COMMON MISTAKES IN ESSAYS

1. The / 0

When we talk about things in general, we normally use a plural or uncountable noun with NO ARTICLE.

The Birds eat worms.

The Water freezes at 0°C.

The Children need a lot of sleep.

When we talk about days of the week, weeks, months, years... seasons or public holidays in the future or in the past in relation to now, we use *NEXT* and LAST without *the;* **NO ARTICLE**, and without a preposition.

The Last month, I read a very interesting novel.

The Next month, we'll go to New York.

2. MOST = la mayor parte de; la mayoría.

Most families in this country unfortunately have a television.

When *most* is followed by a noun preceded by *the, this, my...*, we must use **MOST OF**.

Most of the people I invited were able to come. It rained most of the time we were in Ireland.

3. COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES!

The red pencil is more shorter than the blue one. The red pencil is **shorter than** ...

Canada is more big than Spain. Canada is bigger than Spain.

This rule is the more short. This rule is the shortest.

My laptop is the most expensive.

4. OTHER = in addition to or different from the one or ones mentioned. Singular and plural.

There's some water left in this bottle. The **other** bottle is empty.

I can't find my **other** shoe.

Have you got any **other** questions?

5. ANOTHER = one more, singular.

There are six people for dinner but there are only 5 plates.

We need another plate.

Please give me another chance. I promise to try harder.

6. VERY = muy		
They are very nice.		
7. MANY = muchos / as		
There are very people. There are many people.		
8. MUCH = mucho / a		
There is very money. There is much money.		
9. HAVE = tener, hay, había		
10. THERE IS / THERE ARE = hay		
THERE WAS / THERE WERE = había		
11. BE with age		
She has got 4 years old.		
She is 4 years old.		
12. PRESENT SIMPLE 3RD PERSON -S!!!		

13. PEOPLE and POLICE are PLURAL!!!

14. A + SINGULAR COUNTABLE NOUN

They are wearing a trousers.

They are wearing some trousers.

They are wearing a cap.

15. ADJECTIVES have no plural form!!!

They told interestings stories. They told interesting stories.

16. -ED / ING ADJECTIVES

- ED ADJECTIVES are used to describe people feelings.
- ING ADJECTIVES are used to describe the nouns that cause these feelings.

Interested = interesado

Interesting = interesante

17. PLURALS

SINGULAR	PLURAL
Child	Children
Man	Men
Woman	Women
Life	Lives
Country	Countries

18. PRONOUNS

PERSONAL PRONOUNS	OBJECT PERSONAL PRONOUNS	POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS	POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES
1	ME	MINE	MY
YOU	YOU	YOURS	YOUR
HE	HIM	HIS	HIS
SHE	HER	HERS	HER
IT	IT	ITS	ITS
WE	US	OURS	OUR
YOU	YOU	YOURS	YOUR
THEY	THEM	THEIRS	THEIR

SUBJECT PRONOUNS (before the verb)

I <u>like</u> your dress. It <u>is</u> raining.

OBJECT PRONOUNS (after the verb and after a preposition)

She doesn't like him. She is waiting for me.

POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS

This house is mine. (Esta casa es mía).

POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES

This is my house. (Ésta es mi casa).

19. ENGLISH CLAUSES ALWAYS HAVE A SUBJECT!!!

IT is really amazing! (NOT is really amazing)
I'm waiting for my wife. > She is late. (NOT is late.)

20. GERUNDS AND INFINITIVES AS SUBJECTS

- Singing gives me great pleasure.
- Collecting stamps is his hobby.

A to-infinitive can also act as the subject of a verb.

- To give advice is easy.
- To swim in that sea may be dangerous.

21. GERUNDS AFTER PREPOSITIONS

Keen on flying drones.

Worried about failing their exams.

22. PURPOSE CLAUSES

I study TO pass my exams. (Estudio para aprobar).

I study IN ORDER TO pass my exams. (Estudio para aprobar).

23. WORD ORDER (affirmative and negative sentences)

If a sentence has both a direct and an indirect object, there are often two possibilities:

I gave you the letter.

I gave the letter to you.

Never separate the verb from it(s) object(s):

We don't have today homework. We don't have homework today.

Adverbs of manner can come in several positions, but not between the verb and the object:

She opened carefully the box. She opened the box carefully.

Adverbs of frequency come before the main verb. Some can come at the beginning and / or the end of a sentence as well:

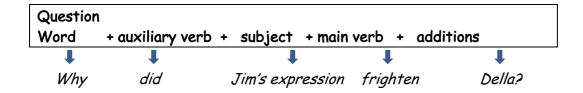
We sometimes play football.

Sometimes we play football.

If the main verb is to be, the adverb of frequency follows it:

He is sometimes late for school.

24. WORD ORDER (questions)



25. SUBJECT + VERB AGREEMENT

The verb is singular or plural depending on the subject:

The child loves to paint.

The children love to paint.

ANYONE, EVERYBODY, NOBODY + SINGULAR VERBS

I think everybody is here.

UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS have got singular verbs.

The food was excellent.

The news is really exciting.

26. USE OF PREPOSITIONS AFTER NOUNS, VERBS AND ADJECTIVES

Some nouns, verbs and adjectives are followed by a specific preposition. In some cases there is more than one possibility, but this changes the meaning.

Agree on estar de acuerdo en; acordar

Agree to: acceder a

Agree with: estar de acuerdo con

27. SPELLING

NO	YES	
Beautifull	Beautiful	
Dificult	Difficult	
Inteligent	Intelligent	
Becouse	Because	
Dosen't	Doesn't	
Isen't	Isn't	

28. SYNONYMS

Very: quite, really, extremely, highly

Good: amazing, incredible, great, wonderful, thrilling

But: however, nevertheless, nonetheless

Also: besides, moreover, furthermore, what's more

In my opinion: from my point of view, to the best of my knowledge, I'd say that...

29. DETERMINERS

SINGULAR	PLURAL
This (este /a)	These (estos /as)
That (ese /a, aquel /aquella)	Those (esos /as, aquellos /as)

30. MODALS

MODALS + BASE FORM of the verb We can to use...

31. RELATIVE PRONOUNS

When the relative pronoun is the subject of the relative clause, DON'T WRITE another subject!!!

NO subject when the relative pronoun is the subject

I have a friend who he studied in China.

I have a friend who studied in China.

32. MAKE SOMEBODY DO SOMETHING

Make somebody do something = to force someone or something to do something

You can't make him go if he doesn't want to.