Common Grammar Errors  
For English Language Learners

These are some examples of common grammar errors for you to reference and practice. If a rule doesn’t make sense, work with a tutor or research the grammar rule on your own. After you’ve practiced, check your paper for similar errors. Keep in mind, this is only a partial list.

**Subject-Verb Agreement Error:**

*The verb doesn’t match in number with the subject of the sentence or clause.*

1. Incorrect: She *eat* eggs for breakfast.  
   Correct: She *eats* eggs for breakfast.
2. Incorrect: We *is going* to the beach.  
   Correct: We *are going* to the beach.
   Correct: Ms. Smith, a high school teacher, *teaches* biology.

**Verb Tense Error:**

*The verb tense inappropriately shifts within a piece of writing.*

1. Incorrect: After *I went* to the gym, I *feel* sore.  
   Correct: After *I went* to the gym, I *felt* sore.
2. Incorrect: While most students study in the library, Jasmine *studied* on the beach.  
   Correct: While most students *were studying* in the library, Jasmine *studied* on the beach.
3. Incorrect: We *know* her since we were kids.  
   Correct: We *have known* her since we were kids.
4. Incorrect: Even though I have always loved milk, I *have been allergic to it.*  
   Correct: Even though I have always loved milk, I *have been allergic to it.*

**Verb Form Error:**

*An irregular verb has been formed incorrectly.*

1. Incorrect: He *teached* us how to swim.  
   Correct: He *taught* us how to swim.
2. Incorrect: We *swimed* in the ocean all afternoon.  
   Correct: We *swam* in the ocean all afternoon.

**A multi-part verb has been formed incorrectly.**

3. Incorrect: We *have been drove* all night long.  
   Correct: We *have been driving* all night long.
4. Incorrect: John *going* to the concert tonight.  
   Correct: John *is going* to the concert tonight.
Singular/Plural Noun Endings Error:

A countable noun has been made singular when it should be plural.
1. Incorrect: Person think that animal feel the same way they do.
   Correct: People think that animals feel the same way they do.
2. Incorrect: To save the planet we need to protect our forest and ocean.
   Correct: ________________________________

A non-countable noun has been made plural.
3. Incorrect: Janice never does her homeworxs.
   Correct: Janice never does her homework.
4. Incorrect: If you have a problem, you should ask someone you trust for advices.
   Correct: ____________________________________________________________________________

Sentence Structure:

The verb “to be” is missing.
1. Incorrect: The Members of Congress probably bad negotiators, since they haven’t been able to pass any laws.
   Correct: The Members of Congress are probably bad negotiators, since they haven’t been able to pass any laws.
2. Incorrect: Being valedictorian, the high school graduate ready to go to college.
   Correct: ____________________________________________________________________________

The subject of a sentence has been repeated.
3. Incorrect: My mom she works, takes care of the house and kids, and volunteers.
   Correct: My mom works, takes care of the house and kids, and volunteers.
4. Incorrect: The clock that is on this wall it does not work.
   Correct: ____________________________________________________________________________

Two clauses or a clause and a phrase have been combined incorrectly.
5. Incorrect: In the article “5 Reasons to go to College” by John Smith, says that college helps students learn what they are passionate about.
   Correct: In the article “5 Reasons to go to College,” John Smith says that college helps students learn what they are passionate about.
6. Incorrect: Although people need to use electricity, but they should try to use as little as possible to reduce greenhouse gasses.
   Correct: ____________________________________________________________________________