

TWELVE COMMON MAJOR ENGLISH ERRORS IN WRITING BY CHINESE STUDENTS

1. **PROOFREAD (PRI) FAILURE TO CAREFULLY)** This is the most common error in student writing and includes misspelling of simple words, usually referred to as "typo's"; omission of words; inconsistency in tense; and other mistakes that the writer usually recognizes *on worksheets or quizzes but* doesn't see in his or her own writing. Example: "I **dad finished my work, but there is no one waiting to let out the lock door.** "
2. **Acceptable Sentences POINT OF VIEW SHIFTS (PV)** In an essay, You should not mix second-person point of view ("you", or person spoken to) sentences with first-person point of view ("I", or person speaking) sentences, unless the sentences are quoted material. For example, **do not address the reader with questions such as, "Do you agree?" or " Have you ever thought about this?"** Also, instead of saying "When you enter a restaurant, you want to be greeted." Say "When I enter... I want... " or, "When people enter... they want..."
3. **Clear Sentences** To correct it, you only need to move the modifier closer to the word it describes. Example: " **She taught me to be an honest man as soon as I could understand her.** " "As soon as I could understand her" tells when she taught, not when the writer was expected to be an honest man.
4. **Acceptable Sentences VERB PROBLEMS (V)** Tense errors: "As a child I enjoyed playing but **hate studying.**" (Agr) Lack of verb and subject agreement in number: "Down the street I **goes.**" (NW) An irregular verb's incorrect past tense: "**it fattened the smaller boy.**"
5. **Acceptable Sentences UNPARALLEL CONSTRUCTIONS (//)** Phrases or clauses in a series which are different constructions. "**My reasons for not going included because no one knew me, being behind in my lessons, and tired out.**" This example uses a faulty dependent clause, a gerund phrase, and a verbal idiom. The parts of the series of reasons should be in the same structure. This is sometimes referred to as balance.
6. **Complete Sentences FRAGMENTS (Frag)** An incomplete sentence or only a part of sentence. "Sometimes when I get up early, pack all my food, and get everything prepared for travel."
7. **Complete Sentences RUN-ONS (RO)** Two sentences or two independent clauses joined with no punctuation. "**I refused to smile I just looked at him in his eyes.**"
8. **Complete Sentences COMMA SPLICES (CS)** Two independent clauses joined with only a comma. "**Having long holidays is always fatiguing for me, maybe it is because of my poor planning.**"
9. **Proof-Reading WRONG WORD (WW):** "I was more lucky." "To some **extends, it is the most important**" or **INACCURATE WORD (6W):** "It was a disgusting sunset."
10. **Clear Sentences LACK OF DETAILS (DET)** Writing needs more specific support or development. It is too general or vague. "**She regulated my Fife.** She controlled everything. **She didn't trust my judgement**"
11. **Natural Sentences MANY NEEDLESS WORDS. NOT CONCISE. (Wordy)** "**He prepared his lessons carefully before class so as to make us all understand and comprehend what he had taught**" Also **REDUNDANT (RED):** **I try to be less dependent and reliant on my parents.**"
12. **Natural Sentences PRETENTIOUS, AFFECTED. FLOWERY, ARTIFICIAL, INSINCERE,**

CONTRIVED (FRET.) Use of words to show esoteric vocabulary, to appear learned, to impress rather than communicate.