

**Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur**

**National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL)**

**Course Title  
Enhancing Soft Skills And Personality**

**Lecture - 23  
English Skills-3: Common Errors-3  
by...  
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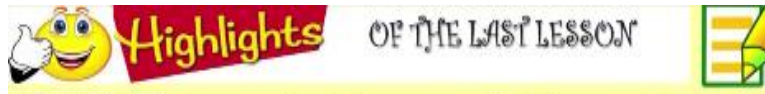
Hello everyone welcome back to my course on enhancing soft skills and personality this is Big Five and Iran the third unit.

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And as far as English skills contents are concerned again we are on the third module and we are discussing about common errors and this is lesson number 23 now today again I am going to give you.

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In the last lesson, you checked your score for 20 commonly confused words and learnt about the correct usage of the following words:

English, the English; résumé, resume; alone, lonely; childish, childlike; principle, principal; suit, suite; economic, economical; personal, personnel; alternate, alternative; there, their.

✓ To test your English further, I gave you 20 commonly misused words/expressions in everyday usage.

✓ We will learn about the correct usage of them in this lesson.

Dr. T. Raghavender, Professor, IISDapatnam, VT Kanya, India

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20 more sentences which normally you commit mistakes in day-to-day language but before that what did we do in the last lesson you check your score for 20 commonly confused words and learnt about the correct usage of the following words English the English resume a resume alone lonely childish child like principal suit sweet economic economical personal alternate, alternative dare, dare pronunciation there is no difference but in terms of letter there and THEIR and in order to test you further.

I gave you 20 more commonly misused words expressions in everyday usage now we will learn about the correct usage of them in this lesson and then we will learn 20 more incorrect ones in the sense that I will give you 20 more for exercise and we will get it corrected in the next one now first take your answers as I said you just take your paper that you worked on the previous day one mark for each correct answer and 0 for each wrong answer at the end we can assess where you are the first one meet model he is my elder brother is a correct answer.

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**CHECK YOUR ANSWERS!**

Give the correct form of the underlined words:

1) × Meet Madhav. He's my older brother.

✓ Meet Madhav. He's my elder brother. While *elder* and *eldest* have the same meaning as *older* and *oldest*, use *elder* before a noun. You can use *older* and *oldest* after a connecting verb as predicative adjective (an adj. which comes after a linking verb, such as *is*, *am* or *were*). *Harish is older than me*.

2) × My sister-in-laws are coming for dinner tonight.

✓ My sisters-in-law are coming for dinner tonight. When you have more than one brother/sister-in-law, the correct plural form is *brothers/sisters-in-law*.

3) × Anjali's niece has grown up.

✓ Anjali's niece has grown. *Growing up* means coming-of-age. To suggest physical growth (like becoming taller), use *grown*.

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What is the explanation why elder and eldest have the same meaningless holder and oldest you use elder before a noun that is before a naming word like brother-sister so you use elder you can use older and oldest after a connecting verb as predicative adjective that is an adjective which comes after a linking verb such as is, I am or word example Harish is older than me so here you can use older it is followed by is and then than okay I hope it is clear to you now the next one is interesting the correct form is my sisters-in-law are coming for dinner tonight sister-in-laws is actually Indian English.

Indian is and which is commonly used but very incorrectly what is the explanation for using sisters-in-law in plural form when you have more than one brother sister-in-law the correct plural form is brothers sisters in law not in laws it should go with brothers sisters okay the third one correct form Anjali's sneeze has grown so the wrong form is grown up growing up means coming of age that is becoming physically matured to suggest physical growth such as indicating somebody has grown taller.

Before the time you saw the person so now you should use grown not grown up fourth one correct form.

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**CHECK YOUR ANSWERS!**

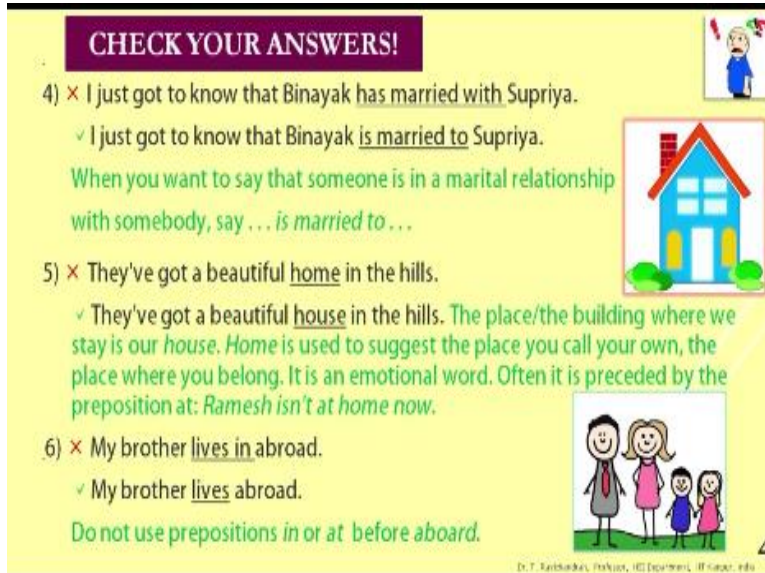
4) × I just got to know that Binayak has married with Supriya.  
✓ I just got to know that Binayak is married to Supriya.

When you want to say that someone is in a marital relationship with somebody, say ... is married to ...

5) × They've got a beautiful home in the hills.  
✓ They've got a beautiful house in the hills. The place/the building where we stay is our house. Home is used to suggest the place you call your own, the place where you belong. It is an emotional word. Often it is preceded by the preposition at: Ramesh isn't at home now.

6) × My brother lives in abroad.  
✓ My brother lives abroad.

Do not use prepositions in or at before abroad.



I just got to know that Binayak has married with supriya a strong form is married to Supriya is the correct form the word married generally goes with two and when you want to say someone is in a marital relationship with somebody when you indicate the relationship say is married to 51 the correct form they have got a beautiful house in the Hills not home in the hill what is the difference between house and home the place the building where we stay is our house the brick construction there is home is used to suggest the place you call your own the place you belong the place you live with your family members.


The place where you think your family is there not necessarily your blood relation wherever you feel at home so even you have heard of this expression you go to your strangest place and then while you are serving food they tell you please feel at home it means please feel that you belong to us you are part of this place and feel comfortable to ask for what you want or please feel free to serve yourself take whatever you want eat as much as you want so that is what they mean by saying please feel at home.


Home is an emotional word often it is preceded by the preposition act in an example like Ramesh is not at home now so be careful house indicates building home is coming with the emotional

belonging sense so do not confuse these two words the next one my brother lives abroad is the correct form not licks in abroad because you should not use prepositions particularly in or act before abroad seventh one.

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**CHECK YOUR ANSWERS!**

7) × I've been brought up in a joint-family.  
✓ I've been brought up (in an)/with my extended-family. The expression *joint-family* is an Indianism. The *Oxford English Dictionary*: *extended family* – "A family which extends beyond the nuclear family to include grandparents and other relatives." 

8) × Dad and I have a lot of things in common between us.  
✓ Dad and I have a lot of things in common. When you and someone else share interests, traits, etc. – you have *things in common* – which is a fixed expression. There is no need to add *between us*. 

9) × I have good relations with my customers.  
✓ I have a good relationship with my customers. *Relations* is a formal expression which is commonly used to talk about the interaction between countries or large groups of people, for example, 'relations between India and Pakistan.' *Relationship* is usually used to describe how individuals or smaller groups connect with each other, for examples: 'parent-child relationship,' 'teacher-student relationship.'

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This again related to Indian usage I have been brought up in a joint family is wrong as far as good English is concerned correct form as I have been brought up in an extended family the expression in the family in the sense of joint family is actually Indianism but the correct form is extended family and if you look at the Oxford English dictionary it defines extended family just in the way you think about joint family look at this definition a family which extends beyond the nuclear family to include grandparents and other relatives.

So use extended family although it might appear strange to your fellow colleagues friends and all that but you tell them this is a correct form and you can also correct them the 8<sup>th</sup> one dad and I have a lot of things in common if the correct form that between us in common between us so normally we say we have a lot of things in common between us so that is redundant that between us and especially when you and someone else share interests tried etc you have things in common it is a fix-it expression.



There is no need to add between us so ninth one the use of relations is incorrect here when you say I have good relations with my customers the correct form is I have a good relationship with my customers relation is a formal expression which is commonly used to talk about the interaction between countries or large groups of people for example relations between India and Pakistan relationship is used to describe how individuals or smaller groups connect with each other for example parent-child relationship or teacher-student relationship tenth one the wrong form is I have to care for my aged parents.

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**CHECK YOUR ANSWERS!**

10) × I have to care for my aged parents.  
✓ I have to care for my elderly parents. *Elderly is less formal and more polite than aged which means very old and weak.*

11) × People dream to visit the USA.  
✓ People dream of visiting the USA. *Dream of is a fixed expression and means hoping for something pleasant to happen.*

12) × Please excuse me. I didn't mean to step on your shoes.  
✓ I'm sorry – I didn't mean to step on your shoes.  
*Use excuse me for interrupting someone, introducing yourself to a stranger, or while seeking information.  
Use sorry when you have to apologise.*



The correct form is I have to care for my elderly parents elderly parents elderly is less formal and more polite than age which means very old and weak so age this indicating age with the associated negativity of becoming old and weak but elderly is giving some dignity and it sounds decent also so try to use elderly instead of saying a and so forth 11 if people dream of visiting the USA and it is wrong to say drink to visit the USA dream of is again a fixer expression and means hoping for something pleasant to happen.

So you cannot break that and insert to the next one is quite interesting you very often say please excuse me or even to call the attention of somebody you say excuse me as in the case of I did not

mean to step on your shoes but the correct form is I am sorry I did not mean to step on your shoes why because use excuse me for interrupting some other somebody is busy and then you are disturbing interrupting then you say excuse me especially when you have to introduce your face to your stranger or while seeking information but not in situations where you are just put your step on somebody where you should say sorry and not excuse me 13 wrong form is Ashok good in cricket.

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**CHECK YOUR ANSWERS!**

13) × Ashok is good in cricket.

✓ Ashok is good at cricket. "Good at" is used with an activity: good at painting/basketball/hockey. For school subjects you can use both good at and good in: good at Physics/Mathematics, good in Physics/Mathematics.

14) × Many times I see my neighbour cycling to my office.

✓ Very often I see my neighbour cycling to my office. Use many times only if you can count the number of times. Otherwise use often or very often.

15) × Last to last year I was in Bangalore.

✓ The year before last I was in Bangalore. Last to last is Indianism. To talk about something that took place before last week/month/year use the week/month/year before last.



The correct form is or Ashok is good at cricket now look at this face good it is used with an activity like anything that you do usually playing good at painting good at basketball good at hockey etc. Angeles for school subjects like mathematics physics chemistry you can use both good act and Good in so somebody can be good in mathematics as well as good at mathematics so you have good at physics good in physics both are correct 14 many times is wrong usage as in the sentence many times.

I see my neighbor cycling to my office the correct form is very often I see my neighbor's cycling to my office use many times only if you can count the number of times but when you cannot count the number of times such as something that is occurring frequently so use often or very

often very often to indicate that the frequency is higher often is just to indicate it occurring regularly the next error again mostly committed in non-English speaking countries lost to last year I was in Bangalore wrong form you should use the year before lost the year before lost I was in Bangalore lost to lost if Indian ism to talk about something that took place before last week last month last year use this form like the year before lost you say the week before last the month before loss etc.16 wrongfulness today morning I met Sheetal.

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**CHECK YOUR ANSWERS!**

16) × Today morning I met Sheetal.  
 ✓ I met Sheetal this morning. To talk about things which happened or are likely to happen in the same day you are speaking, use *this*.

17) × I will see you after a week.  
 ✓ I will see you in a week's time. When you want to say how long before something happens in the future, use *in ... time*.

18) × I didn't had my breakfast.  
 ✓ I didn't have my breakfast. Always use present form of the main verb after *did not/didn't*. Do not use *did not/didn't* with the past tense form of the main verb. × *did not went, did not bought ...*

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The correct form is I met Sheetal this morning even if you say this morning comma I met Sheetal it makes sense but it is proper to say I met Sheetal this morning I met Sheetal this afternoon this evening the explanation is to talk about things which happened or are likely to happen in the same day you are speaking use this next one I will see you after week after week is wrong usage correct one I will see you in a week's time when you want to say how long before something happens in the future .

Use in dash time that is in a week's time in a month's time in a year's time in a fortnight's time 18 atypical usage wrongly used frequently if I did not hide my breakfast correct form I did not have my breakfast listen always use present form of the main verb that is have hash so not had after



did or did not do not use did not linked with the past tense form of the main verb such as which you normally use in phrases like did not went instead of I did not go you will say I did not went did you buy that so you will say I did not bought it instead of saying I did not buy so be careful like after big it is always in the present form not in the past form 19 we have lived here since three years.

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**CHECK YOUR ANSWERS!** 

19) × We've lived here since three years.  
✓ We've lived here for three years. Use *since* to specify when something began: *since this morning, since 1966, since Monday*. To talk about *how long (duration)* use "for." E. G.: *I have been staying here for ten years.*

20) × I met Gauri three years before.  
✓ I met Gauri three years ago. *Ago* refers to the amount of time that has been spent before the present. *Before* also means the same but is used to count time from a point in the past—*We had read the book a year before it got the Booker prize*. It is used with the past perfect tense.

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Is the use of preposition things and for where people normally mistake between these two the correct form is we have lived here for three years use things to specify when something began like since this morning it has been raining heavily. Since nineteen sixty-six the price has been on the increase and so on since Monday since Tuesday so at a point of time and it is been continuing now usually since is used.

But to talk about how long that is the duration use for I have been staying here for 10 years and the last one from the previous lesson. I met Gowrie three years before is strongly used here the correct form is I met Gowrie three years ago. Ago refers to the amount of time that has been spent before the present before also means the same but it is used to count time from a point in

the past we had read the book a year before it got the book of price it is used with the past perfect tense.

Now check your answers check your score very quickly and then the score and your status in terms of your English if it is 20 it is outstanding.18 or 19 is excellent.15 to 17 is very good.12 to15 is good 10 or 11 is fine 8 and 9 averaged six to eight is below average for 27 is 40 to 3 is very poor. As I said you do not have to feel disheartened if your score is bit low because just started and if you are at the beginning level no problem.

Use the books and reference materials which are given to you suggested to you recommended to you and try to learn more common errors that generally you commit in your day-to-day communication. Observe our other speak and see what you speak and even when you observe how others speak you need to identify the common errors that even others it could be even your boss.

It could be somebody whom you respect in terms of the language and communication they have but they might be committing this common errors so be careful correct yourself correct others also. Let us go to the second part of today is lesson where I am just going to give you another set of 20 sentences again incorrect usage identify the correct usage and we just get them corrected in the next lesson.

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**TEST YOUR ENGLISH!**

Give the correct form of the underlined words:

- 1) I passed out in 2014 from my university.
- 2) I couldn't catch my teacher's English at all.
- 3) I want to learn English to go ahead in my career.
- 4) Please write your name on the top of the answer script.
- 5) I'll call you again in twenty minutes.
- 6) The bus-stop is in front of my house.
- 7) The climate in Delhi is quite humid this month.
- 8) I'm coming from India.
- 9) Nainital is about 6000 feet over sea level.
- 10) I put a plastic cover above the sofa.

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Now test your English give the correct form of the underlined word first one again it will found that you normally use this look. At the first one I passed out in 2015 from my university it is a normal thing most of the students say but find out what is wrong with this and what is the correct form and second especially in the northern part of the country the Hindi speakers typically say this and find out why and what is the correct form. I could not catch my teachers English at all.

Three I want to learn English to go ahead in my career the wrong part is go ahead. Four please write your name on the top of the answer script on the top of smart incorrect find out what is the correct form file. It is something that you say frequently I will call you again in 20 minutes call you again is underlined for wrong pot find out what is correct? Six the bus stop is in front of my house the something again you say normally but what is wrong with this usage in front of?

Seven again a very common mistake that has been committed by many people but just find out what is wrong in this the climate is underlined in Delhi is quite humid this month 8 it is also a commonly committed error. I am coming from India so coming from is underlined even you can change from am coming from. Okay nine it is all about 6,000 feet over sea level Cromley used word here is over find out what is the correct form?

Then I put a plastic cover above the sofa again the underlying word is able this find out what is the correct one. 11 the earthquake comma not the comma that will give you some clue about what is the correct answer that shoe to come on. So these two commas are indicating parentheses as if this is additional information in the bracket. I am just giving a clue as what is wrong with that?

That was eight point five on the Richter skill. 12 the judges gave awards to all poems which showed originality which is underlined here you need to check what is wrong with the usage of which here? 13 he lacks in confidence lacks is underlined find out the correct form. 14 where is my belongings it is underlined what the correct form is find out? 15 please give me blue pen I hope some of you know the answer most of you must know this answer something is missing identify what is missing?

Probably that should precede blooper I am giving you the clue. 16 he is a honest police officer underline for a honest identify the correct usage. 17 will I drop you to the station will is underlined what is wrong with the usage of wheel here you know the correct one you can write it or you check it and find out what is wrong with will I drop you to the station.

18 again a frequently committed mistake by students by non-native speakers of English despite of leaving station she had made all the arrangements for the conference despite of is underlined identify what is the correct form? 19 you can travel on bus to reach the her doom travel on honest underlined is it wrong if that is why it is underlined but then what is the correct form?

20 you are talking to Rajesh you where is underlined and it sounds familiar like all the time you ask questions they say you were talking to Rajesh this you wear what is wrong here so identify the correct answers and then in the next video let us check the correct answers and then go for slightly tougher ones.

Okay but you are also learning so I am just trying to create a kind of awareness in you as the common mistakes you commit and at the same time to kindle a thirsting. You to know what is

the right forum and how to make yourself look almost perfect in terms of your English skills let me wind up this lesson this lecture with a very motivating thought about learning anything.

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So I want to use it for learning language in particular this is from sorrow Galway what has she to say about learning. She says quote from her quote unquote learn everything you can anytime you can from anyone you can there will always come a time when you will be grateful. You did learn everything you can whether it is language learn everything you can about a language about the subject any time you can from anyone you can there will always come a time.

When you will be grateful you did so as far as learning is concerned the point made in this quotation is that you will never have any regrets you will never feel that you wasted your time learning something time never was wasted because you learned something you spend some time in learning something maybe that is not used at that particular point of time but a time will come and you will be grateful that you did learn.

That subject or that language so how do we relate that to our course and learning this English skills language so learn as much as possible with regard to the language and you will realize that



you will be able to use it at an appropriate time. The other interesting point is that the way the course has been given to you using this massive online open course program through videos.

So we are able to remove all the class boundaries we are not sitting within the four walls and then you are not coming to the classroom at a particular time but you are able to get the benefit of a lecture anytime that you want. So you just download and you are watching it the time that you want some of you are watching it the early in the morning some of you are watching it late at night some of you are watching just during afternoon and some of you are watching only during beacons that is fine.

But any time the time is at your disposal you are not going to a school or a college when the bell rings you are afraid that you should be inside the class and from anyone you can so if you don't like this video you have an option to go to some other coach do that anyone that is possible for you can learn from anybody. So this aim of MOOC course itself is to enable you to learn anywhere from the country anywhere from the world anytime that you want from anybody that you want.

So it just completely removes the barriers in terms of vaults in terms of human person in specific a particular teacher. So here you have huge choice now when this much choice is given to you it's important that you try to gain as much as possible from these courses. Try to accumulate as many certificates as possible also I used to tell that mere accumulation is not going to give you the wisdom.


But having said that this the process that is involved in accumulating this the assignments that you do the discussions that you have in the forum the kind of mindset that is undergoing a transformation from a very rigid mindset to your open and a growth mindset. So this is more important that is happening in the accumulation that is why I say even accumulating is not a bad idea.

As long as you enjoy the process of accumulation and will be grateful you did because as time goes by you will realize that your motivation is getting reduced your vapor is getting reduced by

your determination is getting reduced and you will be very grateful that actually you did something when you actually could. So with this note I will just tell you that keep going to the references that I have given you.

(Refer Slide Time: 27:37)

FOR FURTHER REFERENCE. . .



N D Turton & J B Heaton. Longman:  
*Dictionary of Common Errors*. Longman,  
1998.

\*Saumya Sharma. *Common Errors in English*.  
Oxford University Press, 2017.

\*Examples and explanations have directly been used from this book with permission from the author, Dr. Saumya Sharma.

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Particularly the book by Dr. Sonia Sharma from the book I have been quoting profusely by taking permission from the author common errors in English is the book and as I said it is\ very cheap I am just getting selected examples but there is plenty in the book and then I am just trying to highlight the most important one but just working out the entire book will make you much better.

Which like is not the main objective of the course so this is one part of the course that we are doing so I cannot like there is a complete course otherwise on English skills which I may do at a later stage but not at this stage. So here the primary goal is soft skills and within it is important we should know some common errors and in that context we are working on some of these books and examples.

So I hope you will be able to work out these 20 sentences and then you will come out with the answers will check those answers and your score in next video. Until then thank you for watching this video have a nice day bye for now see you again in the next video.

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