

## HOW TO SOLVE THE MATTERS OF USING WRONG WORDS IN SPOKEN ENGLISH

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**Abstract:** If you have lived in an English-speaking country or studied the language for a long time, some things will trip you up. Even native speakers sometimes make common mistakes in English speaking, which can interfere with communication. It is quite important to be aware of them to sound more fluent and be better understood by other people. In this article, we will go over some common mistakes in English so that you can be on the lookout for them. Try to avoid them, and you will be well on your way!

**Key words:** Conversation, wrong words, word use, foreign languages, effective methods.

You might wonder why it is essential to know about common errors in English usage if you are already a good speaker. After all, if you can get your message across and are generally understood, does it matter if you make a mistake here or there? The answer is yes, it does matter. Here are a few reasons why it is important to be aware of the most common mistakes in English:

- To sound more fluent. It is because making an error breaks our train of thought and makes us hesitate. We might even start to doubt ourselves and become self-conscious about our language skills.
- To be better understood. If you can avoid making errors, people will have an easier time understanding you. It is because the worst grammar mistakes can change the meaning of what you are saying entirely.
- To avoid embarrassing yourself. It is especially true if you make an error that sounds like you do not know what you are talking about. No one wants to be in this situation, so it is best to try to avoid mistakes.
- To make a good impression. Finally, it is important to be aware of common errors in English usage so that you can make a good impression when talking to someone. If you make too many mistakes, people might think you are unintelligent or do not know what you are doing.

If you speak without errors, people see that you have a good command of the language, and they are more likely to take you seriously. On the other hand, you should not worry too much about spoken mistakes. Everyone makes them, even native speakers. The important thing is that you try to avoid them as much as possible and do not let them hold you back from speaking English.

The fastest way to get great at speaking English is to make mistakes — tons of them. As long as you understand where you're going wrong and try something different next time, errors are a language student's best friend! However, you can't learn from your mistakes if you don't know what they are...

That's why we've pulled together 9 of the most common speaking errors English learners make, according to a series of experts: university professors, English tutors and YouTube-famous English enthusiasts.

No one expects you to have perfect English, but if you absorb the information in this article you'll sound more natural at some of the trickiest stumbling points. This way, any mistakes

you do make will be nice and original! Keep reading to learn more or discover online English lessons for beginners on Preply.

Most English mistakes occur when non-native speakers try to translate phrases directly from their first language. Which mistakes you are prone to make usually depends on your first language and how its grammar and construction differs from English. However, here are some super common stumbling points:

Professor Paul Briens of Washington State University has created his own encyclopedia of common mistakes in English. Just one of his many examples? Some people use “borrow” when they actually mean “loan” or “lend.” For example, a non-native speaker might say:

- Can you borrow me an eraser?

When what they mean to say is:

- Can you loan me a eraser?

In standard English, “to borrow” means to take something from someone, knowing that you will give it back. “To lend” or “to loan” means to pass something on to someone else for a short time. Instead of wishing the birthday boy or girl “congratulations”, say “happy birthday!” or “I hope you have a lovely day.” Save “congratulations” for when your English-speaking friends have achieved something more active. For example, if somebody’s getting married, got a job promotion, a new house — then you say ‘congratulations’ because this is something brand new happening in their lives!

More generally, LinguaMarina points out that mistakes like this can be avoided if you try to start “thinking in English” rather than translating words directly from your native language. So it may seem like the hard work of speaking American English is learning all the vocabulary, working on the rhythm, the intonation, all of that really challenging stuff. But in order to even work on that, there’s something you may have to do and that is take your face to the gym. All of the muscles and articulators of your face, right now, they move in a way that comes from you being able to speak your native language effortlessly. And that’s exactly what you want to do with American English. Native speakers are speaking English effortlessly, they’re not working hard to make any of these sounds, they’re not running into issues with the TH sound, or the T sound, or the AW as in Law vowel. They’re able to say it without even thinking about it.

In order to get to that place, you need to open up some more flexibility in the way you use your articulators. That means kind of loosening up, relaxing them, finding some more options for the way that they move, because right now, you have a strong habit to move them in the way that you use them for your native language. That’s why you may have an accent. One of the best ways to avoid making English mistakes is to ensure you know how to pronounce words correctly. It might seem like a no-brainer, but you would be surprised at how many people do not take the time to learn proper pronunciation. As a result, they mispronounce common words and phrases, which can lead to confusion and embarrassment.

The good news is that there are plenty of resources available that can help you with pronunciation. For instance, on Pronuncian, you can find a lot of useful information about pronunciation: minimal pairs, educational videos, podcasts, and assessments.

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