall, where an incomplete thought is written as a full sentence. For example, “Because I was tired” is a fragment because it lacks an independent clause to complete the thought. A correct version would be, “I went to bed early because I was tired.” Ensuring that every sentence has both a subject and a verb and expresses a complete idea can help eliminate fragments from your writing.

The overuse of passive voice is another issue that can weaken your writing. Passive voice occurs when the subject of a sentence is acted upon rather than performing the action, as in, “The project was completed by the team.”

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While not grammatically incorrect, this construction can be less engaging than its active counterpart: “The team completed the project.” Opting for active voice where possible makes your writing more direct and dynamic.

Choosing the wrong word, often due to misunderstanding its meaning, is another error to watch out for. Words like “adverse” and “averse” are frequently confused. While “adverse” means harmful or unfavorable, “averse” means having a strong dislike or opposition. To avoid such mistakes, consult a dictionary when unsure about a word’s meaning or usage.

Apostrophe misuse is another area where many writers struggle. Apostrophes are often incorrectly used with plurals or omitted where possession is intended. For example, “The dog’s are barking” is incorrect because “dogs” is plural and does not require an apostrophe. On the other hand, “The dog’s collar is red” correctly uses an apostrophe to indicate possession. Remembering that apostrophes show possession or contraction, not plurality, will help you avoid these errors.

Improper parallel structure is another subtle but important issue. When listing items or making comparisons, the elements should follow the same grammatical structure. For example, “She likes reading, to jog, and baking” is incorrect because the items in the list are not parallel. The correct version is, “She likes reading, jogging, and baking.” Maintaining consistent grammatical forms in lists and comparisons improves readability and flow.

To minimize grammatical errors overall, take the time to proofread your work carefully. Reading aloud is a particularly effective way to catch mistakes that might otherwise go unnoticed. Online tools like Grammarly or the built-in grammar checkers in word processing software can also be invaluable in identifying issues. However, these tools are not infallible, so a solid understanding of grammar rules is still essential.

Finally, don’t hesitate to seek feedback from others. A second pair of eyes can often catch mistakes you may overlook. By staying vigilant and mindful of common grammatical errors, you can elevate the quality of your writing and ensure that your message is conveyed clearly and professionally.

Grammar plays a crucial role in ensuring that written communication is clear, professional, and effective. Yet, even seasoned writers can fall into the trap of common grammatical mistakes. These errors often stem from a

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misunderstanding of grammar rules or simply from not taking the time to proofread carefully. By recognizing frequent pitfalls and understanding how to address them, you can significantly enhance the quality of your writing and ensure your message is conveyed accurately. One of the most common issues writers face is subject-verb agreement, where the subject and verb in a sentence must match in number. For example, in the sentence, “The team are playing well,” the subject “team” is singular, so the verb should also be singular: “The team is playing well.” Misplaced modifiers are another challenge. These occur when descriptive words or phrases are positioned incorrectly, leading to confusion. For example, “Walking through the park, the flowers were beautiful” implies that the flowers were walking through the park! Instead, rewrite the sentence as: “Walking through the park, I noticed the beautiful flowers.”

Comma splices are another frequent error. A comma splice happens when two independent clauses are joined with just a comma, as in, “I love to write, it helps me relax.” To fix this, add a conjunction, use a semicolon, or split the sentence into two. Additionally, pronoun-antecedent agreement is critical. A pronoun must agree in number with the noun it refers to. For instance, in the sentence, “Everyone should bring their tools,” the pronoun “their” doesn’t match the singular antecedent “everyone.” A correct revision would be, “Everyone should bring his or her tools.”

Homophones, such as “their,” “there,” and “they’re,” often cause confusion because they sound the same but have different meanings and spellings. Proofreading carefully and learning the distinctions between commonly confused words can help you avoid this mistake. Similarly, sentence fragments—sentences that are incomplete—can disrupt the flow of writing. For example, “Because I was tired” is not a complete thought. Completing the sentence with “I went to bed early because I was tired” resolves the issue.

The overuse of passive voice is another common concern. Passive constructions can make sentences wordy and unclear. Compare “The decision was made by the committee” with “The committee made the decision.” Active voice is more concise and impactful. Misusing apostrophes is also a widespread problem, especially when forming plurals or possessives. For instance, “The dog’s are barking” is incorrect because apostrophes should not be used to form plurals. The correct form is “The dogs are barking.” However, apostrophes should be used for possession, as in “The dog’s collar is red.”

Improper parallel structure can make writing awkward and inconsistent. For example, “She likes swimming, to jog, and biking” mixes forms. Instead, ensure

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consistency by writing, “She likes swimming, jogging, and biking.” Paying attention to parallelism improves readability and clarity.

To avoid these common mistakes, invest time in proofreading and revising your work. Reading your writing aloud can help you spot errors that might go unnoticed during silent reading. Additionally, grammar tools like Grammarly or Microsoft Word’s grammar checker can highlight issues and suggest corrections, although they are not foolproof. Developing a strong foundation in grammar rules through practice and study is equally important. Seeking feedback from others can also provide valuable insights into areas for improvement.

By being mindful of these common grammatical errors and adopting strategies to address them, you can enhance the quality and precision of your writing. Strong grammar not only reflects professionalism but also ensures that your ideas are communicated effectively, leaving a positive impression on your audience.

Conclusion

In conclusion, mastering grammar is essential for clear and effective communication. While common grammatical errors like subject-verb disagreement, misplaced modifiers, and pronoun-antecedent mismatches can undermine the quality of your writing, they are easily avoidable with careful attention and practice. By familiarizing yourself with grammar rules, proofreading thoroughly, and utilizing tools and feedback, you can significantly reduce mistakes and enhance your writing's clarity and professionalism. Strong grammar not only reflects attention to detail but also ensures your ideas are communicated precisely, leaving a lasting positive impression on your audience. In addition, improving your grammar is an ongoing process that requires patience and consistency. Every writer, no matter how experienced, can benefit from continuous learning and practice. By actively identifying and addressing common errors, you develop a stronger command of language that enhances your credibility and confidence as a communicator. Whether in professional, academic, or personal contexts, clear and error-free writing ensures your message is understood and respected. Remember, great writing begins with mastering the fundamentals, and good grammar is the foundation of that success.

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