

Common Grammar Errors

DIRECTIONS:

This unit reviews common grammar errors, how to avoid them, and how to fix them. Each section below starts with material for you to review, followed by practice questions.

PART 1: The Eight Parts of Speech

Read In Reading and Writing for Success, read pp. 212 – 218 on the eight parts of speech.

Practice Answer the questions below by filling in the blanks.

1. A noun names a _____, _____, _____, _____, or _____.
2. There are two types of nouns: _____ and _____.
3. Three types of common pronouns include _____, _____, and _____.
4. A(n) _____ expresses an action or state of being.
5. _____ verbs are when the subject is doing the action the verb describes. _____ verbs are when the subject receives the action the verb describes.
6. A(n) _____ describes a noun or pronoun.
7. A(n) _____ describes a verb, adjective, or another adverb.
8. _____ are used to describe how a noun or pronoun relates to another word in the sentence.
9. A(n) _____ joins parts of a sentence together.
10. An _____ is a word or phrase that expresses surprise or a strong emotion.

PART 2: Run-On Sentences

Read Read pp. 194-198 on how sentences work. Read the examples for Error 1 on p.198

Practice Do the practice questions in the textbook for Error 1, then the additional practice questions below. Correct each of the following run-on sentences twice; once by breaking them into two or more shorter sentences, and the second time by using a conjunction.

1. It rained last night the roads are all wet and very slippery.
2. Jane didn't hear about the dance until Wednesday, she had to change her plans at the last minute.

3. Choosing an MP3 player is difficult, there are many good ones for sale these days.

4. Will you help me with my homework, I am desperate, I didn't get a good mark on the last test?

5. Some young people spend their allowance foolishly, they don't know the value of a dollar.

PART 3: Sentence Fragments

Read Read the examples for Error 2 on p.199.

Practice Do the practice questions in the textbook for Error 2, then the additional practice questions below. Correct each of the following sentences fragments by using the most appropriate method.

1. Your beautiful new outfit.

2. Until they have to work for it.

3. During the Triassic Period.

4. If I hadn't dropped the ball.

5. Because of the lousy weather.

PART 4: Pronoun Errors – Vague Pronoun References

Read Read the examples for Error 4 on p. 202.

Practice Do the practice questions in the textbook for Error 4, then the additional practice questions below. Each of the following sentences has a problem with vague pronoun references. Correct each one using any of the three repair methods from the textbook.

1. When Sarah told Mary they had won first prize in the raffle, she nearly screamed with joy.
2. Wendy never told her mom she was going to the mall. She got very angry.
3. John put the milk carton into the fridge and noticed it wouldn't close properly.
4. My brother and his best friend Tom are going to the concert although he hates rap music.
5. Jason and Terry had to sweep the floor, wash the walls, and dust. He had never done this before.

PART 5: Pronoun Errors – Wrong Number, Gender Or Person

Read Read the examples for Error 5 on p.203.

Practice Do the practice questions in the textbook for Error 5, then the additional practice questions below. Correct each of the following sentences by fixing the wrong pronoun in each, using either of the two repair methods from the textbook.

1. When my new Sonos Play 1 speaker arrived, we listened to them as soon as we could.
2. Almost no one buys CDs anymore, but streaming music sound just as good.
3. My new car comes with Apple CarPlay, and they sound wonderful.

4. How does the two of them get along?
5. Jeffery used a slide rule when she was in school.

PART 6: Pronoun Errors – Function

Read Read the examples for Error 6 on p.202.

Practice Do the practice questions in the textbook for Error 6, then the additional practice questions below. Correct the pronoun errors in each of the following sentences.

1. Her and I are going to the beach this afternoon.
2. The last song was sung by he and Rachel.
3. Sally and me went to Falkland to watch the rodeo.
4. What is me dog up to?
5. Have you or me ever been down this road before?

PART 7: Subject/Verb Disagreement

Read Read the examples for Error 7 on p.207.

Practice Do the practice questions in the textbook for Error 7, then the additional practice questions below. Correct each of the following which have errors with subject/verb disagreement.

1. My dogs takes a nap in front of the patio door every afternoon.
2. The parade are marching past the courthouse.
3. These coats is very warm.
4. The plate were dirty after lunch.
5. This flower are the prettiest of the whole arrangement.

PART 8: Subject/Verb Disagreement – Compound Subjects

Read Read the examples for Error 8 on p.208.

Practice Do the practice questions in the textbook for Error 8, then the additional practice questions below. Correct each of the following which have errors with subject/verb disagreement.

1. Why does Sarah and Jasmine fight so much?
2. Neither I nor the other players was on stage on time.

3. Either the Grade 10s or Ms. Thygesen are going to the gym for the assembly.
4. Jennifer and Allen is going steady.
5. Janice and Lucy is going to write a skit for the grad class.

PART 9: Subject/Verb Disagreement – When Information Separates Them

Read Read the examples for Error 9 on p.209.

Practice Do the practice questions in the textbook for Error 9, then the additional practice questions below. Correct each of the following which have errors with subject/verb disagreement.

1. The container for the marbles are on the floor in your bedroom.
2. The scores from the games played on the weekend is posted on the bulletin board.
3. The cans that are full of garbage is at the end of the driveway today.
4. One of my best friends are coming to my party.
5. The names of the scholarship winner are listed in the newsletter.