

Examples of common grammatical errors

Paragraph-level errors	Example
Transitions/ connectors	Although I don't like swimming, but I will go with you. Because I go up early so I will not miss the bus. I went brush my teeth after I went to bed.
Lack of tense consistency	Yesterday I went out with my mother and have breakfast together. I will go to Paris and I visit the museums there.
Incorrect/ unclear pronoun reference	1A students played some games with primary students yesterday. They played tug-of-war with them. They enjoyed it very much. He likes to play with the group of children. She is naughty and always makes him laugh.
Unnecessary repetition of words/ phrases	In my opinion, I think... I wake up at 8am in the morning.
Sentence-level errors	Example
Word order	May I know what is your name? Will you tell her when is your wedding ceremony?
Comma splice	It is nearly half past five, we cannot reach town before dark.
Incorrect or missing relative pronouns	I saw the girl ran towards the school gate. He who is the cleverest boy in class.
S-V agreement	Most girls in my class is nosey. One of the students often feel sick during the morning assembly. Everyone think buns can bring safety and good luck. We was watching the movie last night.

Fragment	Because I don't like playing basketball.
Run-on	There are a lot of students in the playground, they are all very busy talking to each other, they ignore the teacher on the stage, the teacher feels very helpless and simply looks at them, it happens every morning in the school.
Inversion	Not only should the government help the poor, but also protect the environment.
Word-level errors	Example
Misspelling	then→ than, first → frist there→ their, harbour → habour
Plural/ singular confusion	There are many student at my school.
Part of speech error	It is very convenience to go there by train. We need more confident .
Verb form	I could saw him. She taught Class 1A. She does go to school every day.
Verb usage	
Voices	If you are planned to join this event, don't forget to drink more water and apply sunscreen!
Countable/ uncountable noun confusion	I've got lots of advices from my teacher. There are a lot of furnitures in the room.
Misc	Example
Determiner (e.g. missing article)	I ate apple. Government must do more to help elderly. My sister has a long hair.
Wrong/ missing/ unnecessary preposition	My teacher emphasizes on grammar when he grades our compositions. On last Sunday, we went hiking.
Idiomatic expression	I got flying results in the exam.
Others	Chinglish: There have a car. Chinglish: I very like swimming.

Note: Error types shown above are taken from 'iWrite', a learning resource developed from learner corpora. For more details, please see:

Hegelheimer, V., & Fisher, D. (2006). Grammar, Writing, and Technology: A Sample Technology-Supported Approach to Teaching Grammar and Improving Writing for ESL Learners. *CALICO Journal*, 23(2), 257-279.