

TOP 10 GRAMMAR ERRORS

HOW TO AVOID THE GRAMMAR POLICE

1.

Lack of subject verb agreement

Subjects and verbs must agree in number.

Examples: The dog growls when he is angry. [singular] Dogs growl when they are angry. [plural]

2.

Using the wrong pronoun

Incorrect: Everybody must write *their* own poem.

Correct: Everybody must write *his* or *her* own poem.

3.

Incorrect use of apostrophes

Examples: Its vs. It's –
Its branches were falling.
It's a cold day.

They're vs. Their – *They're* ready to leave. They are on *their* way.

4.

Missing comma or semi colon in a compound sentence

Correct: She wanted to go, but she didn't have a car.

5.

Writing run-on sentences

Incorrect: Tom is very cute, he is very popular at school.

Correct: Tom is very cute. He is very popular at school.

6.

Misuse of homophones

Examples: Accept vs. Except -
Accept means to receive. Except means to take out or leave out.
There vs. Their – They wanted to go *there*. *Their* mother was not home.

7.

Using wrong verb tense

Examples: For present tense –
We walk to the store.

For past tense – We walked to the store.

For future tense – We will walk to the store.

8.

Using who vs. whom

Examples: Who is a subject pronoun. Who is driving the car?
Whom is an object pronoun. With whom are you going to the party?

9.

Using double negatives

Incorrect: She *doesn't* have no idea of what to do next.

Correct: She *doesn't* know what to do next.

10.

Using few vs. less

Use "few" or "fewer" for things you count.
Use "less" for things you measure.

Example: She wore out *fewer* shoes because she walked less miles.