

FREE Resource

5 Common English Mistakes Adult Learners Make

And exactly how to fix them — with practice exercises

A1 – B1 | Adult Learners

FREE Resource

PDF · Instant Download

Who is this for?

This worksheet is for adult English learners at beginner to intermediate level (A1–B1). Each mistake is explained clearly, with examples and a short practice exercise so you can apply the fix immediately. All examples use everyday professional contexts.

WRONG

"I live here since three years."

RIGHT

*"I have lived here for three years."***The Rule**

Use **for** with a period of time (for 3 years, for a week). Use **since** with a point in time (since 2020, since Monday). Both are used with the Present Perfect tense.

Practice — Fill in the blank:

1.	I haven't eaten ___ this morning.	_____
2.	She has worked here ___ five years.	_____
3.	We have been friends ___ a long time.	_____
4.	He has lived in Canada ___ 2018.	_____
5.	They haven't spoken ___ the argument.	_____
6.	I've known her ___ ten years.	_____

Answers:

1.	I haven't eaten ___ this morning.	since
2.	She has worked here ___ five years.	for
3.	We have been friends ___ a long time.	for
4.	He has lived in Canada ___ 2018.	since
5.	They haven't spoken ___ the argument.	since
6.	I've known her ___ ten years.	for

WRONG

"I need to do a decision."

RIGHT

*"I need to make a decision."***The Rule**

Use **make** for creating or producing something (make a plan, make a mistake, make coffee). Use **do** for actions and tasks (do homework, do exercise, do a favour).

Practice — Fill in the blank:

1.	Can you ___ me a favour?	_____
2.	She always ___ good coffee.	_____
3.	He needs to ___ his homework.	_____
4.	They ___ a lot of noise last night.	_____
5.	I have to ___ the dishes.	_____
6.	Don't ___ the same mistake again.	_____

Answers:

1.	Can you ___ me a favour?	do
2.	She always ___ good coffee.	makes
3.	He needs to ___ his homework.	do
4.	They ___ a lot of noise last night.	made
5.	I have to ___ the dishes.	do
6.	Don't ___ the same mistake again.	make

WRONG	RIGHT
<i>"She always is late."</i>	<i>"She is always late."</i>

The Rule

Frequency adverbs (always, usually, often, sometimes, rarely, never) go **before the main verb** but **after the verb 'to be'**.

Practice — Fill in the blank:

1.	He (usually) drinks coffee in the morning.	_____
2.	They (never) are on time.	_____
3.	I (sometimes) feel tired after work.	_____
4.	She (always) is happy.	_____
5.	We (often) eat lunch together.	_____
6.	You (rarely) complain.	_____

Answers:

1.	He (usually) drinks coffee in the morning.	usually drinks
2.	They (never) are on time.	are never
3.	I (sometimes) feel tired after work.	sometimes feel
4.	She (always) is happy.	is always
5.	We (often) eat lunch together.	often eat
6.	You (rarely) complain.	rarely complain

WRONG

"He work in a hospital."

RIGHT

*"He works in a hospital."***The Rule**

In the Simple Present tense, add **-s** or **-es** to the verb when the subject is **he**, **she**, or **it**. This is one of the most common spoken and written errors.

Practice — Fill in the blank:

1.	She ____ (teach) English.	_____
2.	He ____ (go) to the gym every day.	_____
3.	It ____ (take) about 20 minutes.	_____
4.	My sister ____ (live) in Toronto.	_____
5.	The bus ____ (arrive) at 8 AM.	_____
6.	He ____ (not like) spicy food.	_____

Answers:

1.	She ____ (teach) English.	teaches
2.	He ____ (go) to the gym every day.	goes
3.	It ____ (take) about 20 minutes.	takes
4.	My sister ____ (live) in Toronto.	lives
5.	The bus ____ (arrive) at 8 AM.	arrives
6.	He ____ (not like) spicy food.	doesn't like

WRONG

"I saw the interesting movie last night."

RIGHT

"I saw an interesting movie last night."

The Rule

Use **a / an** when something is mentioned for the first time or is not specific. Use **the** when both speaker and listener know which one is meant. Use **an** before vowel sounds (an apple, an hour).

Practice — Fill in the blank:

1.	I need ___ umbrella.	_____
2.	___ sun rises in the east.	_____
3.	She wants to be ___ engineer.	_____
4.	Can you close ___ window, please?	_____
5.	He is ___ honest man.	_____
6.	I live near ___ university.	_____

Answers:

1.	I need ___ umbrella.	an
2.	___ sun rises in the east.	The
3.	She wants to be ___ engineer.	an
4.	Can you close ___ window, please?	the
5.	He is ___ honest man.	an
6.	I live near ___ university.	a

Enjoyed this worksheet? Here's what's next.

ESL Grammar Essentials — Pack 1

English Tenses: Simple Present, Past, Future, Present Perfect 4 units · 40 exercises ·
Answer key

\$4

ESL Grammar Essentials — Pack 2

Subject Pronouns, Object Pronouns, and Possessive Adjectives 3 units · 30 exercises ·
Answer key

\$4

Complete Starter Bundle (Pack 1 + Pack 2)

Both paid packs together at a saving

\$6

Find all resources at qiblaedu.com