Typical mistakes and how to avoid them

1. Tense mistake:  
   ⇒ use the correct tense and verb form
   ⇒ learn irregular verbs (fly, flew, flown)
   ⇒ learn modal verbs (must ⇒ had to in Simple Past)
   ⇒ use the correct negative verb forms (I knew but
      I didn't know)

2. Word order mistake:  
   ⇒ use the correct word order: Subject + Verb + (Object)

3. Vocab:  
   ⇒ learn the rules  e.g.: family ⇒ pl. families
   Comparison of adjectives: (Bad, worse, the worst)
   Prepositions  (fly into space, bring/take sth. to sb.)

4. Germanism:  
   ⇒ be careful!
   1. „da gibt es/ Es gibt viele Leute“ – There are / There is !!!!!!!!!!!!

5. Punctuation  
   ⇒ I know that you are here. (No comma before ‘that’)

6. Aufzählungen  
   ⇒ Erstens – First, Zweitens - Second, (Then, After that,)
   (Enumerations)

7. Infinitive constructions:  
   ⇒ I learned to keep cool. (Ich lernte ruhig zu bleiben)

8. When writing letters:

   Form:     Rules:
   - Use the correct tense
   - No questions that cannot be answered.

   Dear ...,  
   A big explosion...
   ...
   Love, / Yours,
   Timmy

9. Negative forms  
   ⇒ use a helping verb to make negatives!
   e.g.: They don’t earn much money They didn’t have free-time.

10. Sample Sentences with typical mistakes:
   - Die meisten Kinder kombinieren die Schule mit der Arbeit. The most children combine the school with the work.
   - Die Kinder sind gut bezahlt. The children are paid good – well !
   - They could learn more for school to get a good job after school.
   - 1000 of kids do child labour (Kinderarbeit) (singular)
   - Ein anderes/weiteres Argument gegen ... Another argument against ...is...
   - Sie stehen am Morgen auf um zu ... They get up in the morning to...
   - Everybody, everyone have has the right to...
   - Die Kinder, die The children who...
### 11. Which word?

| a / an       | • a real astronaut, a town  
|             | • an astronaut, an explosion, an old town |
| there/ their/ they're | • There (Dort/Da) you can see some elephants.  
|             | • Their car was stolen, not my car. (Possessive Pronoun)  
|             | • They're (They are) standing outside the door. |
| then / than | • He watched the cat and then (dann, danach) he went home.  
|             | • He is bigger than (als) you. This is better than (als) to work at night. |
| make / do   | • (to) make mistakes  
|             | • (to) do a job |
| become / get | • become a football star (werden)  
|             | • get money; get sick/ill |
| some(thing) / any(thing) | • some in positive statements e.g. I'll give you some money.  
|             | • any in negative statements e.g. I don’t want any help.  
|             | • In Questions: Do you want some cake? – YES!  
|             | • Do you want any cake? – NO! |
| how / like  | • like bei Vergleichen. He is just like you.  
|             | • - How (Fragewort WIE?) in questions How are you? |
| life / live | • My life is wonderful (das Leben; n.) Our lives are wonderful.  
|             | • I live in a dark city (leben; v.) He lives in a dark city.  
|             | • There is a concert with live-music (jetzt gerade) |
| much / many | • much when it’s uncountable (much milk, luck, money)  
|             | • many when it’s countable (cars, pupils, dollars) |
| ago / before | • 'He came home 2 hours ago'  
|             | • '2 hours before he came home, he was in London.'  
|             | ⇒ 2 hours before NOW!  
|             | ⇒ Can be years ago |
| will/want   | • I will visit him  
|             | ⇒ Ich werde ihn besuchen  
|             | • I want to visit him  
|             | ⇒ Ich will ihn besuchen |
| to / too    | • I have to go. I want to go now.  
|             | • There are too many people here. This is too difficult for me. (zu viel, zu schwer) |
| now / then  | • Now I go to the cinema. (Jetzt im Moment = Gegenwart)  
|             | • Then I saw that he kissed another girl (NOT now!!) |
| of / from (G: von) | • A present from me. I've just come from the airport. (Ursprung)  
|             | • The eye of the old man.  
|             | • He paints it on the face of the old man. The car of his boss (Besitz – Genitiv (Wessen?))  
|             | • ⇒ The neighbors woke up from of the scream of from the old man. |

### 12. Capitalize: Nationalities: = Asian, German, English, Dutch