Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL)

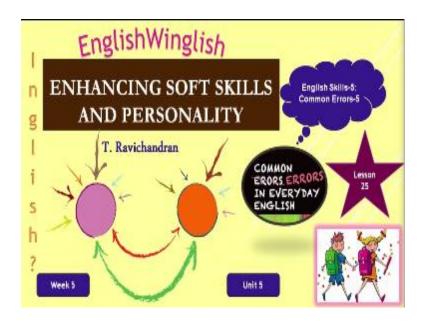
Course Title Enhancing Soft Skills And Personality

Lecture - 25 English Skills – 5: Common Errors – 5

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Hollow everyone welcome back to my course on enhancing soft skills and personality.

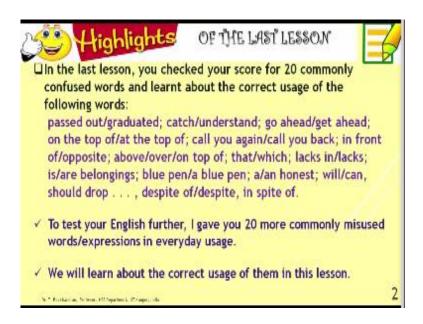
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I am Ravi Chandran giving you this course through NPTEL move platform from the Department of humanities and Social Sciences IIT Kanpur we are all lesson number 25, 25 is a good number so like we have almost covered about 25 lessons the major portion of this course and this is the last unit number five of fifth week and this will be the concluding lesson on English skills this is the fifth one and for common errors this is also the fifth one.

Now in the concluding one I am just going to leave you with some examples to sort out but before I go to that stage like what I did in the last one I will go to the highlight as well as discuss the answers let us check your score and then look at some new examples.

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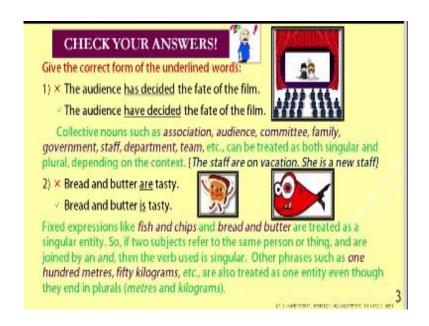


In the last lesson you checked your scores for twenty commonly confused words and learnt about the correct usage of the following words passed out visa we graduated catch is Indian usage understand is the right one go ahead get a hit on the top of at the top of is the current form call you again call you back is the correct form in front of opposite is appropriate above you can use either over or on top of the usage of that and which was also discussed lacing wrong usage matches the correct one.

Whether you have to use East or in terms of belongings was also discussed and with regard to the use of article loop and a blue pen blue pen is the correct form and similarly whether it is a or an honest it is an honest because a is silent here choice of will or can in terms of dropping somebody giving some help offering to help somebody so can and should or normally the forms which are preferred compared to V and the wrong usage of despite off.

So which should be corrected as despite our in spite of to test your English further I gave you 20 more commonly misused words expressions in everyday usage now we will learn above the correct usage of them in this lesson, let us look at the wrong ones and then the right one with the explanation the wrong form that was given in the last one the first one was this.

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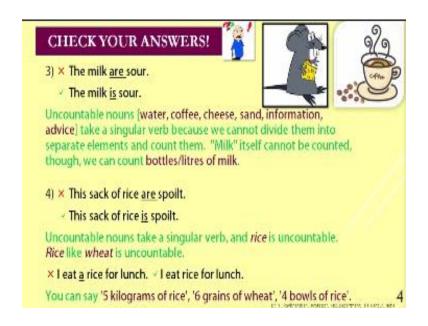
The audience has decided the fate of the film here audience if used as many people, so it should be in plural form have decided the fate of the film is the correct form correct answer explanation collective nouns such as association audience committee family government stuff Department team etc can be treated as both singular and plural depending on the context look at for example the word stuff. If I say the staffs are on vacation I refer to all the stuff of my department my company maybe 30 people 300 people it refers to all of them or on vacation.

So the plural form is indicating I am referring to all in general but if I refer to one of the stuff I would say she is a new stuff indicating that she is one of the stuff again you say I am not using stop one of the stops is again wrong usage stuff is always used for both singular as well as plural form let us look at the second example which looks very interesting the wrong usage is saying bread and butter of tasty because bread and butter just like fish and chips and similar phrases are

considered succeed expressions in the sense like we use both of them together and as a kind of single subject if I say bread and butter is my breakfast idli and sambar is what I like so much.

So now also it is separated by end and the logical way of looking at it when it is connected by end we generally think that one and one is two so plural but here one and one is treated single because they give the single friends of one subject that is generally eaten up for breakfast so when you treat that as a singular entity the correct form is bread and butter is tasty so if two subjects refer to the same person or thing at all joined by an conduction and then the verb used its singular other phrases such as 100 meters 50 kilograms etc are also treated as one entity even though they end in plural okay like meters and kilograms.

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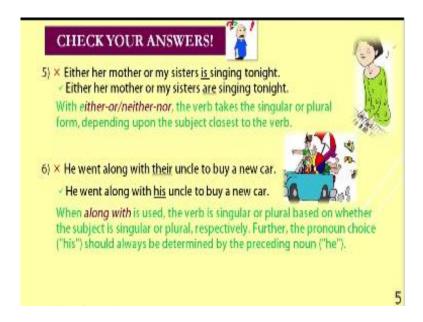


Look at the next example the milk or server wrong usage correct form is the milk is sour recent uncountable nouns such as water coffee cheese sand information advice take a singular verb because we cannot divide them into separate elements and count them, unless you refer to quantities of them like gallons of water cheese bar so I can say 10 cheese boss or 10 pieces of cheese 10 cups of coffee not coffee. So since we cannot divide them into separate elements and count them you cannot use plural form of the verb here milk itself cannot be counted.

So we can count milk in terms of bottles of milk liters of milk only in that sense then the verb will be plural in form but when you use milk in general it takes singular verb so milk its server, similarly the next one this sack of rice or spoiled is wrong for the same reason as above this sack of rice is spoiled again uncountable nouns as it has been said before take a singular verb and rice is uncountable rice like meat is uncountable. So it is wrong to say I heat a rice for lunch but it's right if you say I eat rice for lunch and if you want to indicate quantity.

So then you can say five kilograms of rice six grains of wheat for bowls of rice so now you are indicating the quantity of the food item, so then the world will be plural otherwise when you refer to that as uncountable know in a general sense it takes a single level look at the next example it with go to either or as well as neither nor also takes similar usage in terms of using subject in agreement with the work the wrong usage is given first either her mother or my sisters is singing tonight.

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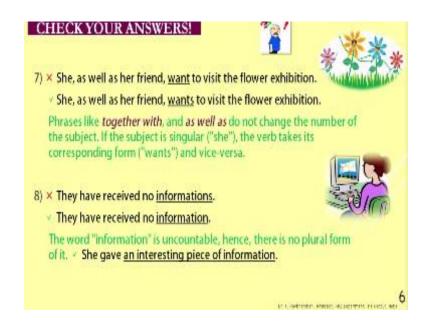


Now it looks like either her mother if the subject so it should agree with that but the correct answer is either her mother or my sisters are singing tonight because with either are or neither nor the work takes the singular or plural form depending upon the subject closest to the verb which means when there are two different subjects in singular or plural form like in this case her mother is singular my sisters or in chloroform then the web page the one that is closest here the closest only sisters.

So it is wrong so it takes our look at the next one he went along with their uncle to buy a new car again mostly in Jainism where is your father they have come so using plural noun for a singular subject here the correct form is he went along with his uncle to buy a new car and when along with this used the verb is singular or plural based on whether the subject is singular or plural respectively.

Now here if you look at the pronoun choice further he should always be determined by the preceding now he which means whatever pronoun that you are planning to use should go with the noun that has proceeded if you change the prologue wrongly you will be committing the error of noun pronoun disagreement. So the pronoun is not agreeing with known, so he is she heard they dim or they depending on the context.

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Let us go to the seventh one, seven she as well as a friend so kept in parentheses want to visit the floor exhibition this is wrong usage correct form she a philosopher friend wants to visit the flower exhibition explanation phrases like together with and actual asst do not change the number of the subject when you have together with as well as they are like parenthetical expressions they are functioning as if they are within brackets and additional information has been provided here.

So the main subject she will agree with the verb wants not want so if the subject is singular here it is she singular the verb takes its corresponding form singular form that is once and vice versa that is if the subject is plural suppose it is day, so as well as her friend there Frank then the subject will be plural and it can be want here and the subject is singular so then it should be singular verb 81 this is with regard to using again uncountable nodes such as information wrong sentence is what is shown at the top 81 they have received no information wrong to use information right form they have received no information.

The word information is uncountable hence there is no plural form of it however if you want to indicate one particular piece of it so then you may say as in the given example here she gave an interesting piece of information and interesting piece of information so piece of information to pieces of information okay, so there you can indicate how many of the information that you got okay. When you use piece off nine again similar to the previous discussions but then here it is a special word politics wrong usage.

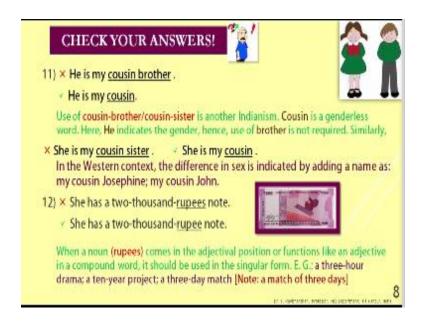
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Thinking that politics is in plural for and then if you use our politics or not meant for him is wrong politics is treated as a singular subject it is not meant for him the correct form because noun suggests politics ethics news arms physics mathematics dynamics or plural inform when you look at it has yes, so it is indicating that it looks floral inform but are useless singular and they take singular works.

Let us go to the next one tenth one the wrong form is the new machinery or it to be installed correct form the new machinery is yet to be installed the word machinery does not have a plural form so when you look at previous one like politics physics they are always plural in form but take a singular on here machinery is not in chloral form dislike furniture it is uncountable and takes a singular verb 11 a very typical interesting Indian English example he is my cousin brother.

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Cousin brother cousin sister so here we want to show the gender thinking that cousin does not have this the correct form is he is my cousin because he the pronoun itself is indicating the gender as I said use of cousin brother cousin sister is another Indian ism cousin is a gender less word here he indicates the gender hence use of brother is not required similarly you may say she is my cousin not cousin sister which is again a wrong usage.

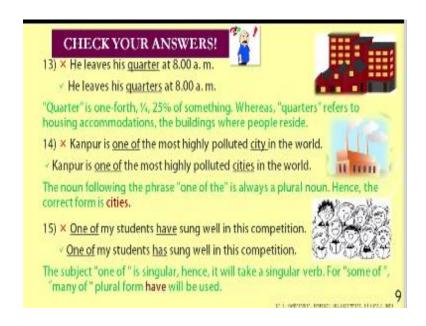
In the Western context however the difference in sex is indicated by adding a name so they would rather introduced as my cousin Josephine my cousin John, so you understand that this a female personal decision made in fact some people try to show the discrimination by using this expression female cursing our mail cursing next example is equally interesting she has a two thousand rupees note the correct form is she has a two thousand rupee note you may think that why not rupees when it is two thousand big number it is not one the explanation is this when a noun such as rupees comes in the adjectival position.

So now if you look at the noun it's trying to function like an objective in a compound word the compound word is indicated by the hyphen which are connecting three words here two thousand rupees then it should be used in a singular form because it is functioning like an objective in its

compounds form and trying to describe the note we have plenty of other examples like a three-hour drama which means a drama that lasted for three hours a 10-year project again it implies a project that will last for ten years.

So when you expand it will take the plural form 10 years but when you use10-year in the adjectival position to describe the noun so then it will be in singular form similarly the most interesting example those who played cricket for watch cricket or fond of cricket remember this a three-day match but actually it means a match lasting for three days or a match of three days. So if you remember this you will be able to speak correctly in terms of nouns which are used as in compounds form and function as adjectives.

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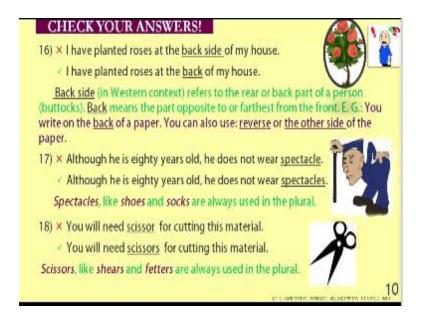
Next one the wrong way to say is he leaves this quarter at 8am the correct way to say the same thing is he leads his quarter at 8amwhat is the difference between these two quarter is one-fourth or twenty-five percent of something whereas squatters refers to housing accommodations the buildings where people reside, so when I say quarters I refer to my house but when I say quarter I refer to one-fourth quantity of something.

So understand this difference do not confuse between these two and the next two were with regard to another interesting usage of one-off wrong expression conferees one of the highly polluted city in the world correct form conferees one of the highly polluted cities in the world what is the logic here the noun following the phrase one of one of the always is a plural known so you always refer to one of many things but the common error committed by especially Asians south Asians is that one off and then the user singular noun thinking that one of his singular.

But one of its indicating one example of many cities in this case so hence of correct forming cities I look at the next one which is similar 15 one of my students have some well in this competition one of my students have some well in this competition why it is strong because one of agrees with the singular verb has so the correct form is one of my students has sung well in this competition the subject one-offs is singular hence it will take a singular verb in case you use some of many of so then the plural form have will be used.

So if you say some of my students then it is some of my students have some well in the competition 16again with regard to using back and backside I have planted roses at the backside of my house.

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Is wrong and the correct form is I have planted grossest at the back of my house what is the reason back side especially in Western context refers to the rear or back part of a person so what we call a vertex but back means the part of opposite two or farthest from the friend so when you are writing on a piece of paper and you are asked to write on the back it exactly means friend side back side page number122 is the back side when you are writing on page one.

But if you want to use other words back side is wrong you can see reverse of the paper or the other side of the paper when you use back side it indicates something else and it is written into you side good 17also he is 80 years old he does not we a spectacles no spectacle is wrong usage here when what is meant expect agree although a spectacle simply means a show here also he's eight years old he does not wear spectacles is the correct form spectacle like shoes and socks are always used in the plural 18.

Similar to the use of spectacle hear the word Caesar is used wrongly you will need scissors for cutting this material wrong usage correct form you will need scissors for cutting this material scissors like shears and fetters are always use in the plural 19.

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I will need new trouser to go to college trouser similar to previous expressions is wrong here I will need new trousers to go to college. So trousers like stockings hands and pajamas are always used in the plural form so a pair of trousers a pair of scissors the last one again a very interesting example had hair or black and beautiful had wrong usage, so the verb also is used wrongly here correct usage has hair is flat unbeautiful.

Now what about this word has had is normally uncountable so it is not used in the plural when it is viewed as a mass as in the above example then it takes a singular verb occasionally has is used to indicate the number when it is considered to rain as in the sentence I found too long has in my soup okay. But generally you remember have usually used to indicate the mosque so you go for haircut not for hats cut okay.

So then it is taking a singular form of the world. Now check your answers very quickly give the score and let us check your score see where you stand so if you are 20 out of 20 so you are outstanding if you got18 or 19 your score is excellent if this between 15 and 17 it is very good.

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Between12 and 15 is good 10 to 11 is fat eight to nine is average six to eight is below average for 27 is poor and 0 to 3 is very poor, again as I said so you should not be deported if you are in the range of below average and you should not get carried away if you are at the range of excellent outstanding. Because in both cases there is room for improvement.

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INCORRECT	CORRECT
She is taller than me.	She is taller than I.
and she are enemies.	She and I are enemies.
She <u>enjoyed</u> during vacation.	She <u>enjoyed herself</u> during vacation.
One should achieve <u>his</u> goals.	One should achieve one's goals.
<u>Your's</u> sincerely.	Yours sincerely.
Whom do you think is the culprit?	Who do you think is the culprit?
She <u>works hardly</u> for her promotion.	She works hard for her promotion.
Sudha is <u>worst than</u> her husband.	Sudha is worse than her husband.
Yours affectionate daughter.	Your affectionate daughter.
He prefers coffee <u>than</u> tea.	He prefers coffee to tea.
Himalayas look spiendid!	The Himalayas look splendid!

Now I am going to conclude this entire module on English tea with specific focus on common errors with the thought that I started with that at least it is important that you identify the common errors and try to correct them if you are not able to speak like a native speaker functionally even if you are able to correct the common error will be improving your soft skills to a great extent.

So I am going to leave you with some more examples for improving your English usage but this time I am not going to spend time on explanation I am going to give two internet sites at the end and then there are two reference books which I have been discussing in the previous video also I want you to find out the explanations yourself, so that you remember why you should be used in this way and even if you go to the sites which ever which I have referred to they give appropriate explanations.

So on the left side in the table that I am presenting before you I have kept all incorrect sentences on the right side you have correct forms so I lead the incorrect one first and then go to the correct one, she's taller than me she's taller than I the correct form I and she or any me wrong form correct form she and I or enemies wrong form she enjoyed during vacation correct form she enjoyed herself during vacation wrong usage one should achieve his goals correct form one should achieve once goals very commonly and wrongly used for your 'yes sincerely correct form yours sincerely without that '.

Wrong way of asking whom do you think is the culprit correctly who do you think is the culprit wrong usage she works hardly for a promotion especially when you want to indicate somebody who is working very hard the correct form is she works hard for her promotion hardly I am giving a quick explanation so that you do not get confused here hardly means hardly ever not at all rarely so when you say she works hardly for a promotion it means she is not working at all is giving a negative connotation if you really mean that she is working very hard when he should say she works hard for a promotion and the next one in terms of comparative if you say and superlative if he says Sudha is worst than her husband is wrong.

So dice was banner husband it is between super late even comparative degree next one US affectionate daughter the correct form is newer affectionate daughter wrong usage he prefers coffee than tea correct usage he prefers coffee to tea wrong usage with regard to article Himalayas look splendid correct form the Himalayas looks splendid let us look at some more examples.

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INCORRECT	CORRECT
The gold is a noble metal.	Gold is a noble metal.
Ganges is a holy river.	The Ganges is a holy river.
He <u>left</u> drinking long ago.	He gave up drinking long ago.
The teacher <u>asked to</u> Ramu why he is late.	The teacher <u>asked</u> Ramu why he was late.
My stomach is paining.	I have pain in my stomach.
My head is aching.	I have a head-ache.
Columbus <u>invented</u> America.	Columbus discovered America.
You need to give a test in English.	You need to take a test in English.
Please <u>open</u> the tap.	Please turn on the tap.
Ten lakhs are a big amount.	Ten lakhs is a big amount.

Incorrect form the gold is a noble metal correct form gold is a noble mentor Ganges is a holy River the Ganges is a holy river he left drinking long ago wrong form correct form he gave up drinking long ago wrong way to present this idea the teacher asked to Rama why he is late correct way to present the idea the teacher asked Ramu why he was late again wrong way to represent pain or ache with related to body parts my stomach is paining I have pain in my stomach my head is 8I have a headache wrong usage of invented in a given example.

Columbus invented America correct usage Columbus discovered America you discover something that is already there you invent something that is new you need to give a test in English correct way to say this is you need to take a test in English please open the tap it's not opening please turn on the tap 2 lakhs or a big amount 2 lakhs is a big amount some more examples.

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INCORRECT	CORRECT
This mango is <u>too</u> sour.	This mango is very sour.
searched the pen everywhere.	I searched for the pen everywhere.
She congratulated him <u>for</u> his achievement.	She congratulated him on his achievement.
am answerable <u>for</u> the boss.	I am answerable to the boss.
The man is a social animal.	Man is a social animal.
You will need a umbrella.	You will need an umbrella.
Bible, Gita and Koran spread universal love and brotherhood.	The Bible, The Gita and The Koran spread universal love and brotherhood
She is going to <u>an</u> university.	She is going to a university.
Many <u>lifes</u> were lost in the train accident.	Many <u>lives</u> were lost in the train accident.

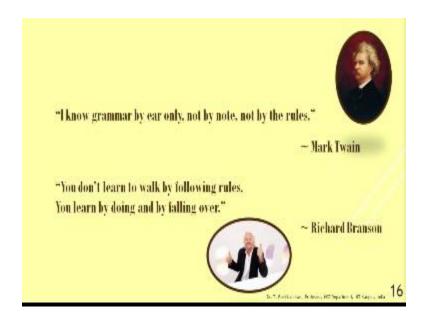
This mango is to server correct from this mango is very thorough I searched the pen everywhere I searched for the pen every word she congratulated him for his achievement wrong she congratulated him on his achievement I am answerable for the boss wrong usage I am answerable to the boss correct usage the man is a social animal wrong usage man is a social animal correct usage you will need a umbrella wrong form with regard to using articles with regard to nose correct form.

You will need an umbrella next one use of again article with result of books or bit of Peaks which are known to us Bible, Gita and Quran spread universal love and brotherhood correct form the Bible, the Gita and the Quran spread in use a low and brotherhood she is going to and university she's going to a universe many likes the spelling should be noted here LIF people think the plural form lives.

So many lights were lost in the train accident the correct plural form is lives, so many lights we are lost in the train accident now these are as I said some teasers so just to cause awareness in you about the commonly committed mistakes with regard to the use of English language. However this just a very humble beginning in terms of your long journey towards developing

your English skills and developing enhancing your soft skills and personality. So this is like a slice of the cake that I have presented before you need to practice you need to improve by observation by more than observation going and checking two sites on the net checking referring to the dictionary frequently and then before I give you two interesting sites I just want you to take some important messages from two interesting quotes from again to significant personalities. The first one is from mark twine who says I know grammar by ear only.

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Not by note not by root there is a very famous novelist and then he says that my knowledge of the grammar is by ear only what he says that I have been a very keen observer and then I listen to people and then I internalized the functions of grammar the rules not the reading it from books not by noting it on notebooks not by marking up rules but only by listening to people who are speaking good English and that is how I developed my grammar.

So what is the message is trying to give you also on the one hand I am saying that it is important to know the rules to play with the rules and break them on the other hand you need not learn the rules by going to some grammar book and mugging up and memorizing them but as Mark Twain points out even if you watch good examples like news channels okay handed news channels and

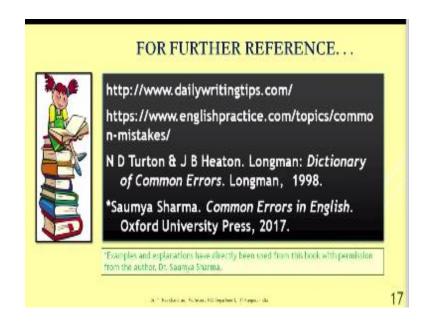
then eminent speakers so if you observe and then just let this get into you through your ears okay.

So then also you can internalize and keep them with you look at the next one from Richard Branson she says you don't learn to walk by following rules again it is similar to what mock crying face is that if you follow rules if they give you in a rulebook by saying that you have to get up like this year to hole like this you have to walk like this so you will not learn how to walk if you remember how you started walking from crawling stage so you never followed any rules and that is what he says you do not learn to walk by following rules you learn by doing and falling over you do it you experience it and then you fail numerous times falling over you fall over again and again.

And then get up and walk and then get up and work and then you learn how to walk properly so developing any language skills and in particular with regard to English language learning skills rules are important but you should not feel bogged down by the thinking that you should learn from some books you do not know anything but eminent writers and great thinkers like the codes which I have given you they are telling you that just learn through experience okay.

And do not be afraid of making mistakes you correct yourself only when you realize that you have made some mistakes, so with that message I would like you to go to two interesting sites which are available for developing your English skills freely and they are very usefully.

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The first one is daily writing tips.com, so they generally deal with confused words confused expressions and how to improve your writing skills in general in fact if you subscribe and give your email id every day they will give you one interesting confusing word or one interesting discussion on writing are generally about developing your English skills the second one is similar to this.

But you go to the site and then practice your English so the name of the site itself is English practice calm so the link that I have given under topics common mistakes if you go more than what I have discussed here or listed there and then every time you feel both or you are more interested in developing English skills either way just go to the site and then make it a habit learn at least four five common mistakes okay and try not to commit them in your day-to-day life of course the other two books which I mentioned.

So you can collect them I hope some of you have at least purchased the last-mentioned one by Sonia Sharma that is common errors in English which is available for a very low price 180 rupees only and it has more example again then what I discussed here, so we are concluding this module they speak which we spend so much time on English skills and common errors so I thank

you for being with me for this complete one week journey in terms of making you hype corrective or common errors as I said this is just a step and the journey is quite long but it is rewarding at the end of the journey wish you all luck and wish you all the best in your journey thank you so much for watching this video.

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