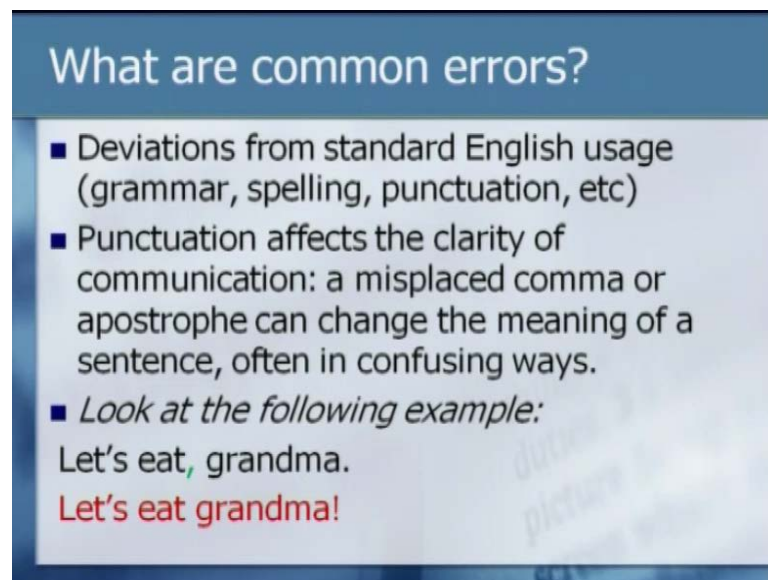


Communication Skills
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Lecture - 39

Hello and welcome to NPTEL's course on Communication Skills, we are actually discussing about Common Errors. This is module number 12 and lecture number 2 on common errors this is a continuous lecture from the one that I started in the previous day.

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What are common errors?

- Deviations from standard English usage (grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc)
- Punctuation affects the clarity of communication: a misplaced comma or apostrophe can change the meaning of a sentence, often in confusing ways.
- *Look at the following example:*
Let's eat, grandma.
Let's eat grandma!

Now, let us look at some more errors and then before we look at some more errors, let me ask you the same question once again, what are common errors? So, I gave a simple definition for common errors in the previous lecture; common errors are deviations from standard English usage. Now, the deviations can happen in terms of grammar, in terms of spelling, in terms of pronunciation, in terms of punctuation.

So, the standard usage and then the moment you deviate from it and then cost confusion to sophisticated uses of English, so you are committing common errors. Now, why you should overcome them, I already already told you that, there are certain advantages. But, again before going to the advantages, I want to tell you even punctuation, which most of us ignore can also play hay work in your effectiveness to communication, if you ignore it.

Punctuation affects the clarity of communication, if it is not handle properly, a misplaced comma for example, or apostrophe can change the meaning of a sentence and offend in confusing ways. Look at the following example that I have shown here, a simple use of punctuation and not using it, look at the first sentence which is very clear let's eat grandma.

So, this is an invitation, request asking grandma to come and sit with a children and then may be the children are requesting the grandmother saying that, let us eat please come grandma. So, let us eat, the comma is suggesting that, calling the grandma is a different activity but look at the next one, it is creating a very disaster and funny situations let's eat grandma, meaning let us eat grandmother. So, it is ridiculous, it is not possible unless the children happen to cannibals and humanly not possible.

But, forget the illogical one, the error is cost because of, the misuse of comma or not using comma here at all, to distinguish that, the meaning is different from, what is implied when the comma is removed. So, take care of this punctuation, apostrophe so even when you use inappropriately, it can cause lot of confusion. Now, keeping this in mind let us look at, what advantages you will get, if you are able to use communication effectively by avoiding common errors.

Now, effective communication actually realize on use of grammar, spelling and punctuation so your grammar if it is accurate, spelling is correct and punctuation, there is no misgivings then the communication automatically becomes effective. Now, in that case, avoiding common errors ensures your speech as well as writing and it gives clarity, and it makes them precise, compensable and free from ambiguity.

So, when you speak, the speech will be free from ambiguity, which means you say one thing and the audience will not understand, that you are saying something other than what your trying to convey, they do not misunderstand the meaning of, what you intend. So, they take what you mean so there is no sense of ambiguity, it is clear, it is precise and it is free from sense of ambiguity, while you speak, while you write.

So, that amounts to good communication then how about the readers or your audience, when you use good communication, when you speak clearly, when you speak without mistakes, actually the readers and audience will not notice it. This is an interesting fact, they will not notice as long as the communication goes very smoothly and very

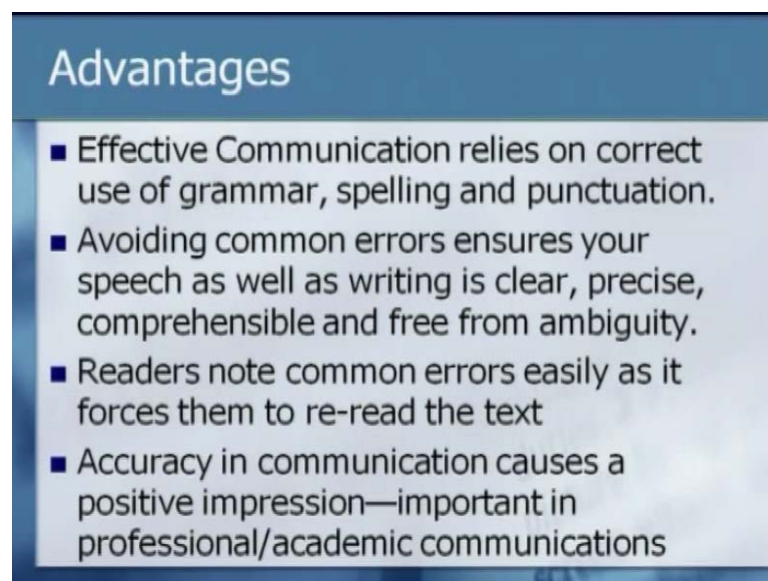
spontaneously, and without any hitch in terms of communication errors, they will not notice it.

But, they will notice it, they will observe if you commit some errors in terms of grammar, spelling, punctuation, pronunciation. And if it is so glaring, and if it makes them re read the material or it makes them stop your communication and seek pardon from you, for asking you to repeat it again then you are likely to have committed common errors, some errors at least.

So, the interesting fact is, when the grammar is good and the usage is proper, and you are able to make proper pauses, the audience will not stop you, the audience will not even notice that you are a good communicator because the communication is going very smoothly. However, the audience will take note if you are a bad communicator in terms of English language usage.

So, this you should keep in mind, if audience are rebelling you when you give a talk or if your readers come and tell you that, your writing is unintelligible, you should know that you are careless in terms of maybe committing spelling mistake errors, maybe you are not creating the usual situation, in which good communication should happen in terms of avoiding common mistakes. So, readers note common errors easily, as it forces them to re read the text or it forces them to stop you and ask you to repeat it.

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Advantages

- Effective Communication relies on correct use of grammar, spelling and punctuation.
- Avoiding common errors ensures your speech as well as writing is clear, precise, comprehensible and free from ambiguity.
- Readers note common errors easily as it forces them to re-read the text
- Accuracy in communication causes a positive impression—important in professional/academic communications

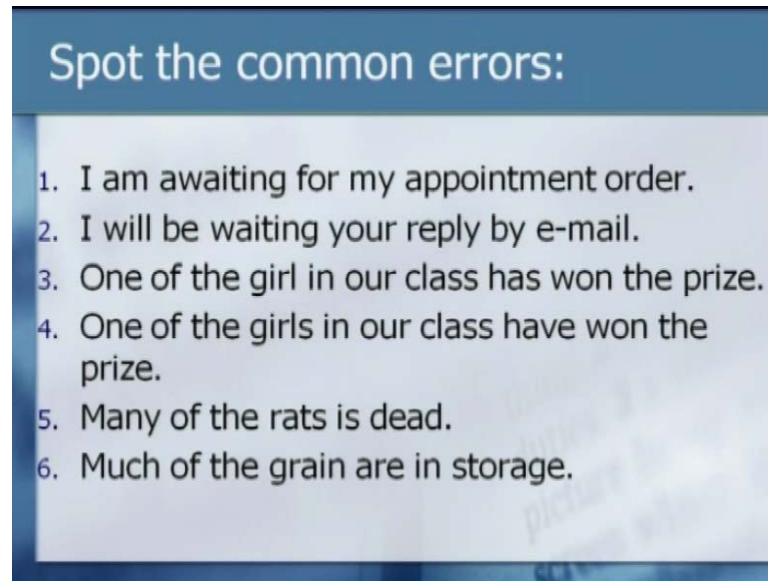
Then, accuracy in communication, if you follow it, it causes a positive impression, I said they will not stop you so they will read it smoothly whatever we have written. But, at the end of it, it is causing a very good impression they feel good, they feel that they understood whatever we have written. That gives a kind of satisfaction, they relish the material that you have given, they feel good to listen to you, it is making them feel happy, there is a good sense of comfort, that you have given at the end of your communication.

Now, because of this, people go with a positive impression and sometimes, it can also cause this lasting impression. Now, they keep remembering the talk, that you gave or the material that you wrote because it was free from any kind of common errors. They go with an impression and they go with a favorable impression, and they go with the lasting impression, they think of coming back to you or whatever request or demand that you put, they want to respond to that in a very favorable manner.

And of course, you know very well that, giving causing that kind of favorable impression is very important in professional as well as in academic communication situations. And of course, I keep telling you, it not just professional and academic, also in personal level a communication it is important but it is all the more important in professional and academic communications. So, you have to keep thinking about the fact that, you need to create positive impression and if you want to be successful in your professional and academic communication levels.

Now, spot the common errors you been trying now so I am going to give you more examples so let us look at at least about 15 sentence at to go. First, I am going to start with 6 sentences, which are frequently used but then not properly used. Look at them one by one, take a piece of paper, note at least the common errors so that, when I come and discuss with a answers to you so you will be able to even score your level of communication in terms of comprehension, in terms of intelligibility you can just accessed various styled.

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Spot the common errors:

1. I am awaiting for my appointment order.
2. I will be waiting your reply by e-mail.
3. One of the girl in our class has won the prize.
4. One of the girls in our class have won the prize.
5. Many of the rats is dead.
6. Much of the grain are in storage.

First sentence, I am awaiting for my appointment order I am awaiting for my appointment order second, I will be waiting for your reply by email I will be waiting for your reply by email. Third, one of the girl in our class has won the prize one of the girl in our class has won the prize sentence number 4, one of the girls in our class have won the prize, this two sentences are similar except there is a difference in the noun and the verb usage.

So, note it, one of the girls in our class have won the prize next sentence, many of the rats is dead many of the rats is dead the following sentence, much of the grain are in storage much of the grain are in storage. Take a look and then note down the errors, underline the errors and I am just going to discuss the answers and explanations with you.

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Answers & Explanations

- ❌ 1. I am **awaiting for** my appointment order.
✓ I am **awaiting my** appointment order.
- ❌ 2. I will be **waiting your** reply by e-mail.
✓ I will be **waiting for your** reply by e-mail.

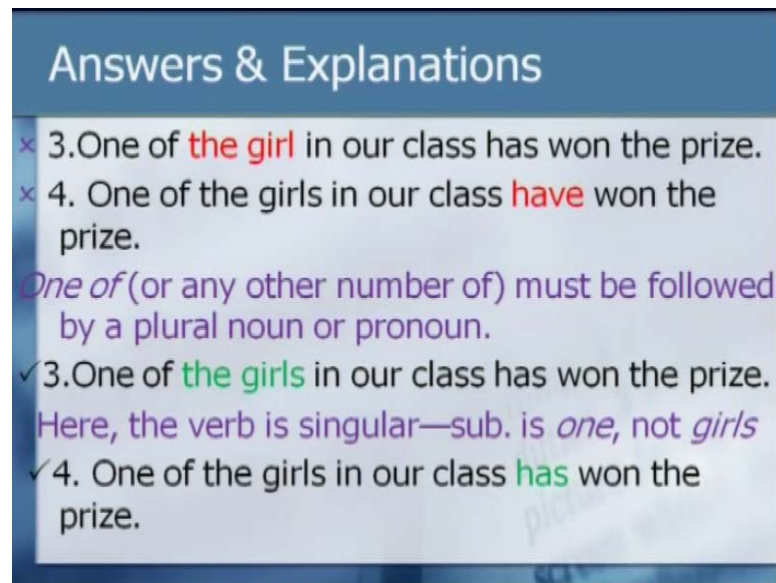
await is a transitive verb—so, it can have a direct object (**I await your reply**).

wait is an intransitive verb and cannot have a direct object; so a preposition, usually FOR, must be added.

Let us go one by one, the first one, the error is at awaiting for, I am awaiting for my appointment order now, awaiting for, we discussed before also that, awaiting will not take for because await is a transitive verb. So, it can have a direct object, it need not have the preposition in between, it can the object directly. So, the correct answer is, I am awaiting my appointment order, I await your reply, I am awaiting my appointment order, I await your reply so it can take the direct object my, your, there, etcetera.

Whereas, in case of the usage of the word wait or waiting, look at the given example, I will be waiting your reply by email, waiting your is wrong because the correct form is, I will be waiting for your reply by email, waiting will take the preposition for, in the sense of awaiting. So, wait is an intransitive verb and cannot have a direct object so it needs to have that preposition in between the object and the preposition, that is usually used is, for and it must be added. Especially, if you used wait in the sense of awaiting so for is used so waiting for your reply by email.

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Answers & Explanations

- × 3. One of **the girl** in our class has won the prize.
- × 4. One of the girls in our class **have** won the prize.
- One of (or any other number of) must be followed by a plural noun or pronoun.*
- ✓ 3. One of **the girls** in our class has won the prize.
*Here, the verb is singular—sub. is **one**, not **girls***
- ✓ 4. One of the girls in our class **has** won the prize.

Look at the next example or the two examples dealing with one of, the error here is in the part of the usage of the noun, one of the girl in our class has won the prize. Now, one of the girls in our class have won the prize so the error is in the first part, the girl in the second sentence the error is in the verb part, have. Now, let us look at the reasons for these errors, first one of or any other number of, it can be to of, many of, the majority of now, all these once, whenever you use in terms of number of, in that sense, it must be followed by a plural noun or pronoun so that is the convention.

So, if you say one of, always it is one of the boys, one of the girls, one of the teachers, one of the chairs, one of the tables, two of the girls, three of the children. So, the next part that is, the noun or the pronoun should be always in the plural form now, if you look at that rule. So, the first one is, define that rule and the reason error committed here, it should be one of the girls, one of the girls in our class has won the prize so there is the error there.

So, usually you tend to think, one of look singular and so you should have a singular noun or pronoun, which is incorrect. So, one of the girls also means only one girl, not many girls so she is the only one, whom you are referring to. Now, look at the next one, the first part is correct, one of the girls that first part is correct one of the girls in our class so as per the rule it obeys.

But, look at the second part where, the verb is used have won the prize now, the error committed here is thinking that, girls is a plural form should agree with plural form of the verb have, is wrong, is incorrect. Because, one of the girls in our class has won the prize is the correct answer for the reason, has agrees with one of the girls indicating both are singular subjects, here the verb is singular because subject is one, not girls. Even, one of the girls is referring to one singular girl, not the girls in plural form, in collective form.

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Answers & Explanations

- × 5. Many of the rats is dead.
- × 6. Much of the grain are in storage.

Many refers to number, and is plural. Hence—

- ✓ Many of the rats are dead.

Much refers to amount or quantity, and is singular. Hence—

- ✓ Much of the grain is in storage.

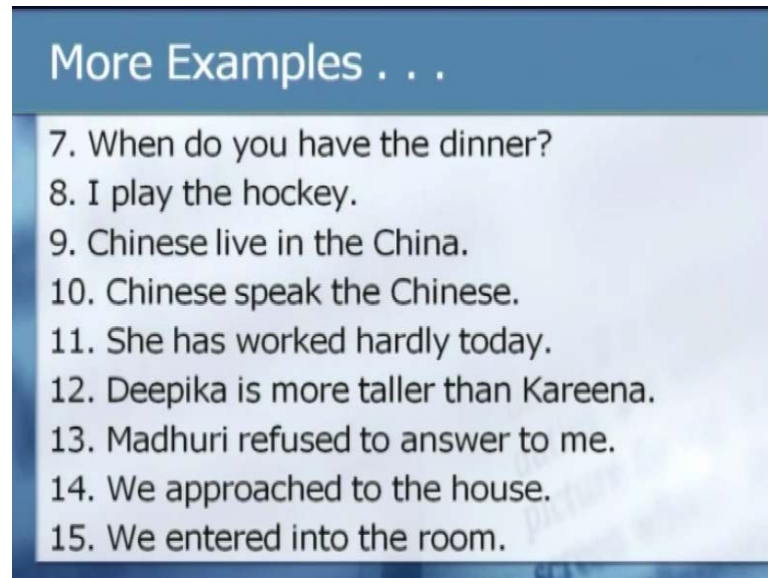
So, the correct form is, one of the girls in our class has won the prize one of the girls in our class has won the prize so one, has so that is the agreement so that solves this error. Look at the next one, many of the rats is dead, what is the error here and why the error has been caused, first let us look at the error from that angle so that will make you remember, why it has been cost. If you look at it many and since it was said before, that whenever this plural form is there, you should use the plural verb.

Now, here many refers to number, just like one was referring to a singular one, here many refers to many in number, the plural form and is plurals. So, if you use the previous logic, thinking that one you used to singular form so here also, we will use a singular one then it becomes an error because here many is plural and hence, many of the rats are dead.

So, many plural plural form agrees with are, plural form of the verb similarly, if you want to use much, in terms of referring to amount or quantity, you cannot use many and

you should use much only, much refers to amount or quantity and a singular unlike, many. So, hence much of the grain is in storage so much of the grain are in storage is incorrect because much although in a sense, is indicating large quantity in terms of subject verb agreement, is singular. So, it will take a singular verb, not are but is so the correct answer is much of the grain is in storage, shall we go to the next sentence.

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More Examples . . .

7. When do you have the dinner?
8. I play the hockey.
9. Chinese live in the China.
10. Chinese speak the Chinese.
11. She has worked hardly today.
12. Deepika is more taller than Kareena.
13. Madhuri refused to answer to me.
14. We approached to the house.
15. We entered into the room.

So, next let us look at few more sentence at a stretch so there are about totally 15 sentences right now and 6 we have seen, let us go to the sentences from 7 to 15 one by one, seventh one when do you have the dinner. When do you have the dinner? if you think some error is there underline it then we discuss the answer soon look at the next one, I play the hockey I play the hockey underline the error, spot the error and 9, probably there are two errors in this one or you can spot easily more than one error in some of the sentences.

Look at this, Chinese live in the China, there are two errors in this, Chinese live in the China, a very simple sentence looks easy to say but then there are two errors, identify the two errors and both of them are commonly committed errors. Look at number 10, Chinese speak the Chinese, which means Chinese people speak Chinese language so that sense, Chinese speak the Chinese.

Identify the errors, again there are two errors in this one, look at the next one, the eleventh one she has worked hardly today, what you wanted to say is, saying put in

strenuous work, she worked rigorously in that sense, and you wanted to say that so she has worked hardly today, very rigorous work. Now, twelfth one, Deepika is more taller than Kareena, Deepika is more taller than Kareena identify the error, 13 Madhuri refused to answer to me Madhuri refused to answer to me. And 14, we approached to the house we approached to the house and fifteenth one, we entered into the room we entered into the room, hope you have quickly identify the errors, let us look at the answers and explanations.

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Answers & Explanations

× 7. When do you have **the** dinner?
the is **NOT USED** before the names of meals in general, routine sense.

✓ When do you have dinner?

the is used is it specifies the meal
The dinner will be held at the Taj Hotel.

Now, the seventh one, very interesting one when do you have the dinner?, it is very easy to say this but the article the, is not used before the names of meals in general or in a routine sense. You usually ask when do you have dinner? When do you go for breakfast? What do you had for breakfast? I have breakfast at 07:00 AM in the morning in all these cases, the article is not used. But, you will also use the, if you particularize it, if you specify the meal, if it is a special meal or if it is arranged for a particular occasion, if you specify that particular one, which is unusual than the general ones that you been routinely taking each day.

So, then there is a difference then you use the in this case, the dinner will be held at the Tajmahal hotel or the dinner will be held at the Taj hotel. Now, here this dinner is not referring to the usual dinner, that you have every night but this is referring to a special dinner that is, given on a special occasion. And then the venue is specified here, this can

also mean the dinner will be held at the Taj hotel, but the lunch will be served somewhere, the breakfast for tomorrow will be served in a different venue.

So, here each case, the meals happen to be specified, so when it is specified only, you use the but in a general sense, in a routine sense, you should not use the article the.

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Answers & Explanations

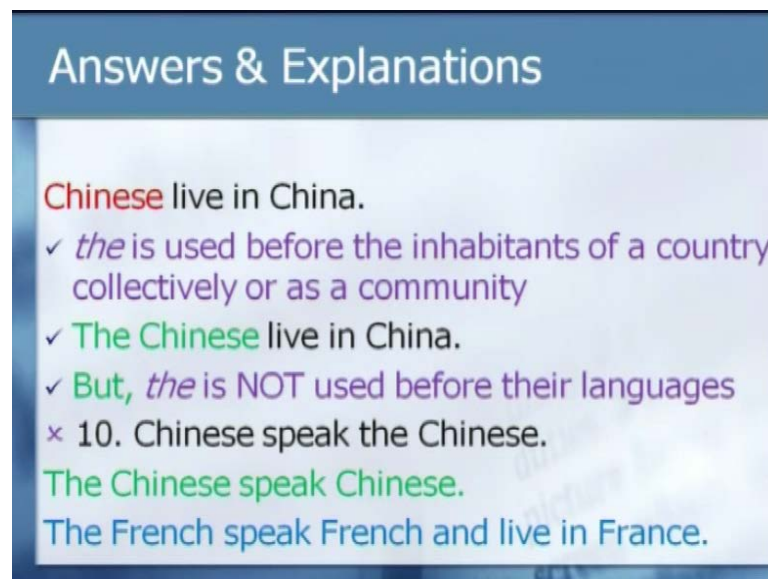
- × 8. I play **the** hockey.
the is not used before names of games
- ✓ I **play** hockey. (chess, cricket, tennis, etc)
- × 9. **Chinese** live in **the** China.
✓ *the* is not used before the names of countries
- ✓ **China, France, Italy, India**
- ✓ **But, the** is used before a country that is made up of smaller units or constituent parts
- ✓ **The United States, the Netherlands, the U. K.**

Look at the next one, again an interesting example in terms of use of articles, I play the hockey now, most of you play hockey you know that, you must be using this kind of expression. But then the is not used before names of any games, it is not used before names of games, it is not just I play hockey without the, you should also say I play chess, I play cricket, I play Carrom board, I play tennis, I play badminton, I play basketball so all these games will not take the article the.

Look at the next example, again interesting because there are two errors in this and then as I said these two are commonly used errors. Chinese live in the china now, look at the first one, I am starting with a one on the right side, the is not used before the names of countries. So, you cannot say, the China, the France, the Italy, the India, the Germany if you actually want to refer to the country, you cannot say. Before the proper noun of the name of a country, the cannot be used so here, the correct form is, without the, it is China.

Now, let us come to the first part very soon but before that, you should know one more exception to this rule, the exception to the rule is, the is used before a country, that is made up of smaller units or constituent parts like the United States of America, the USSR before, the united kingdom, the Netherlands. I mean, all these cases, they are constituent parts of the nation or they are put up by smaller parts, smaller units put together now, in that sense, the is used otherwise, normally, when you refer to any country with regard to the name of the country, the is not used.

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Answers & Explanations

- Chinese live in China.
- ✓ *the* is used before the inhabitants of a country collectively or as a community
- ✓ The Chinese live in China.
- ✓ But, *the* is NOT used before their languages
- × 10. Chinese speak the Chinese.
- The Chinese speak Chinese.
- The French speak French and live in France.

Now, this part I corrected, Chinese live in China so this part is clear, it is corrected but what about the first part, Chinese, is it right? No, if you are using that in terms of referring to the people, is not correct. Look at this rule, the is used before the inhabitants of a country, collectively or as a community, when you refer to them collectively or as a community, when you are trying to specify them in the communal sense then the should be used.

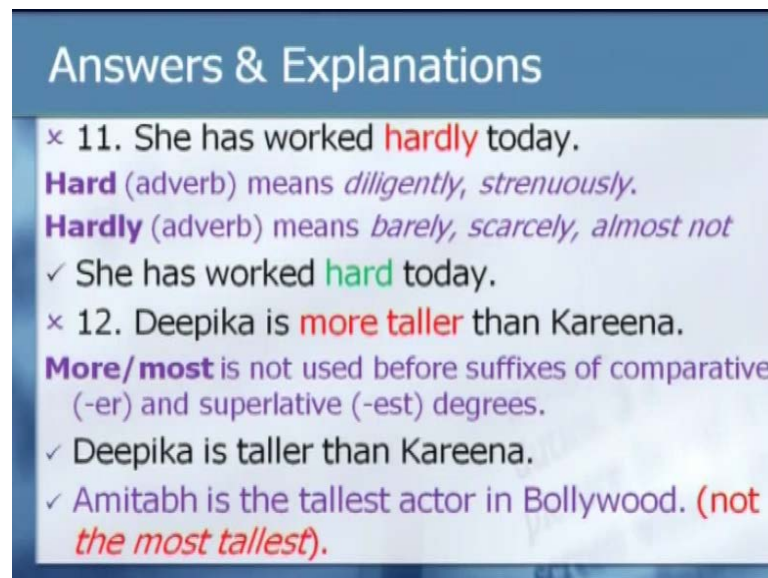
So, the correct form is, the Chinese live in china the Chinese live in china so here, article is required here article is not required. But, the is not used before their languages, when you talk about their language just as a name, noun so then it is not used which means, you do not say Chinese speak the Chinese. If you refer to the Chinese as language, it is incorrect, it will be Chinese only, referring to the language. So, here similar example is,

the French speak French and look at the previous part, Chinese in terms of the people is also wrong.

So, it should be, the Chinese referring to the people, speak Chinese their language so when it is language, the is not required, when it is people, the is required. Now, look at this complete sentence three different uses, the French refer to the people, the French people, speak French referring to the language where, article is not required and living France again is not, the France, article is not required here because it is referring to the country.

So, if you remember this sentence, will not commit lot of errors, keep remembering this sentence, it will help you to avoid article errors when you talk about countries and their people and of course, their language is also.

(Refer Slide Time: 27:03)



Answers & Explanations

× 11. She has worked **hardly** today.
Hard (adverb) means *diligently, strenuously*.
Hardly (adverb) means *barely, scarcely, almost not*

✓ She has worked **hard** today.

× 12. Deepika is **more taller** than Kareena.
More/most is not used before suffixes of comparative (-er) and superlative (-est) degrees.

✓ Deepika is **taller** than Kareena.
✓ Amitabh is the **tallest** actor in Bollywood. (**not the most tallest**).

Look at the next example, she has worked hardly today she has worked hardly today now, most of you know the difference, you do not commit this error but I just want you to note this, this is still a commonly committed error. Because, people do not distinguish between hard and hardly now, both are adverbs, hard means diligently, strenuously, rigorously, working very hard the sense, working very strenuously, taking lot of efforts.

But, hardly ironically, interestingly is the opposite of hard it means, barely, scarcely, almost not, you can say never, seldom in that sense, very rarely, bare minimum, not even

that so in that sense, hardly is used. So, when you want to praise somebody for the fact that, the person worked very hard and when you say hardly, you maybe actually insulting the person. When you say, she has worked hardly today, you actually mean she did not work at all, when you wanted to praise her and say, she has worked in really hard.

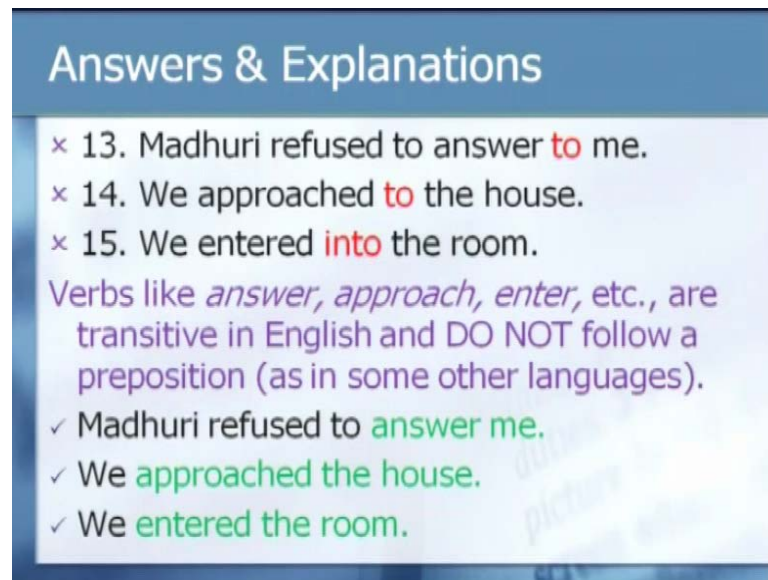
Now, the correct form is, she has worked hard today now, look at the next example, Deepika is more taller than Kareena, what is the error here. In terms of using degrees of comparison, when you use the comparative and superlative degree usually, you form them by adding the suffixes er or est, so fat fatter and est, fattest, funny funnier funniest and so on.

Now, you generally add these ones to form in terms of degrees of comparison so the next levels higher and the highest levels, more and most is not used before suffixes of comparative and superlative degrees, which is causing redundancy. And then it is reviling that, you are not a very better and skilled user of the English language, for sophisticated users so it will be a kind of aberrant.

So, what is the correct form, Deepika is taller than Kareena it means, one and the same as, when you try to say more taller, you are again referring to the same thing. But, probably you think that, you will put more emphasis, when you add more or most but it does not actually served a grammatical or communicative purpose. Sometimes, it can cause confusing or it can create a bad impression about you, people may think that you are a very poor communicator.

Now, come to the next one, similar example Amitabh is the tallest actor in bollywood, it is not the most tallest. You should not use most here before this superlative form, you I hope you get my point.

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Answers & Explanations

- × 13. Madhuri refused to answer **to** me.
- × 14. We approached **to** the house.
- × 15. We entered **into** the room.

Verbs like *answer, approach, enter, etc.*, are transitive in English and DO NOT follow a preposition (as in some other languages).

- ✓ Madhuri refused to **answer me**.
- ✓ We **approached the house**.
- ✓ We **entered the room**.

Look at the remaining examples of course, all the remaining three are also wrong examples deliberately given to you, with some common error or other. Now, all of them are patterning to one set of common errors, the usage of prepositions when they are actually not required. Look at the sentences first, Madhuri refused to answer to me, we approached to the house, we entered into the room, I have highlighted these prepositions in red color.

So that, you understand that, they are the wrong ones and they are not required here in this context, what is the reason, what is the explanation. Verbs like answer, approach, enter, etcetera are transitive in English which means, they can take the direct object or the direct one that is, just next to them immediately. Preposition need not come in between so in this case, they do not follow a preposition, preposition is not placed in between.

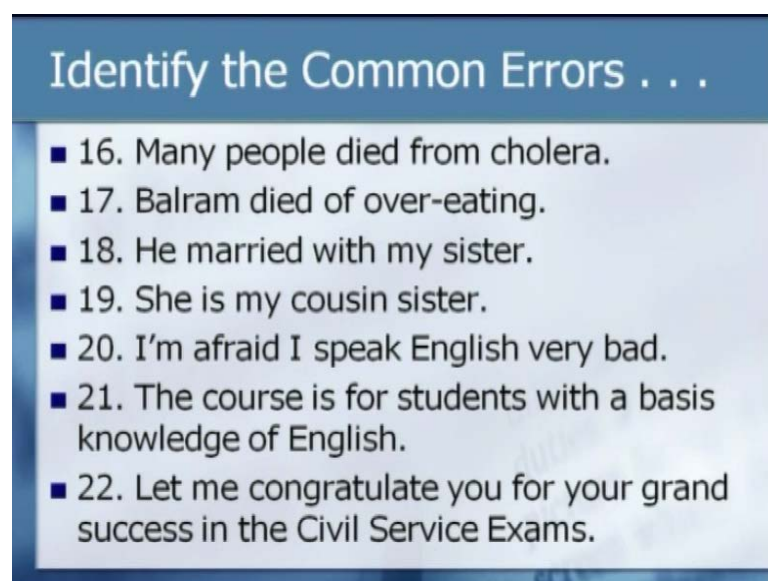
But, in some other languages, if you literally translate that, in most of the Indian languages, we use preposition in such cases and we tend to translate that into English and then we think that, using the preposition make sense then we commit the error. So, translating from sometimes, mother tongue to the native language, English language, native speakers the language often can cause problem, if you do it directly without comparing the grammatical rules in both the languages.

Now, here similar problem has happen so what will be the correct form, Madhuri refused to answer me is perfectly fine, there is no need to add that to, answer to me, answer me. We approached the house, no need to say, we approached to the house, we entered, into is not required, you can simply say, you entered or we entered the room, it sounds perfectly normal without using this into.

So, these are errors generally, we commit when we try to literally translate, what we want to speak in English from our own languages. So, what it means, that pay attention to the grammatical rules of the language, that you want to use for communication in this case, English and comparisons are fine, you can compare that with your mother tongue. But then try to see and understand the differences and once you know the difference, try to internalize, try to take it inside you by repeated reading, writing, speaking and correcting your own errors.

Correcting the errors of, in some of your cases, your students or your friends, you correct the errors and then you point out to them some of the common errors, which you are committing. Because, you happen to be a speaker of this language, which you learnt after stage, when you have learnt your mother tongue so you are not able to get the rules directly. So, if we are able to do this so you will keep on improving your language ability in terms of, minimizing common errors.

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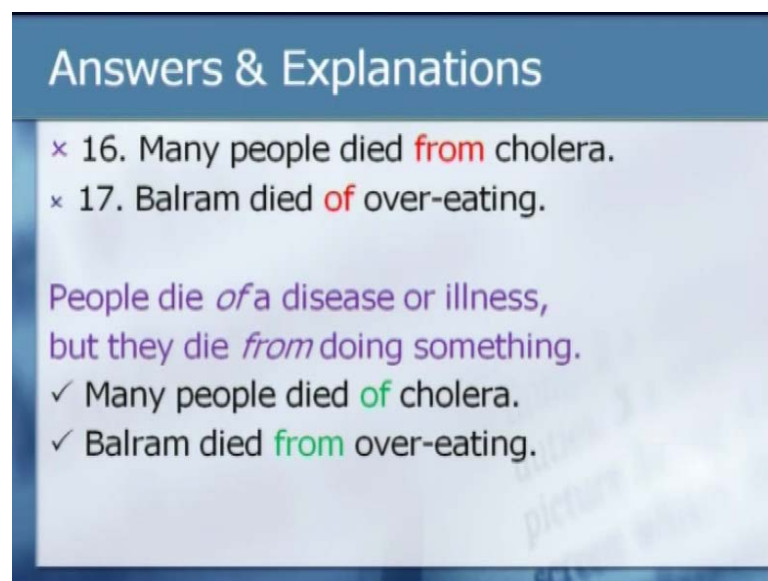
Identify the Common Errors . . .

- 16. Many people died from cholera.
- 17. Balram died of over-eating.
- 18. He married with my sister.
- 19. She is my cousin sister.
- 20. I'm afraid I speak English very bad.
- 21. The course is for students with a basis knowledge of English.
- 22. Let me congratulate you for your grand success in the Civil Service Exams.

Let us look at some more sentences, identify the common errors in these sentences, look at them one by one, as it said keep a piece of paper and then you can just mark the errors immediately and then we look at the answers and explanations. Look at sentence number 16, many people died from cholera many people died from cholera 17, Balram died of over eating Balram died of over eating.

18 he married with my sister he married with my sister, 19 she is my cousin sister, 20 I am afraid I speak English very bad I am afraid I speak English very bad, 21 the course is for students with a basis knowledge of English the course is for students with a basis knowledge of English, twenty second let me congratulate you for your grand success in the civil service exams let me congratulate you for your grand success in civil service exams I hope you are identified at least some of the errors, cross check with me whether the answers are correct or not.

(Refer Slide Time: 35:51)



Answers & Explanations

- × 16. Many people died **from** cholera.
- × 17. Balram died **of** over-eating.

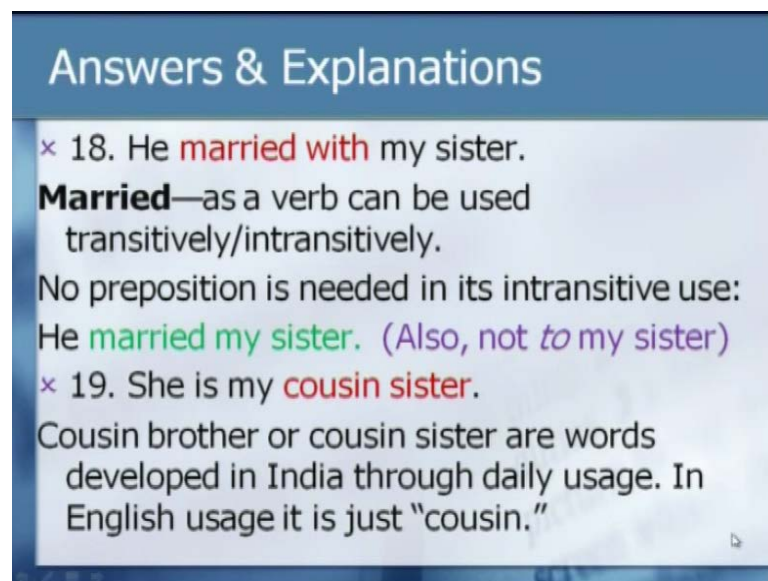
People die *of* a disease or illness,
but they die *from* doing something.

- ✓ Many people died **of** cholera.
- ✓ Balram died **from** over-eating.

Look at the first two sentences, both are related to each other especially, this is with regard to using the word died and what preposition goes with that, is it from of or can both we used to different senses. So, the answer is, the first and the second both are wrong in this usage, 16 many people died from cholera, from propositionally it is wrong usage and 17 Balram died of over eating, again died of over eating is also wrong, the preposition of is incorrectly used here.

Now, what are the correct answers and what is the logic behind this now, generally when you talk about people dyeing, people die of a disease or illness. So, people die of cholera and this is the correct one, you can say, many people died of cholera, so and so died of malaria, she died of typhoid, he died of cancer, you can use any disease illness. But then the preposition that should go before is, not from but of. Now, in the other case, when generally you refer to the people dying from doing something then the preposition from comes. As in this case, the correct one is from so Balram died from over eating so he did this and he died so from over eating whereas, when it is disease it is of.

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Answers & Explanations

× 18. He **married with** my sister.
Married—as a verb can be used transitively/intransitively.
No preposition is needed in its intransitive use:
He **married my sister**. (Also, not *to my sister*)

× 19. She is my **cousin sister**.
Cousin brother or cousin sister are words developed in India through daily usage. In English usage it is just "cousin."

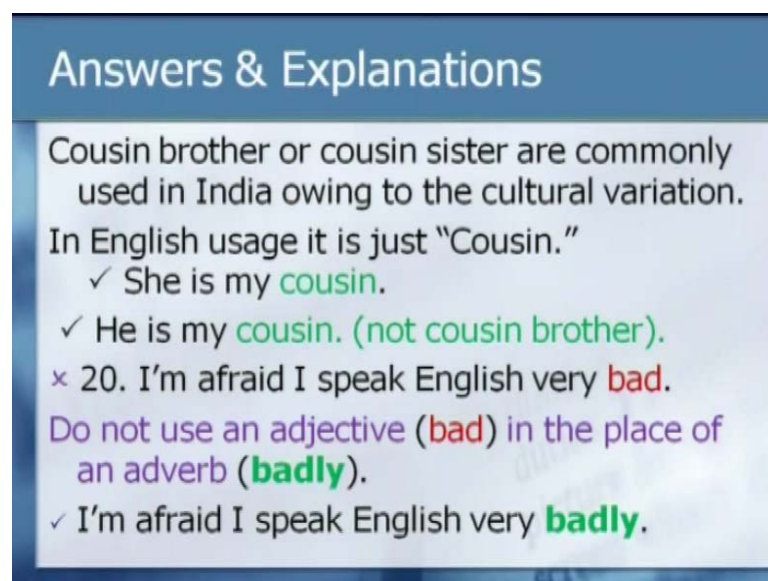
Look at the next examples, he married with my sister is a very common error that, people commit frequently, he married with my sister. With regard to the usage of the word married, married as a verb can be used in the transitive or the intransitive manner so it can be used transitively or intransitively. But, when you use it in intransitive sense, no preposition is needed in intransitive use so the correct answer is, he married my sister, not with my sister, not to my sister.

Even some people say, he married to my sister, which is also wrong, he married with my sister is also wrong. Prepositions are not required, when it is used in the intransitive form so we can say, he married my sister or she married my brother, not with or to, remember that. Look at the next interesting example, which is again a very common error

particularly, you will realize now that, some of the common errors or common because of, our cultural background also.

This is one typical example saying, she is my cousin sister or is my cousin brother now, what is the error, here the error is, with regard to the usage of cousin sister, which is not acceptable by the native speakers because there is no such usage of cousin sister, cousin brother, it is simply cousin. So, cousin brother or cousin sister are words developed in India through usage now, English usage it is just cousin.

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Answers & Explanations

Cousin brother or cousin sister are commonly used in India owing to the cultural variation. In English usage it is just "Cousin."

- ✓ She is my **cousin**.
- ✓ He is my **cousin**. (not cousin brother).
- × 20. I'm afraid I speak English very **bad**.

Do not use an adjective (**bad**) in the place of an adverb (**badly**).

- ✓ I'm afraid I speak English very **badly**.

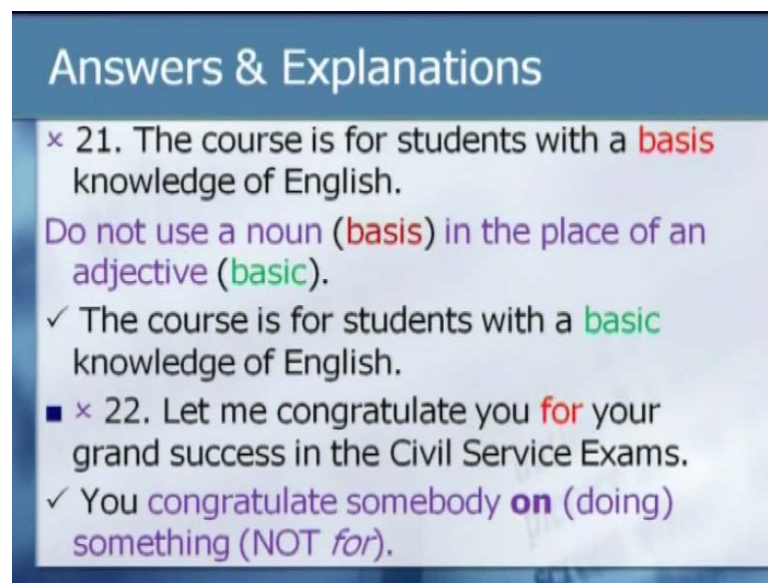
Now, if you look at it and ask why it is so why it is commonly used in India and why it is not used in u k or the US the reason is, of a cultural variation. In India so every rickshaw puller or an auto driver you will say, brother or some even unknown person you use the term sister to call. Now, in US, relationships are very constructed to the closed circle so others are just cousin and whether it is male or female, that is indicated of course, by the names or when the names are used, people understand whether it is or what is the gender of the person, to whom it is address to.

So, in our case, we just add it to indicate the gender and then we also kind of relate it usually, in terms of sister or brother, which is incorrect in standard English. So, in English usage, it is just cousin, the correct form is, she is my cousin, he is my cousin it is not he is my cousin brother, it is simply he is my cousin. Look at the next example again,

I am afraid I speak English very bad now, what is the error here, the adjective bad is used in place of the adverb, badly.

So, speaking very badly, so the adverb is qualifying this, the act of speaking in a very bad manner. So, bad is wrongly used, it should be badly, so the correct form is, I am afraid I speak English very badly.

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Answers & Explanations

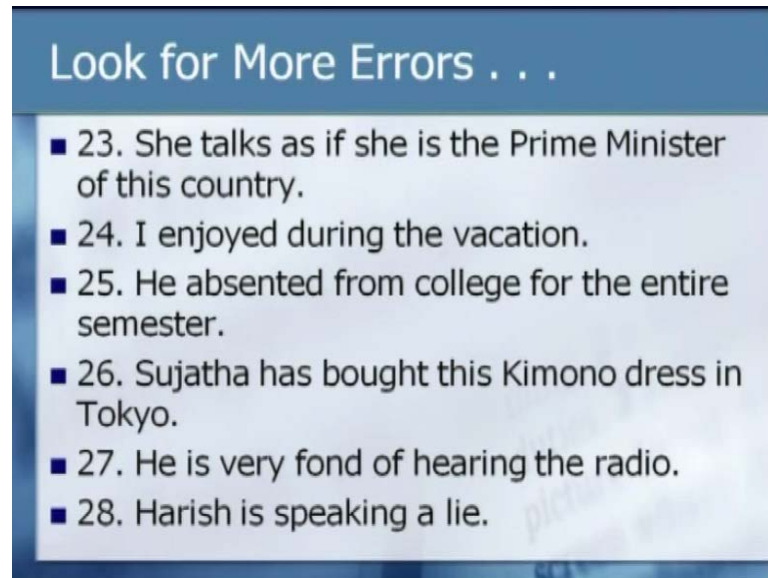
- × 21. The course is for students with a **basis** knowledge of English.
Do not use a noun (**basis**) in the place of an adjective (**basic**).
- ✓ The course is for students with a **basic** knowledge of English.
- × 22. Let me congratulate you **for** your grand success in the Civil Service Exams.
✓ You **congratulate somebody on** (doing) something (NOT *for*).

Let us look at next few examples, 21 the course is for students with a basis knowledge of English now, here again error of using adjective or noun instead of, the one using the others. Look at this, do not use a noun that is, basis in the place of an adjective basic, confusing noun with adjective and in the previous case, it was the adjective with adverb. So, do not make such confusions, which will lead to a common error so the correct form is, the course is for students with a basic knowledge of English the course is for students with a basic knowledge of English, not basis and the next example is equally interesting and commonly misused by most of us.

That is, with regards to the usage of the word congratulate and what is a preposition that follows, definitely not for that is why, I had indicated by red color and it is a wrong usage. Let me congratulate you for your grand success in the civil service exams, for is wrong usage why because you congratulate somebody on doing something, not for. So, the correct form is, let me congratulate you, on your grand success in the civil service exams, on congratulate you, on your golden jubilee, fifth wedding anniversary and so on.

You can congratulate somebody on, not for so remember that now, let us look at some more errors in these sentences and will close this lecture on this. And then I will come back with another lecture with some more interesting examples.

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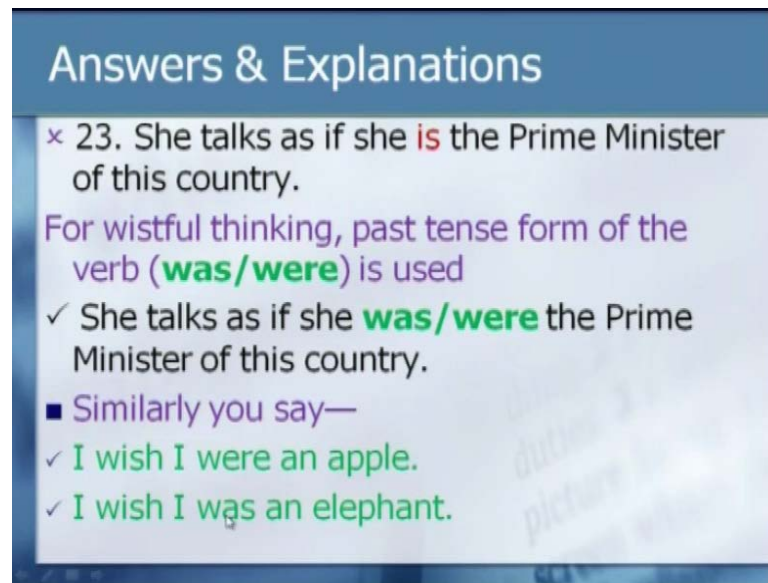


Look for More Errors . . .

- 23. She talks as if she is the Prime Minister of this country.
- 24. I enjoyed during the vacation.
- 25. He absented from college for the entire semester.
- 26. Sujatha has bought this Kimono dress in Tokyo.
- 27. He is very fond of hearing the radio.
- 28. Harish is speaking a lie.

Look at sentence 23, she talks as if she is the prime minister of this country she talks as if she is the prime minister of this country, next one 24 I enjoyed during the vacation, it something that, we usually say I enjoyed during the vacation so what wrong in this, identify. So, 25 he absented from college for the entire semester, this is again commonly used by students, he absented from college for the entire semester.

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Answers & Explanations

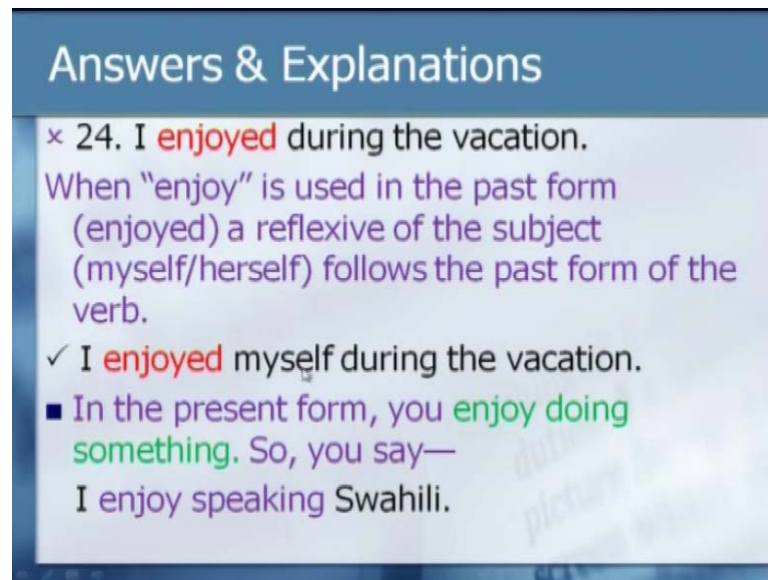
- × 23. She talks as if she **is** the Prime Minister of this country.
For wistful thinking, past tense form of the verb (**was/were**) is used
- ✓ She talks as if she **was/were** the Prime Minister of this country.
- Similarly you say—
 - ✓ I wish I **were** an apple.
 - ✓ I wish I **was** an elephant.

26 Sujatha has bought this kimono dress in Tokyo Sujatha has bought this kimono dress in Tokyo, 27 he is very fond of hearing the radio, again a commonly misused word is here, he is very fond of hearing the radio, identify the error. 28 Harish is speaking a lie Harish is speaking a lie, have you done it, let us look at the explanations very quickly. 23 she talks as if she is, the usage of the verb is, here is wrong, the prime minister of the country is, is wrong because generally for wistful thinking, wistful thinking is you wish that you can be somebody, you can be something you dream of becoming somebody something but you actually cannot be in reality so that is, wistful thinking.

For wistful thinking, past tense form of the verb either it was, was or were is used so this can be corrected like she talks as if she was the prime minister of this country or she talks as if she were the prime minister of the country, both are accepted. Now, similarly, you say, I wish I were an apple, so you have a nursery rhyme beginning with this sentence, I wish I were an apple, there are also lyrics related to the next one, I wish I was an elephant.

So, look at the usage of were and was indicating wistful thinking, not is not I wish I am an apple, I wish I am an elephant so that is wrong usage.

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Answers & Explanations

× 24. I **enjoyed** during the vacation.

When "enjoy" is used in the past form (enjoyed) a reflexive of the subject (myself/herself) follows the past form of the verb.

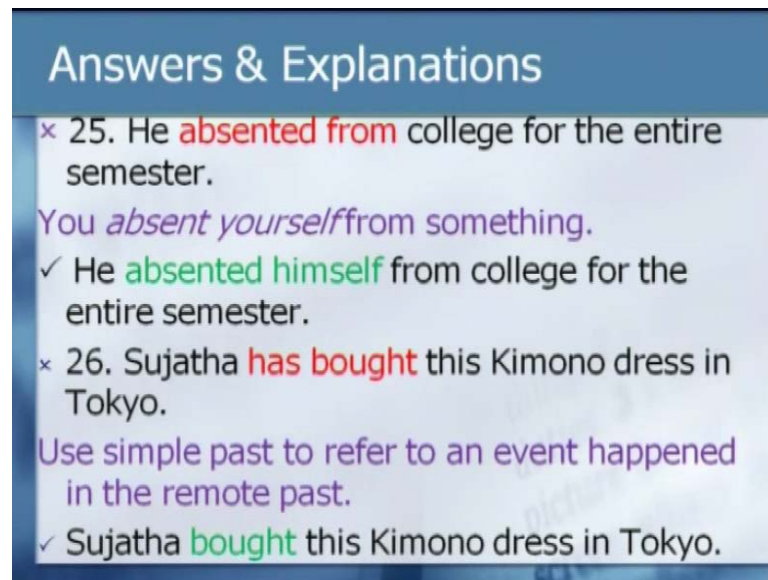
✓ I **enjoyed** myself during the vacation.

■ In the present form, you **enjoy doing something**. So, you say—
I enjoy speaking Swahili.

Look at 24, I enjoyed during the vacation is again a common error with regard to usage of the word enjoyed because when enjoyed is used in the past form that is, enjoyed, a reflexive of the subject either myself, herself, himself follows the past form of the verb. So, I enjoyed myself during the vacation, so this myself is required here, if you do not use it then it becomes an error, I enjoyed myself during the vacation.

In the present form that is, simply when you use enjoy, not the past form when enjoyed, you enjoy doing something. So, you say, I enjoy speaking Swahili, I enjoy speaking French, I enjoy speaking foreign languages so you enjoy doing something.

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Answers & Explanations

× 25. He **absented from** college for the entire semester.
You absent yourself from something.

✓ He **absented himself** from college for the entire semester.

× 26. Sujatha **has bought** this Kimono dress in Tokyo.
Use simple past to refer to an event happened in the remote past.

✓ Sujatha **bought** this Kimono dress in Tokyo.

Look at 25, another interesting example, he absented from college for the entire semester here again, you have to use the reflexive pronoun. You absent yourself from something you absent yourself from something, which means the correct form here he absented himself from college for the entire semester. Look at the next one, Sujatha has bought this kimono dress in Tokyo now, if we use simple past to refer to an event happened in the past that is, in the remote past, you should not use present perfect, present continues when something has happened in the remote past, use only simple past.

So, the correct form here is, Sujatha bought this kimono dress in Tokyo so it was bought long before so over. So, do not have to use the present perfect form, as if it is just purchased recently.

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Answers & Explanations

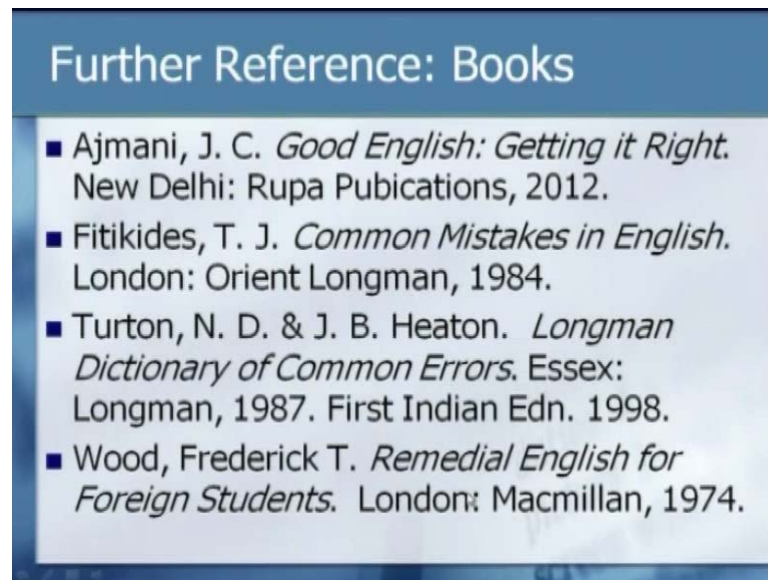
× 27. He is very fond of **hearing** the radio.
✓ He is very fond of **listening to** the radio.
listen (to) = hear and pay attention (to)

28. Harish is **speaking** a lie.
You 'tell the truth', 'speak the truth' and 'tell a lie' but '**speak a lie**' is incorrect.
✓ Harish is **telling** a lie.

Now, the last two sentences for this lecture, he is very fond of hearing the radio, again the misuse of the word hearing, he is very fond of listening to the radio. The difference between hearing and listening to, if you remember, if you are listen to the lectures carefully we already talked about during the lectures on listening skills. So, hearing, it was told to you, it is just physical, biological but it has nothing to be paying attention but when you hear physically and also pay attention, you are registering something in your mind, you are accumulating certain ideas, you are enjoying something.

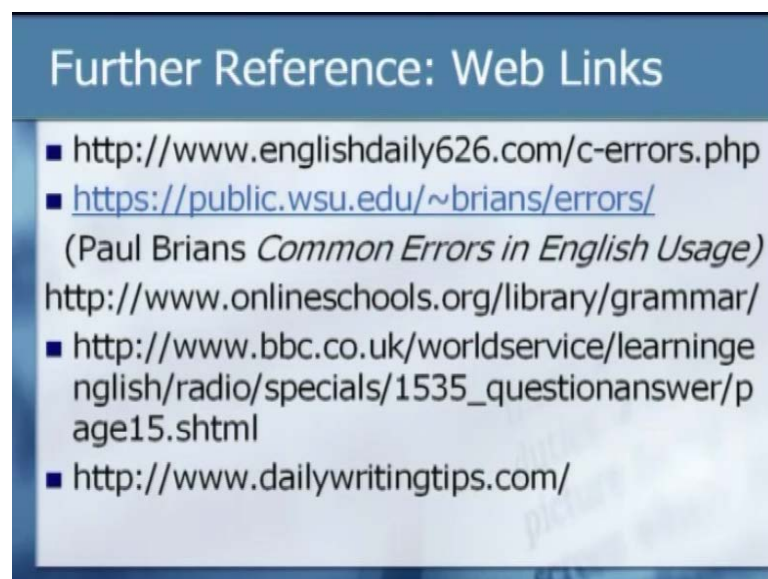
So, then actually you are listening to so the correct answer is, he is very fond of listening to the radio, listening to means hear and pay attention to. And finally, Harish is speaking a lie now, here the error is with regard to usage of the word speaking, you tell the truth, speak the truth and tell a lie but speak a lie is incorrect. You see, how interesting is this, you tell the truth, you speak the truth that means, Harish tells the truth, Harish speaks the truth or Harish is speaking the truth, Harish is telling a lie is also acceptable. But, Harish is speaking a lie is not acceptable in standard usage and it is incorrect so the correct form is, Harish is telling a lie.

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So, once again, go back to the books that I suggested. So, get them, keep them as reference materials, one more book that I have added, compare to the list that I showed to you before, is another old book. But, a very useful book especially, if you are a learner of English from an Indian context, Frederick Woods Remedial English for foreign students, it was published again way back in 1974. But, it actually takes care of the cultural variations, the problems that Indian speakers will have when they speak foreign language, English in particular.

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And then the common links, that I showed to you are the same one, which you can refer to again and again especially, when you have doubt. Even, you can go to the BBC site, you can put your doubt and then you will ask the question and then you will get an answer also. We will meet again in the final lecture on this module that is also, on common errors and I will slightly go for, slightly tougher examples so till then I say bye and take bye from you, all the best.

Thank you.