

GET IT RIGHT!

UNIT 1

Habits in the present

Learners often incorrectly use *use(d) to* when talking about present habits.

- ✓ At school, classmates **tend to** discuss the TV programmes which they watched the night before.
- ✓ At school, classmates **will** discuss the TV programmes which they watched the night before.
- ✗ At school, classmates ~~use to~~ discuss the TV programmes which they watched the night before.
- ✓ Kate **is always taking** my pen and not giving it me back!
- ✗ Kate ~~use to~~ take my pen and not giving it me back!

In all of the sentences, *use(d) to* is incorrectly used in order to talk about present habits. Rewrite the sentences using an appropriate form for talking about the present. Try to use a variety of different forms in your answers.

- 0 Teenagers use to behave quite rebelliously.
Teenagers tend to behave quite rebelliously.
- 1 People use to form close relationships with friends they have most in common with.

- 2 My older brother always used to tease me. It's so annoying!

- 3 My sister often gets on my nerves as she uses to borrow my clothes without asking.

- 4 Jenny says that her biology teacher always uses to pick on her. It makes her quite upset.

- 5 Annoyingly, my best friend uses to act rather self-centredly so we sometimes fall out.

- 6 Elderly people often use to have traditional values.

UNIT 2

would rather

Learners often make mistakes with *rather*, failing to use *would/d* when talking about preferences, and using it unnecessarily in other structures.

- ✓ They **would rather** watch videos than play football.
- ✗ They ~~rather~~ watch videos than play football.
- ✓ Many boys dream of becoming politicians, whereas girls **would rather** become journalists.
- ✗ Many boys dream of becoming politicians, whereas girls would rather ~~prefer to~~ become journalists.
- ✓ Do you know where I can have a coffee, or perhaps a beer?
- ✗ Do you know where I can have a coffee, or perhaps ~~rather~~ a beer?

All of the sentences contain errors with *rather*. Rewrite the sentences correctly.

- 0 Can we meet a bit later? I rather have a lie-in tomorrow morning if you don't mind.
Can we meet a bit later? I'd rather have a lie-in tomorrow morning if you don't mind.
- 1 Would you have a siesta now or go to bed early tonight?

- 2 Teenagers need more sleep rather than adults.

- 3 I rather I wasn't such a light sleeper. I tend to wake up several times during the night.

- 4 Tom's girlfriend has been complaining that Tom's tiredness has made him grumpy and forgetful. Tom would rather prefer not annoy his girlfriend so he's decided to get more sleep.

- 5 Some dreams have more meaning rather than others.

- 6 Kate would rather prefer to take a nap now than later.

UNIT 3

Conditionals

Learners often use **would** in the **if**-clause when it's more accurate to use the past simple or past perfect.

✓ *If I'd known, I wouldn't have said anything.*

✗ *If I would've known, I wouldn't have said anything.*

Tick the sentences which are correct and rewrite the incorrect ones.

- 1 If Jo hadn't been too ill to play, I might not have had the chance to get on the team. ☐
- 2 The car wouldn't have broken down if you would have had it serviced. ☐
- 3 We would be rich now if we would have won the lottery. ☐
- 4 If they didn't think I was capable of taking on the role, they wouldn't have asked me to step in. ☐
- 5 John really would have been pushing his luck if he would have asked Sam to help him. ☐
- 6 If the photographer wouldn't have photographed the heron he would have missed the woodpecker flying past. ☐

UNIT 4

Cleft sentences

Learners at this level often avoid using emphatic structures such as cleft sentences.

✓ *It's often the unexpected that makes us laugh. (The unexpected often makes us laugh.)*

✓ *What makes us laugh is often the unexpected.*

Rewrite the sentences using **What ...**, **It's ... that ...** or **All ...** to add emphasis.

- 0 A sense of humour is simply the ability to see the funny side of things.
All *a sense of humour is, is the ability to see the funny side of things.*
- 1 The misfortune of others often makes us laugh.
What _____
- 2 The actions of just two members of the team have made us all a laughing stock.
It's _____

- 3 Ollie laughed his head off when he saw his teacher playing air guitar to a rock song.
What _____
- 4 They don't understand that we will have the last laugh.
What _____
- 5 Simon only said that the show was hilarious.
All _____
- 6 Many people enjoy watching funny videos on YouTube and it isn't a secret.
It's _____

UNIT 5

Gerunds and participles

Learners often use a gerund when a past participle should be used and vice versa.

✓ *Cooked properly, Brussels sprouts can taste really nice.*

✗ *Cooking properly, Brussels sprouts can taste really nice.*

✓ *Based on their recent exam results, all the students will probably do well.*

✗ *Basing on their recent exam results, all the students will probably do well.*

✓ *Talking loudly, the students walked down the corridor.*

✗ *Talked loudly, the students walked down the corridor.*

Choose the correct option.

- 1 *Jumping / Jumped* out of her chair, she said, 'Let's go!'
- 2 *Discovering / Discovered* in time, a lot of serious illnesses can be cured.
- 3 *Catching / Caught* outside in the thunderstorm, we ran for shelter under some trees.
- 4 *Seeing / Seen* from far away, the mountain path didn't look that long.
- 5 All this noise is making me *confusing / confused*.
- 6 The new stuntman is a real daredevil *comparing / compared* with the last one.

UNIT 6

Modals

Learners often confuse the different modals – **may, might, can, could, will, won't**.

✓ I hope you **will** like it.

✗ I hope you ~~would~~ like it.

✓ You **won't** believe it when you see it.

✗ You ~~can't~~ believe it when you see it.

Correct the error and rewrite the sentences.

- 0 I will be grateful if you could help me tomorrow.

I would be grateful if you could help me tomorrow.

- 1 If Jenny wears that outfit tonight she would be the centre of attention!

- 2 Although I am interested in reading about celebrities, I will not describe myself as obsessed.

- 3 When people suffer from Celebrity Worship Syndrome, they won't function properly in their normal lives.

- 4 You wouldn't find much difference between those two celebrities. They're both famous for doing very little!

- 5 I asked if she can help me stay out of the limelight at the party.

- 6 You will be an up-and-coming child actor, but you still have to do your homework!

UNIT 7

Substitution

Learners at this level often avoid using substitution with words such as **so, neither, either, that, those, ones**. This can make sentences sound repetitive.

✓ People's idea of beauty is very different to **that of** 100 years ago.

✗ People's idea of beauty is very different to their idea of beauty 100 years ago.

Rewrite the sentences using substitution.

- 0 Fiona is going to buy some new trainers this weekend. She's going to buy the trainers she saw on sale. (ones)

Fiona is going to buy some new trainers this weekend. She's going to buy the ones she saw on sale.

- 1 Some people find these kinds of activities fun, but I'm not someone who finds these activities fun. (those)

- 2 The survey revealed that none of the students exercised more than twice a week and the teachers didn't exercise more than twice a week. (neither)

- 3 It brings a smile to my face when I see the delight on a baby's face or on a child's face when they eat chocolate for the first time. (that)

- 4 I get shivers down my spine when I watch a horror film and Becca gets shivers down her spine too. (so)

- 5 Tom doesn't agree with people having plastic surgery for cosmetic reasons and also Sally doesn't agree with people having plastic surgery. (either)

- 6 A Do you think I'll lose weight if I take up running?
B Yes I think you'll lose weight if you taking up running. (so)

UNIT 8

Relative pronouns with determiners

Learners often confuse the different relative pronouns; **who, whom** and **which**.

✓ I'm the one **who** would be the best person to do that.

✗ I'm the one ~~whom~~ would be the best person to do that.

Rewrite the sentences correctly using **who, whom** or **which**.

- 0 There were about 100 people at the conference, many of who came from Russia.

There were about 100 people at the conference, many of whom came from Russia.

- 1 He spoke in broken English, most of who I was unable to understand.

- 2 As well as speech, people communicate with gestures and facial expressions, both of what can greatly aid understanding.

- 3 My grandad spoke a northern dialect compared to whom standard English might seem like a different language!

- 4 I met several people at the party, one of which was the most conceited person I've ever met!

- 5 Mandy might have brought her hairdryer with her, in what case I'll borrow it from her.

- 6 Oliver has had many jobs, but interpreting for the United Nations was the job to whom he dedicated himself the most.

UNIT 9

Negative inversion

Learners at this level often avoid using negative inversion or use it incorrectly. Typical learner mistakes relate to word order or the omission of the auxiliary after a negative or restricting adverb.

- ✓ **Never have I** heard such rubbish!
- ✗ ~~Never I have~~ heard such rubbish!
- ✓ **Little does she** know he's not who he says he is.
- ✗ ~~Little she knows~~ he's not who he says he is.

Rewrite the sentences beginning with the negative or restricting adverb given, paying attention to word order and including any necessary auxiliaries.

- 0 The members of the jury had never heard such a story before.
Never before had the jury heard such a story.
- 1 The defence lawyer didn't realise that her client would be found guilty.
Little _____
- 2 The witness gave false evidence, but also committed the crime himself!
Not only _____
- 3 People don't often think it's fair to be able to pay to jump a queue.
Rarely _____
- 4 The children are absolutely forbidden to go in there – it's where I'm keeping all their Christmas presents.
Under _____

- 5 The thief made a full confession and then immediately retracted it.
No _____
- 6 The witnesses did not withhold evidence – that did not happen!
On _____

UNIT 10

Reporting verbs

Learners often use the wrong preposition, omit the preposition, or make mistakes with verb patterns after reporting verbs.

- ✓ He accused me **of** cheating in the exam.
- ✗ He accused me ~~for~~ cheating in the exam.
- ✓ They decided **to go** to the beach.
- ✗ They decided ~~going~~ to the beach.

Rewrite these incorrect sentences correctly.

- 0 I need to congratulate Emma for the great presentation she did in class today.
I need to congratulate Emma on the great presentation she did in class today.
- 1 The politician denied to have promised a reduction in student fees.

- 2 In the end, the government agreed for a change in the school curriculum.

- 3 Chloe invited Georgina for the wedding.

- 4 The researcher confessed altering the test results in order to show a better outcome.

- 5 Helen suggested me that we go ice skating.

- 6 My dad insisted to pick me up after the party.

UNIT 11

Passive with get

Learners often use **get** in passives, using it with stative verbs or adjectives where **be** should actually be used.

✓ The baby **was** very loved by its parents.

✗ The baby **got** very loved by its parents.

Tick the correct sentences and rewrite the incorrect ones.

- 0 Tom gets thought to have a bit of a temper, but he's actually quite calm. ☐
Tom is thought to have a bit of a temper, but he's actually quite calm.
- 1 Jim got knocked over by a cyclist the other day. ☐
- 2 The fence got broken by a motorist who crashed his car. ☐
- 3 Which road user gets more liked – the cyclist or the motorist? ☐
- 4 After a week at the sports camp, I'm sure we'll get exhausted by all this exercise. ☐
- 5 Mrs Summers got disappointed with her son. He had promised to give her a lift to the station, but he didn't turn up. ☐
- 6 The film got enjoyed by all who watched it. ☐

UNIT 12

Future in the past

Learners often make errors when referring to the future from a past perspective, using **will** instead of **would** or **is/are going to** instead of **was/were**.

✓ I thought I **would** be sick.

✗ I thought I **will** be sick.

✓ Everyone believed he **was** going to leave school, but he didn't.

✗ Everyone believed he **is** going to leave school, but he didn't.

Tick the correct sentences and rewrite the incorrect ones.

- 1 Jack and Chloe are going to eat at the Italian restaurant, but they changed their minds and went to the Chinese instead. ☐
- 2 You said there would be plenty of legroom, but there wasn't. ☐
- 3 He is going to leave school, but not until he's taken his exams. ☐
- 4 Sally and Jim are going to go on a round-the-world trip, but their plans fell through when Sally's father fell ill. ☐
- 5 If I'd known I am going to fail so spectacularly, I wouldn't have bothered trying! ☐
- 6 Did Mike really think that I will invite him to my party? ☐