

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 (Enumerations) ⇒ **Erstens – First, Zweitens - Second, (Then, After that,)**
7. Infinitive constructions:⇒ I learned **to keep** cool. (Ich lernte ruhig zu bleiben)
8. When writing letters:

Form:

Dear ...,

A big explosion...

...

...

Love, / Yours,
Timmy

Rules:

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

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a real astronaut, a town • an astronaut, an explosion, an old town
there/ their/ they're	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (to) make mistakes • (to) do a job
become / get	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • become a football star (werden) • get money; get sick/ill
some(thing) / any(thing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • like bei Vergleichen. He is just like you. • - How (Fragewort WIE?) in questions How are you?
life / live	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • much when it's uncountable (much milk, luck, money) • many when it's countable (cars, pupils, dollars)
ago / before	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'He came home 2 hours ago' ⇒ 2 hours before NOW! • '2 hours before he came home, he was in London.' ⇒ Can be years ago
will/want	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I will visit him ⇒ Ich werde ihn besuchen • I want to visit him ⇒ Ich will ihn besuchen
to / too	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Now I go to the cinema. (Jetzt im Moment = Gegenwart) • Then I saw that he kissed another girl (NOT now!!)
of / from (G: von)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

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