

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL)

**Course Title
Enhancing Soft Skills And Personality**

**Lecture - 24
English Skills-4: Common Errors-4**

**by...
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Hello everyone welcome back to entitle most enhancing soft skills and personality I am Ravichandran from the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences IIT Kanpur.

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I have been giving you this course now for the past 5 weeks this is the fifth week and the fourth unit English skills-4 is still going on and we are still in the concept of common error and this is the fourth lesson and on total this will be the 24th lesson overall as far as the course is concerned.

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Highlights OF THE LAST LESSON

☐ In the last lesson, you checked your score for 20 commonly confused words and learnt about the correct usage of the following words: older/elder; sister-in-laws/sisters-in-law; grown up/grown; has married with/is married to; home/house; lives in abroad/lives abroad; brought up in a joint-family/I've been brought up (in an)/with my extended-family; common between us/common; relations/relationship; aged/elderly; dream to visit/dream of visiting; please excuse me/I'm sorry; good in/good at; many times/very often; last to last/the year before last; today morning/this morning; after a week/in a week's time; didn't had/didn't have; since/for; before/ago.

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

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

Dr. T. Tumbakhar, Professor, HOD Department, IIT Kanpur, India 2

In the last class in the last lesson you check your score for 20 commonly confused words and learnt about the correct usage of the following words how they should be used in appropriate context older elder, sister in laws I am giving the wrong one on the left side and right on the right side or you can see the first one is you should be the wrong one and the second of the pair is the right one, sister-in-laws, sisters-in-law correct one, grown-up, groom has married with its married to, home house now here it depends on the use whether you are referring to the family with emotional content then it is home whether it is just the building it is house.

Lives in abroad wrong lives abroad right, brought up in a joint family joint families Indianism you need to say I have been brought up with my extended family even in an extended family is not exactly correct you can say I have been brought up with my extended family, extended family if what you mean by join family but join family is typical Indian nation which you should avoid common between a common so between us is redundant extra it can be removed, relations relationship, aged elderly age is indicating slightly negative connotation of weakness elderly is more decent.

Dream to visit dream of visiting because dream of is a fixed phrase please excuse me only when you have to interfere somebody in the work otherwise normally minor slips and errors it is I am sorry going good it depending on the context you need to use them many times when you have to say in terms of number otherwise it is very often last two last is not correct the year before lost is the correct form. Today morning is not right this morning after week when you want to say in a weeks time dink had this post immediately following big form is not correct it should be always present form.

Did not have and between things for since indicates a beginning and that has been continuing for quite some time for is for a duration of time and before and ago depending on the context and we found examples as how you can use them. Now to test your English further I give you 20 more commonly misused words expressions in everyday usage in the previous lesson now we look about the corrector usage of those expressions first and then again I leave you with another 20 commonly misused words and our expressions.

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CHECK YOUR ANSWERS!

Give the correct form of the underlined words:

1) × I passed out in 2014 from my university.
✓ I graduated in 2014 from my university.
(To) pass out means to become unconscious, to faint.

2) × I couldn't catch my teacher's English at all.
✓ I couldn't understand my teacher's English at all. *To use catch in place of understand is to translate directly from the Hindi pakadna. This is wrong usage!*

3) × I want to learn English to go ahead in my career.
✓ I want to learn English to get ahead in my career. *If you want to progress with your job or studies you want to get ahead in your job/career/studies and not go ahead.*

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Now check your answers I hope you have noted on all your previous answers and give one for the right answer and zero for the wrong answer and explanation is given very quickly briefly and

at the end of it I am going to give you another set of 20 commonly misused words. Now in the previous one give the correct form of the underlying work the first one is the wrong one I passed out in 2014 from my university passed out is wrong because to pass out means to become unconscious to faint so those days in the Victorian culture ladies used to pass out even at the sight of blood today we are fainting yes they were so delicate and tender.

But when you want to say that you graduated say you graduated that you completed your degree I graduated in 2014 from my university. Second one I could not catch my teaches English at all or catch if typical North Indian usage especially the speakers of Hindi they use this the correct form for catch is understand our cooking understand my teachers English at all to use catch in place of understand is to translate directly from the Hindi puckerred now, now this is wrong usage so this is the problem that happens when you try to literally translate one word, group of words or vocabulary in a language to other language or the sentence structure or the grammatical pattern in a language into another language.

You cannot literally translate so you have to be very carefully you need to think in that language if you want to speak English if you want to correct your English skills so you need to watch how these native speakers are speaking and then you need to correct your own speaking style. Third one I want to learn English to go ahead in my career go ahead a strong usage the correct usages to get ahead explanation if you want to progress with your job or studies you want to get ahead in your job or you want to get ahead in your career you want to get higher in your studies and not go ahead.

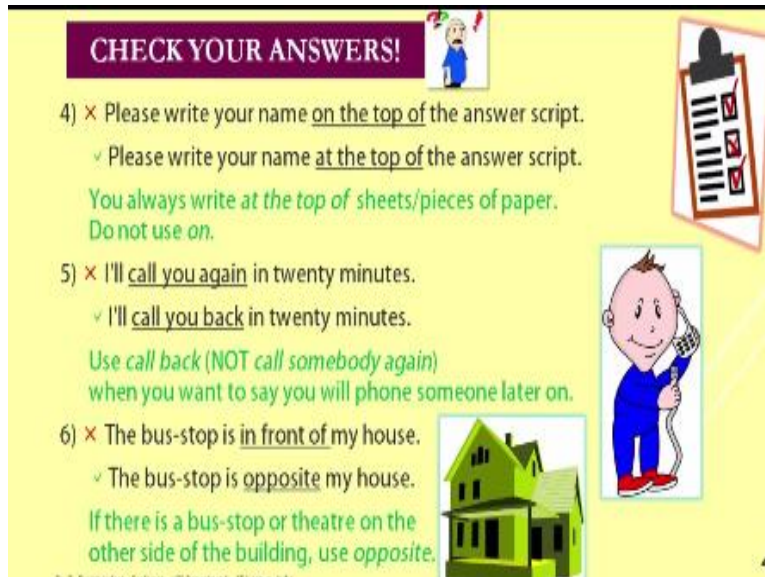
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CHECK YOUR ANSWERS!

4) × Please write your name on the top of the answer script.
✓ Please write your name at the top of the answer script.
You always write *at the top of* sheets/pieces of paper.
Do not use *on*.

5) × I'll call you again in twenty minutes.
✓ I'll call you back in twenty minutes.
Use *call back* (NOT *call somebody again*)
when you want to say you will phone someone later on.

6) × The bus-stop is in front of my house.
✓ The bus-stop is opposite my house.
If there is a bus-stop or theatre on the
other side of the building, use *opposite*.





Let us look at the next one I hope you are taking giving one mark for the right answer and zero for the wrong answer fourth one please write your name on the top of the answer script. Now this is a common error even committed by most of the teachers especially when they want the students at the end of the exam or an assignment or a test or a quiz to write the name on the top but all the top is again wrong expression you always right at the top of the sheets, at the top of pieces of paper so you should not use on the correct form is please write your name at the top of the answer script.

Fifth one I will call you again in 20 minutes again a common error committed typically by Indian speakers you call back not called somebody again when you want to say you will form someone later on correct form I will call you back in 20 minutes so call you back similarly use of in front of when you actually mean opposite so the wrong form is the bus stop is in front of my house where you can say correctly as the bus stop is opposite my house so if there is a bus stop or a theater or any other landmark on the other side of the building use opposite not in front of.

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CHECK YOUR ANSWERS!

7) × The climate in Delhi is quite humid this month. 


✓ The weather in Delhi is quite humid this month. 

Climate is used to refer to typical weather conditions over large regions, especially for some long period of time, e. g., tropical climate. For local conditions, use weather.

8) × I'm coming from India.

✓ I'm from India/I come from India.

When talking about a country, use the simple present and not the present continuous tense.

9) × Nainital is about 6000 feet over sea level. 

✓ Nainital is about 6000 feet above sea level.

To talk of things that are at higher level we use above, but not over.

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Dr. T. K. Rastogi, Ph.D., Professor, HOD Department of English, IIT Kanpur, India

The next one is also very important and very commonly misused word that is climate when you actually want to say whether so when you say the climate in Delhi is quite humid this month when you are referring to a short period short location it is wrong usage, the correct usage is the weather in Delhi is quite humid this month, climate is used to refer to typical weather conditions over large regions especially for some long period of time example tropical climate for local conditions use weather.

So when you get up and then find that the morning wind is very pleasant and then slightly chilly and then you enjoy the morning wind conditions under atmospheric conditions you should not say the climate is very pleasant you need to say the better is very pleasant the climate is beautiful is wrong the weather is beautifully, the weather is pleasant usually so most of the times when you feel locally and for a short duration you should not use climate you should use weather and we hear people saying for any quick changing weather conditions using the word climate, okay.

So climate you can remember something for a long period of time in terms of winter summer autumn so these are long providing weather conditions and especially over large regions so then you call that as climate. Next one I am coming from India wrong usage you can either say I am


from India or I come from India the reason is when talking about a country use the simple present and not the present continuous tense so simple present is I come from India or I am from India present continuous am coming so that is present continuous form you should not use it. The next Nainital is about 6,000 feet over sea level now this is about the use of the word over and above the correct answer is 9 tall is about 6,000 feet above sea level the explanation to talk of things that are at higher level we use above not over okay.

(Refer Slide Time: 10:11)


CHECK YOUR ANSWERS!

10) × I put a plastic cover above the sofa.
✓ I put a plastic cover over/on top of the sofa.

Over or on top of is used when one thing touches or covers another



11) × The earthquake, that shook Latur, was 8.5 on the Richter scale.
✓ The earthquake, which shook Latur, was 8.5 on the Richter scale.



Which and that can both be used to give information in sentences. Which is used in non-defining clauses where the extra information is put within commas.

12) × The judges gave awards to all poems which showed originality.
✓ The judges gave awards to all poems that showed originality.

That is used defining clauses where the extra information is essential to the sentence and is not in commas.

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Dr. T. Kanchanika, Professor, HSS Deobank, Jharkhand, India


Now the next is also similar example I put a plastic cover above the sofa is wrong for the same reason that we discussed before it should be I put a plastic cover over the sofa or on top of the sofa, now over or on top of is used when one thing touches or covers another in 11 the first one that is given is wrong the earthquake, that shook Latur, was 8.5 on the Richter scale now why that is wrong here and the correct answer is the earthquake, the shook Latur, was 8.5 on the Richter scale this is with regard to use of which and that and the next sentence is also following the same logic.

Which and that can both be used to give information in sentences, which is used in non-defining clauses that means they do not define they elaborate they expand that they give added

information where the extra information is put within commas we can understand normally when which comes it is either added by a preceding comma or put within two commas and you try to elaborate and very often when you remove the thing that comes with which then also the sentence will make some sense. Look at the next one the judges gave awards to all poems which showed originality.

Now if you use which and if you go strictly by the rule if you put a comma after all poems the judges gave awards to all poems like on what basis so that basis cannot be separated or elaborated by use of a comma and which that is appropriate here and when you say the judges gave awards to all poems that showed originality. Now that here is used as defining clause and generally it is used in defining classes where the extra information is essential to the sentence and if not in commas.

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CHECK YOUR ANSWERS! 

13) ✗ She lacks in confidence.
✓ She lacks confidence. "Collocation" refers to the pairing of particular words used by the native speakers. They are not formed by grammar but by convention or repeated use. For example: we get ready **not become ready**. Similarly, lacks confidence.

14) ✗ Where is my belongings?
✓ Where are my belongings? Some nouns such as *premises, belongings, earnings, goods, riches* are plural in form and are followed by a plural verb.

15) ✗ Please give me blue pen.
✓ Please give me a blue pen.

Here the speaker is asking for any blue pen and not a particular blue pen. If it is a particular pen, then *the* will be used. E. g.: *The blue pen gifted by you got stolen.*



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Dr. T. Kanchana, Professor, Department of English, St. Xavier's College, Palani

Now 13 is introducing as the term collocation in terms of English usage what is collocation, collocation refers to the pairing of particular words by the native speakers so the native speakers put two words together are they somehow decided not by grammatical rules but by convention or repeated use they make it a convention that one word will go with the other word or preposition

only there is a word like concomitant so it goes normally with two or did so you will not have concomitant by concomitant for so that goes by convention is a collocation so even grammatically you cannot reason out why it is happening like that.

Example we get ready not become ready you can never say become ready soon get ready soon. Similarly lacks confidence not lack in confidence okay, just lack confident. Next one there is my belongings is wrong the correct form is where all my belongings the reason is some nouns such as premises, earnings, goods, riches or plural in form and are followed by a plural verb so belongings considered plural so or the plural form of the work should be used.

15 is related to use of article please give me blue pen now when the person is requesting you to give blue pen the person is including giving any blue pen that you have not specifically asking about the particular one when any is coming in the sense of asking something use the article a so please give me a blue pen so it means like it can be any blue pen but give me one and I am not specifying any particular blue pen.

If it is a particular spin then the article the will be used example the blue pen gifted by you got stolen now here the refers to the blueprint that was gifted by a particular person to another particular person which was actually stolen by somebody so here the pen is specified.

(Refer Slide Time: 15:30)

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS!

16) × He is a honest police officer.

✓ He is an honest police officer.

A and an are used based on the pronunciation of the word after them, and not their spelling. The word honest begins with a vowel sound (h is silent), therefore an is used with it.


17) × Will I drop you to the station?

✓ Can/Should I drop you to the station?

Can, could, shall, should and would are all used to offer help but not will.

18) × Despite of leaving station she had made all the arrangements for the conference.

✓ Despite/in spite of leaving station she had made all the arrangements for the conference. *Both despite and in spite of show contrast but despite is not followed by of.*



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Dr. T. Kamalakar, Professor, Department of English, JSS College, Mysore

16 seeing again with regard to use of particles between choice between a and an I hope you know that a and an are just based on the pronunciation of the word after them and not their spelling so it generally said that it follows the vowel sounds okay which means not the letters, so here if you look at it the wrong sentence is he is a honest police officer the word honest begins with a vowel sound because the sound of the letter H is silent therefore it is pronounced honest and an is used, he is an honest police officer.

17 question form and use of this model verbs in question form as a request will I drop you to the station wrong way of asking it should be can I drop you to the station should I drop you to the station, shall I drop you to the station now can, cope, shall, should and would are all used to offer help would you mind be doing this okay, when you offer a type but not be will is not used when you are offering help.

18 another interesting confusing word that is the conclusion happens between use of despite and in spite of the wrong sentence here if despite of leaving station she had made all the arrangements for the conference this can be corrected in two ways one despite living station or in spite of living station she had made all the arrangements for the conference, both despite and in

spite of show contrast but despite is not followed by of should always remember despite without off in spite of has of the last two once I hope you are checking it properly.

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CHECK YOUR ANSWERS! 

19) × You can travel on bus to reach Dehradun.
✓ You can travel by bus to reach Dehradun.
You go by car/plane/bus and on foot.



20) × You were talking to Rajesh?
✓ Were you talking to Rajesh?
In questions where the answer is a yes/no begin with the auxiliary verb ("were") + subject ("you") + main verb ("talking").

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Dr. T. Kankar (Ph.D.) Professor, IIS Dehradun, Uttarakhand, India

19 you can travel on bus to reach the rhythm you can travel by bus to reach Dehradun is the correct form on is wrong generally you go by car by plane by bus and on foot so on is used only before foot but otherwise boy indicates that you are using bus or car or plane as the medium of your transport the last one wrong form you were talking to Rajesh the right form where you talking to Rajesh explanation in questions whether answer is a yes or no begin with the auxiliary verb here what is the auxiliary verb where plus subject here it is you plus main verb talking, okay. So remember this I hope you have checked the answers now quickly make a totally.

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CHECK YOUR SCORE!	
20:	Outstanding
18-19:	Excellent
15-17:	Very Good
12-14:	Good
10-11:	Fair
8-9:	Average
6-8:	Below Average
4-7:	Poor
0-3:	Very Poor

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Dr. T. K. Kulkarni, Professor, IISc Bangalore, (t.k.k@iisc.ernet.in)

And then let us check your score as in the previous case if you are 20 you are outstanding if you have got 18 or 19 excellent score if it is 15 to 17 very good if it is 12 to 14 good 10 to 11 is fair eight to nine is average six to eight is below average 4 to 7 is poor and 0 to 3 is very poor I hope for like nobody is even below the range of good you can share your scores in the forums so that we know where you stand but as I said there is always cool for improving whether you are zero to three very poor or whether you are even if you are 20 outstanding because I am giving you simple examples very representative examples.

But English is a very coarse language which has vocabulary from almost all the languages of the world so there is no limit as far as you are learning is concerned even if you have got 20 and even if you have got a low score just be humble and what cod and keep improving we persistent and determined and your English skills we definitely improve. Let us test your English with the next 20 sentences which are incorrect the underlying.

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TEST YOUR ENGLISH!

Give the correct form of the underlined words:

- 1) The audience has decided the fate of the film.
- 2) Bread and butter are tasty.
- 3) The milk are sour.
- 4) This sack of rice are spoilt.
- 5) Either her mother or my sisters is singing tonight.
- 6) He went along with their uncle to buy a new car.
- 7) She, as well as her friend, want to visit the flower exhibition.
- 8) They have received no informations.
- 9) Politics are not meant for him.
- 10) The new machineries are yet to be installed.

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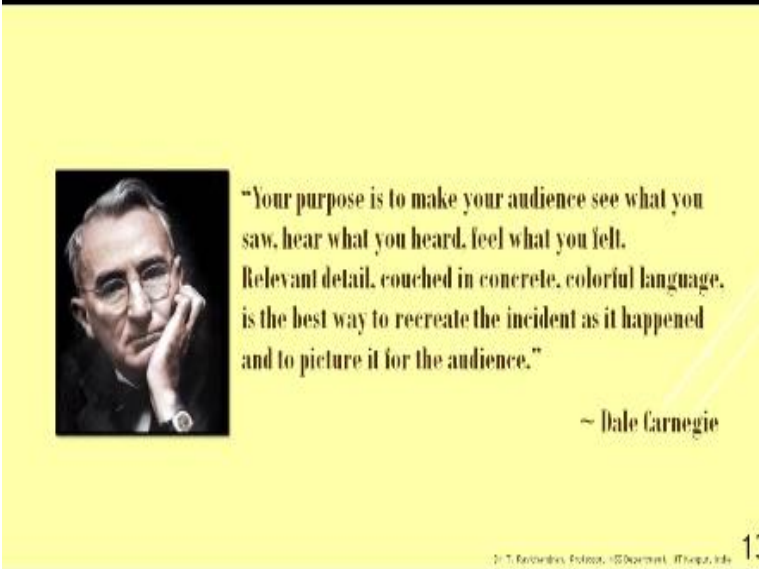
Dr. T. Ramakrishna, Professor, HSS Department, JNTU Hyderabad

The ones are incorrect and you need to give the correct form of the underlying words first one the audience has decided the fate of the film underlined words has decided second bread and butter or tasty underlined word or the milk or sour underlined word or, 4, it is sack of rice or spoiled underlined word or, 5, either her mother or my sisters is singing tonight underline word is, 6, he went along with their uncle to buy a new car underline word there, 7 she is a comma as well as her friend comma now when it is separated by two commas you can understand it is a parenthetical expression that means you can assume it is kept within two brackets, okay.

She as well as a friend want to visit the flower exhibition want is the underlying word, 8 ate they have received no information, information is the underlying words, 9, politics are not meant for him or is the underlying word then the new machineries or yet to be installed or again is the underlying word.

spontaneous responses and then check your score and then go for identifying the correct form and be ready for the next video when I discuss this let me wind up this with another interesting thought from Dale Carnegie uses this in terms of becoming a very efficient public speaker, let us first look at that and then let me try to see how it is related to our discussion about improving your English skills quotes from Dale Carnegie.

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“Your purpose is to make your audience see what you saw, hear what you heard, feel what you felt. Relevant detail, couched in concrete, colorful language, is the best way to recreate the incident as it happened and to picture it for the audience.”

~ Dale Carnegie

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Dr. T. Ravindran, Professor, IIS Deemed to be Univ., Chennai, India


Your purpose is to make your audience see what you saw here what you heard see what you fate relevant detail couched in concrete colorful language is the best way to recreate the incident as it happened to picture it for the audience you know Dale Carnegie is trying to tell you how you can impress your audience whether it is an impromptu speech or a big speech how can you actually impress them, how can you make your speech very effective.

So the highlighted part here which is saying by implication is read your language were choice is of utmost importance if you want to really cost effectiveness in terms of delivering your speech so he says that you need to make your audience suppose you are reporting something you are reporting an accident, you are reporting a beautiful scenery you have to tell them what you saw what you heard of you site during that one so to do that you need to give the relevant detail in

very appropriate words, colorful language so to do that you need to be precise you need to exactly know whether you are using the right word or the wrong word. Once you know that you are using the right word your confidence level will increase your speech very automatically become fluent as well as effective. In terms of communication so that is the aim of creating and awareness in terms of common errors and overall to improve your English skills so I hope you have purchased the book by Saumya Sharma common errors in English.

(Refer Slide Time: 26:46)

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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And as I said it is easily available in the market as well as on online sources like Amazon order flipkart so you just work out the entire book so that will give you a lot of confidence, confidence is as I have been telling whether you are using language to develop it whether you are stopping controlling your bad habits and then forming new habits and then developing confidence so in whatever way you develop your confidence is going to add up to your personality, it is going to give that extra shine so with this thought let me wish you all the best in all your endeavors wishing you a very wonderful day and thank you so much for watching this video let me get back to you in the next one and that will be the last one in terms of English skills thanks again.

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