

## COMMON MISTAKES IN ESSAYS

### 1. **The / O**

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 3<sup>RD</sup> 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**

SUBJECT PERSONAL PRONOUNS	OBJECT PERSONAL PRONOUNS	POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS	POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES
I	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 like your dress.*

*It is 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.*
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## 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)

### Subject + verb + objects + additions

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 its 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)

Question

Word + auxiliary verb + subject + main verb + additions



*Why*



*did*



*Jim's expression*



*frighten*



*Della?*

## 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
<del>Beautifull</del>	Beautiful
<del>Dificult</del>	Difficult
<del>Inteligent</del>	Intelligent
<del>Becouse</del>	Because
<del>Doesn't</del>	Doesn't
<del>Isn't</del>	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
<b>This</b> (este /a)	<b>These</b> (estos /as)
<b>That</b> (ese /a, aquel /aquella)	<b>Those</b> (esos /as, aquellos /as)

### 30. MODALS

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

NO modal + modal → *We ~~should can~~...*

### 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.*