

English for Study Purposes

Unit 2A: Common Errors 1 - 20

There are some errors which are very common. They keep on occurring in students' work, and they are very commonly tested by examiners. Obviously these mistakes are common because there is something difficult in the concept, or there is interference from Chinese. You are not going to be able to clear up these errors all at once, but it is at least worth a try. In this unit 60 common errors have been selected for you to think about. Here are the first twenty.

Try to answer the questions working with your partner(s).

1.

- a. According to this reason, I think it is a good idea.
- b. According to my mother, Singapore is a lovely place.
- c. According to Mr. Chan's opinion, Bangkok is not very safe.
- d. According to the police, they say crime is under control.

Which of these is correct?

Write a rule explaining how to use the phrase.

2.

What part(s) of speech is ACROSS?

Give some examples.

3.

Is this sentence correct?

Nowadays, we can solve many problems with advance technology.

4.

Afford is a transitive verb.

Explain the sort of object that follows it.

5.

- a. I saw a ghost and felt afraid.
- b. I saw a ghost and was afraid.
- c. I saw a ghost and afraid it.

Which is/are correct? Why?

6.

I am agree with you. Why is this wrong?

It is important to know the difference between transitive and intransitive verbs. A transitive verb has an object. I met her. I hit him. I love ice-cream. Intransitive verbs do not have objects. I looked. I ran. I smiled.

7.

- a. All the people agreed to go.
- b. All day I felt tired.
- c. All of us would not do it.
- d. All dogs bark.

Which are normal, and which strange? Explain why.

8.

Explain what 'at last' means. Do you know how it is often misused?

9.

- a. He avoided to go to school.
- b. I want to avoid Chris. We've had an argument.
- c. How can we avoid her coming?
- d. He tried to avoid being seen.

Which is/are correct? Why?

10.

What part of speech is 'aware'? Give 3 examples of its use.

11.

Explain the difference in meaning between 'boring' and 'bored'.

12.

How do you use 'born'?

13.

Explain the word 'broadcast' to a learner of English.

14.

cheap – what things can be called 'cheap' and what can't?

15.

choice/ choose/ chose/ chosen. Use each one correctly.

16.

Students come back to school every day. Right or wrong?

17.

How many words connected with complain can you think of? Use them correctly.

18.

‘concern’ and its related forms cause a lot of trouble.

- a. concern is a noun, often used with show and for.
- b. concerning is a preposition.
- c. concerned coming before a noun is an adjective meaning worried. [Also after the verbs be/ have]
- d. concerned coming after a noun is an adjective meaning involved.

Write examples.

19.

What is the difference between a cook and a cooker?

20.

What part of speech is ‘die’? Is it transitive or intransitive? Can it be passive? How is it related to ‘dead’?

English for Study Purposes

Unit 2A: Common Errors 21 - 40

21.

Give the rule for using 'difficult'.

22.

Explain in grammatical terms what can follow the word 'discuss'.

23.

What verbs can be used before 'effort'?

24.

Explain the difference between 'find' and 'look for'.

25.

- a. A car accident happened there.
- b. A car accident was happened there.

Which is correct? Why?

26.

What is the common mistake involving 'homework'?

27.

- a. In my opinion, it will rain later.
- b. In my opinion, I think it's the Government's fault.
- c. In my opinion, I believe the problem is serious.
- d. In my opinion, we will find a solution.

Which is/are correct? Explain why.

28.

Give the pattern for using 'in the world'.

29.

'Lack' is both a noun and a verb. There is also an adjective lacking. The noun, verb and adjective are all followed by different words. Be careful, and give an example of each.

30.

Explain the two different uses of 'like'.

31.

Which phrases do you know contain 'living'? What do they mean?

32.

marry and *married* are followed by different words. Give examples. Show the difference between the past tense of marry [married] and the adjective [married].

33.

What does 'midnight' mean? Which preposition often goes in front of it?

34.

Uncountable nouns need the help of another noun if you do want to count them.

e.g. sugar, two bowls of sugar

chocolate, three bars/pieces of chocolate

paper, 5 sheets of paper

News is an uncountable noun.

Which nouns can be used to help it?

35.

Explain the difference:

at the car

in the car

on the car

36.

One of the Explain how to use this phrase.

37.

What is the common misuse of 'open' among Cantonese speakers?

38.

- a. In Hong Kong and other Western countries there are many pollution problems.
- b. I like Chinese food, and not the food of other foreign countries.
- c. In Japan and other Asian countries, a lot of rice is eaten.

Which is/are correct? Explain why.

39.

How is 'outlook' often misused?

40.

- a. My arm feels painful.
- b. Falling off your bicycle is painful.
- c. She felt painful.

Which is/are correct? Explain why.

English for Study Purposes

Unit 2A: Common Errors 41 - 60

41.

As young people are the future pillars of society we must educate them well.

This is a very poor sentence. Why?

42.

From my point of view as a woman, the film is offensive.

Is this correct? Explain how to use point of view.

43.

A police ran after the robber. Explain why this is wrong.

44.

- a. The poor suffer in the winter.
- b. A poor asked me for money.
- c. The poor man felt hungry.
- d. There are many poors in the world.

Which is/are correct? Why?

45.

What sort of verb is *relax*?

46.

rise is intransitive; *raise* is transitive. Give examples.

47.

I went to a safety place. Why is this wrong?

48.

Go and ask the sales how much it costs? Why is this wrong?

49.

List some of the things you can spend.

50.

The school has 53 staffs. Why is this wrong?

51.

'Stress' behaves differently when it is a noun and when it is a verb. Which one is followed by on?

52.

Success/ succeed/ successful. Which part of speech is each? Give examples of use.

53.

I would like to move to an American city and start a new life, such as New York or Chicago. This is wrong. Why?

54.

What can follow 'suggest'?

55.

What part(s) of speech is suicide?

56.

Explain some of the different uses of the verb 'support'.

57.

What is the difference between 'totally' and 'in total'?

58.

Explain the meaning of 'transport'.

59.

What is the difference between up-to-date and updated?

60.

It is worth _____. What sorts of words can fill in the blank?
