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 that this is only a partial list.

Subject-Verb Agreement Error:

*The verb form 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.
3. Incorrect: Ms. Smith, a high school teacher, teach biology.
   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 studied in the library, Jasmine studied on the beach.

The incorrect verb tense is used.

1. Incorrect: We know her since we were kids.
   Correct: We have known her since we were kids.
2. 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 taught us how to swim.
   Correct: He taught us how to swim.
2. Incorrect: We swam in the ocean all afternoon.
   Correct: We swam in the ocean all afternoon.

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

1. Incorrect: We have been drove all night long.
   Correct: We have been driving all night long.
2. 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.
1. Incorrect: Janice never does her homeworks.
   Correct: Janice never does her homework.
2. 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.
1. 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.
2. 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.
1. 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.
2. Incorrect: Although people need to use electricity, but they should try to use as little as possible to reduce greenhouse gasses.
   Correct: ______________________________________________________________________