

జనరల్ ఇంగ్లీష్

COMMON ERRORS WITH NOUNS

Incorrect	Correct	Explanation
The teacher as well as the students have left the class room.	The teacher as well as the students has left the class room.	When two or more subjects are joined by - 'as well as, like, unlike, besides, in addition to, along with, except etc.', the verb is used according to the first subject
The major along with his soldiers were wounded in the war	The major along with his soldiers was wounded in the war	
Neither the servants nor the master were found in the house	Neither the servants nor the master was found in the house	When two or more subjects are connected by 'not only...but also, neither...nor, either...or, none – but' the verb is used according to the nearest subject
Either my shoes or your coat are always on the floor.	Either my shoes or your coat is always on the floor.	
		There are certain verbs which are generally NOT used in Continuous Tense
The apple is tasting sweet	The apple tastes sweet	Verbs of the senses: see, smell, hear, feel, taste, recognize, notice
I am hearing what you say	I hear what you say	
I am loving my country	I love my country	Verbs of Emotions: love, like, hate, dislike, detest, desire, wish, want, fear, prefer, refuse, hope, etc.
She is wanting a notebook	She wants a notebook	
He was knowing her	He knew her	Verbs of Mental Activity: know, understand, remember, recollect, believe, expect, forget, think, suppose, consider, trust, imagine, mean, mind etc.
What are you meaning?	What do you mean?	
I am believing in God	I believe in God	
We are expecting good results	We expect good results	
This property is belonging to him	This property belongs to him	Verbs of Possession: owe, have, possess, own, belong
He is looking like his father	He looks like his father	Verbs of Appearing: appear, look, seem etc.
I have seen the film yesterday	I saw the film yesterday	Present Perfect Tense cannot be used with adverbs or adverbial phrases of definite time in the past such as yesterday, last night, a week ago, etc.
They have met us last night	They met us last night	
He lives here since 2002	He has been living here since 2002	The Present Perfect or the Present Perfect Continuous Tense is used in the main clause with since.

Incorrect	Correct	Explanation
If I was a bird, I would fly	If I were a bird, I would fly	To express imaginary or impossible wishes, 'were' is used
The teacher will come when the bell will ring	The teacher will come when the bell rings	In clauses of time and condition, the simple present tense is used for a future action
She is taking milk daily	She takes milk daily	Simple present tense is used to express a habit
It is time I go to bed	It is time I went to bed	Past tense is used after 'It is time..'
When she will solve our problem?	When will she solve our problem?	In interrogative sentences the helping verb is placed before the subject
She asked him what was he doing	She asked him what was he doing	Indirect questions have the same word order as assertive sentences - that is, the subject comes before the verb.
<i>Gulliver's Travels</i> are my favourite book	<i>Gulliver's Travels</i> is my favourite book	When used in sentences, the titles of books, plays, poems, movies, and so on are singular
They ordered me wait	They ordered me to wait	'To infinitive' is used after certain verbs; allow, order, command, request, wish, want, permit, encourage, forbid
The teacher let the boy to go	The teacher let the boy go	Plain infinitive is used after certain verbs: make, let, suggest, bid etc.
I will make him to do the work fast	I will make him do the work fast	
I avoid to go there	I avoid going there	Certain verbs/phrases are always followed by 'Gerund' (not Infinitive): feel, mind, avoid, consider, enjoy, excuse, finish, miss, can't help, look forward to, go on..., it is no good, it is no use..., to give up...etc.,
Would you mind to leave me alone	Would you mind leaving me alone?	
It is no use to argue with him	It is no use arguing with him	
He gave up to smoke	He gave up smoking	
Going to school, a dog bit Hari	While Hari was going to school, a dog bit him (or) Going to school, Hari was bitten by a dog	When 'the part of the sentence with Participle' has no subject, the subject of the main part will be considered the subject of the Participle part also (as if the 'dog' was going to school). We can correct this by changing the Participle Phrase into a Subordinate Clause.
My foot is paining	My foot is hurting	'To pain' (verb) should be used transitively only.
My tooth is paining	My tooth is aching	e.g.: His words pain me
He gave a speech	He made a speech	A speech is made and a lecture is given
She made a lecture	She gave a lecture	
Columbus invented America	Columbus discovered America	Use 'invent' of something which did not exist till man created it. Use 'discover' of something which existed without man's knowledge, e.g.: petroleum
Samuel Morse discovered the telegraph	Samuel Morse invented the telegraph	

PRACTICE TEST

In each of the following questions, there are four sentences. Choose the correct sentence that has no errors.

1.
 - 1) The boy is seeing the city view through the window.
 - 2) We are noticing the change now.
 - 3) The cake is smelling good.
 - 4) She is listening to the radio.
2.
 - 1) The US Senate have 100 members.
 - 2) Playing cricket, the ball hit Raju's chin.
 - 3) It's time the bus started.
 - 4) If I was you, I would accept the proposal.
3.
 - 1) Vasco da Gama invented the sea route to India.
 - 2) Sravya is going to temple everyday.
 - 3) Prof. Somalatha gave a mesmerizing lecture.
 - 4) He has submitted the report an hour ago.
4.
 - 1) To swim is a pleasant exercise.
 - 2) He enjoys playing the flute.
 - 3) Hardly I had reached the railway station when the train arrived.
 - 4) Prime Minister Modi gave an excellent speech yesterday.
5.
 - 1) He bade them to leave at once.
 - 2) The teacher permitted the student to go.
 - 3) My doctor has forbidden me eat sugar.
 - 4) The Manager along with his employees were taken into the custody.
6.
 - 1) He was found guilty and hanged later that year.
 - 2) My stomach is paining.
 - 3) It is no good to argue with him.
 - 4) Why they are fighting with each other?
7.
 - 1) We look forward to working with you.
 - 2) We are living here since 1996.
 - 3) I will inform you if the notification will be issued.
 - 4) We are considering him great.
8.
 - 1) Deepika as well as Priya are hardworking.
 - 2) Either the boy or his parents is expected to stay back.
 - 3) Neither Radha's neighbours nor her husband agree with her decision.
 - 4) All the girls except Maya have passed the test.

9. 1) Please, let me to go.
2) She is seeming to be innocent.
3) Seldom have I seen such a beautiful scenery.
4) He is one of the students who comes by bus.

KEY

1-4; 2-3; 3-3; 4-2; 5-2; 6-1; 7-1; 8-4; 9-3.

Writer: CVS Ravindranath

జనరల్ ఇంగ్లీష్

Common Errors - 1

Look at the following Telugu sentence:

అతను మాకు మంచి సలహాలు ఇచ్చారు.

A Telugu person may try to translate the above sentence into English in the following way:

He gave us good advices.

For a native speaker of English the usage of 'advices' seems quite odd and funny because 'advice' is an uncountable noun and it has no plural form. So the correct sentence is 'He gave us good advice'.

If we have to speak or write in English accurately, we should keep in mind all the rules, exceptions and oddities of the language. We can avoid such errors by extensive reading, learning and practice.

Common Errors With Nouns

Incorrect	Correct	Explanation
The sceneries are beautiful.	The scenery is beautiful.	The following nouns are generally used in the singular form only and they are not used with plural verbs: advice, luggage, hair, machinery, information, bread, equipment, alphabet, furniture, baggage, cash, scenery, news, etc.,
The furnitures are damaged.	The furniture is damaged.	
The machinery are not working properly.	The machinery is not working properly.	
The informations about him is true.	The information about him is true.	
The committee, which were formed in 2015, are made up of four men and four women.	The committee, which was formed in 2015, is made up of four men and four women.	Some collective nouns are used with singular verbs when they are used as a body or group and not as members: audience, board, committee, crowd, family, jury, ministry, mob, police, public, staff, team etc.,
The audience were spellbound.	The audience was spellbound.	
The family are on holiday.	The family is on holiday.	
The police has arrested the thief.	The police have arrested the thief.	But when the above nouns denote members or individuals, the verb is used in plural form.
The committee has asked for sandwiches for lunch.	The committee have asked for sandwiches for lunch.	
The cattle is grazing in the fields.	The cattle are grazing in the fields.	Some nouns are singular in form but plural in meaning and they always take a plural verb. e.g.: infantry, gentry, cattle, clergy, nobility, poultry etc.
The peasantry is very happy.	The peasantry are very happy.	

Incorrect	Correct	Explanation
Politics are an interesting subject.	Politics is an interesting subject.	Some nouns are plural in form but they are used as singular.
The news are false.	The news is false.	
Measles have broken out in this area.	Measles has broken out in this area.	e.g.: Mathematics, Economics, Physics, Politics, Linguistics, Mechanics, Statistics, Measles, Mumps, Billiards, Carroms, Athletics, Gymnastics, Innings, series, news.
The scissors is very sharp.	The scissors are very sharp.	Some nouns are used only as plural. They have no singular forms. e.g.: jeans, pants, trousers, scissors, binoculars, glasses, spectacles, tongs, shoes, socks, alms, oats, savings, auspices, surroundings, stairs, ashes, refreshments, earnings, quarters, arrears, assets, statistics (data), outskirts, thanks, premises etc.
My spectacle is missing.	My spectacles are missing.	
His trouser is loose.	His trousers are loose.	
I am allowed to stay in the quarter.	I am allowed to stay in the quarters.	
The surrounding is not clean.	The surroundings are not clean.	
I bought shoe yesterday.	I bought shoes yesterday.	
His asset is seized.	His assets are seized.	
He provided the blinds with food.	He provided the blind with food.	
The government should pay attention to the problems of the poors.	The government should pay attention to the problems of the poor.	The expressions 'the blind', 'the deaf', 'the unemployed', 'the dead', 'the poor', etc., are plural. The word 'the blind' refers to all blind people.
I have two son-in-laws.	I have two sons-in-law.	Plurals of compound nouns are formed by adding 's' to the main word. e.g.: brothers-in-law, commanders-in-chief, passersby etc.
There are thirty females in the class.	There are thirty girls in the class.	'Male and 'female' are used as adjectives but not as nouns.
Many males attended the meeting.	Many men attended the meeting.	
It is my friend's Kartik's car.	It is my friend Kartik's car.	When two nouns are in apposition, the 'apostrophe +s' is added to the second noun to show possession

Incorrect	Correct	Explanation
I asked my cousin sister why she was anxious.	I asked my cousin why she was anxious.	Cousin is a genderless word that's usually clarified by saying he or she in the context.
Ramya bought five dozens mangoes.	Ramya bought five dozen mangoes.	Words like dozen, score, hundred, thousand, lakh, million etc. do not take plural when preceded by a numeral.
Two lakhs students applied for the civil services exam.	Two lakh students applied for the civil services exam.	
Give me a hundred-rupees note.	Give me a hundred-rupee note.	If a compound word is formed by joining a definite numerical adjective and a noun (by a hyphen), the noun so used will always be in the singular number.
A three-men enquiry committee has been set up.	A three-man enquiry committee has been set up.	

Common Errors With Pronouns

It is me who drew the picture.	It is I who drew the picture.	If a verb 'to be' has a pronoun for its complement, the pronoun must be used in the nominative form.
If I were her, I would accept the proposal.	If I were she, I would accept the proposal.	
We enjoyed at the party.	We enjoyed ourselves at the party.	When the subject of the verb is the receiver of the action, the action is said to be reflected. Such verbs are used reflexively.
You should avail the opportunity.	You should avail yourself of the opportunity	
Myself did all the work.	I myself did all the work.	Reflexive pronouns alone cannot be used for emphasis and they should be preceded by pronouns in nominative case.
Yourself and I may be asked to attend the function.	You and I may be asked to attend the function.	A reflexive pronoun (e.g.: myself, himself, themselves, yourself) cannot be used as the subject of a sentence.
We have to sort out the differences between you and I.	We have to sort out the differences between you and me.	Verbs and prepositions are followed by objective case of a pronoun.
She is teaching Bhavya and he.	She is teaching Bhavya and him.	

PRACTICE TEST

In each of the following questions, there are four sentences. Choose the correct sentence that has no errors.

1.
 - 1) I don't need your advices.
 - 2) The news is very disappointing.
 - 3) Her hairs are very beautiful.
 - 4) He doesn't know the alphabets of the language.
2.
 - 1) Statistics is a difficult subject.
 - 2) The police has arrested the thief.
 - 3) I met my cousin brother yesterday.
 - 4) While walking on the road we found a thousand-rupees note.
3.
 - 1) Majority is in favour of the proposal.
 - 2) It is my friend's Kishen's house.
 - 3) The scissors belongs to me.
 - 4) That book is yours, not mine.
4.
 - 1) Neither Rishi nor Khyati are attending school tomorrow.
 - 2) Six females are working in our office.
 - 3) He fell down from a ten-foot high wall.
 - 4) I send herewith my hearty thank for your timely help.
5.
 - 1) You, I and he are allowed to go.
 - 2) I, you and he are allowed to go.
 - 3) You, he and I are allowed to go.
 - 4) He, I and you are allowed to go.
6.
 - 1) I have eaten two breads.
 - 2) We have purchased many furnitures.
 - 3) Let she say something.
 - 4) If I were he, I would not do it.
7.
 - 1) Poultry are domesticated fowl kept for eggs and meat.
 - 2) The poors should be helped by the riches.
 - 3) My shoe is very expensive.
 - 4) Bring me two dozens oranges.
8.
 - 1) My spectacle is on the table.
 - 2) He has three brothers-in-law.
 - 3) Herself finished the project without taking help from anyone.
 - 4) They who live in glass houses should not throw stones on others.

9. 1) Somebody is crying in the room, isn't somebody?
2) One should respect once teachers.
3) Each of the girls have been given a mango.
4) Neither of the fans is working.
10. 1) I enjoy during summer holidays.
2) We should avail ourselves of our opportunities.
3) His trouser is very tight.
4) Athletics are good for health.

ANSWERS

1-2; 2-1; 3-4; 4-3; 5-3; 6-4; 7-1; 8-2; 9-4; 10-2

Writer: CVS Ravindranath