

••• Liz Driscoll

Common mistakes at

PET

... and how to avoid them



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, United Kingdom

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK
40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
Ruiz de Alarcón 13, 28014 Madrid, Spain
Dock House, The Waterfront, Cape Town 8001, South Africa

<http://www.cambridge.org>

© Cambridge University Press, 2005

This book is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception
and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing
agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place
without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2005

Designed and produced by Kamae Design, Oxford

Printed in Italy by Legoprint S.p.A.

Typeface Utopia 9/12.5pt. System QuarkXPress® [KAMAE]

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in publication data

ISBN 0 521 60684 5

Contents

Contents

- 1** *A, an or one?* 5
- 2** When do I use capital letters? 6
- 3** Do I need *am / is / are* in this sentence? 7

Test 1 8

- 4** Singular or plural? 10
- 5** Plural or uncountable? 11
- 6** When do I use *of* and when do I use an apostrophe? 12

Test 2 13

- 7** What's the negative form of *have*? 15
- 8** Present simple or present continuous? 16
- 9** Which verbs don't have a continuous form? 17

Test 3 18

- 10** Regular or irregular past simple forms? 20
- 11** How do I form the past simple negative? 21
- 12** Past simple or past continuous? 22

Test 4 23

- 13** How do I use personal pronouns? 25
- 14** How do I use reflexives? 26
- 15** *Many, much or a lot of?* 27

Test 5 28

- 16** *Something, anything, nothing or everything?* 30
- 17** Same sound, different spelling 31
- 18** Commonly confused nouns 32

Test 6 33

- 19** Which verbs take *to* + verb after them? 35
20 Which form of the verb do I use after *look forward to*? 36
21 Which form of the verb do I use after *can* and *could*? 37

Test 7 38

- 22** How do I form adjectives from nouns? 40
23 *Very* or *really*? 41
24 How do I form adverbs? 42

Test 8 43

- 25** *Which*, *who* or *that*? 45
26 How do I give extra information? 46
27 Which prepositions do I use after *arrive*? 47

Test 9 48

- 28** Commonly confused verbs 50
29 How do I use *do* and *go* with *-ing* words? 51
30 Which verbs take *to* (preposition) after them? 52

Test 10 53

Answer key 55

TEST 1

1 Complete the phrases with *a* or *an*. Then rewrite the phrase with the adjective.

- | | | | |
|---------|------------|-------|------------------------|
| 1 | exam | | (<i>hard</i>) |
| 2 | university | | (<i>old</i>) |
| 3 | idea | | (<i>interesting</i>) |
| 4 | house | | (<i>unusual</i>) |
| 5 | restaurant | | (<i>expensive</i>) |
| 6 | hour | | (<i>extra</i>) |
| 7 | uncle | | (<i>rich</i>) |
| 8 | lesson | | (<i>easy</i>) |

2 Rewrite the letter using capital letters where necessary. There are sixteen errors.

33 sandfield road
oxford
ox3 7rn

february 10th 2005

dear mrs brown

please find enclosed a deposit for bed and breakfast accommodation for the weekend of march 15th. my husband and i look forward to seeing you then.

yours sincerely

barbara parker

3 Complete the text with *am, is or are*.



My name (1) Julie Wise and I
(2) 21 years old. I live in Spain, but I
(3) British. My parents (4)
English teachers in Madrid. I work in an office and
my sister (5) studying English at university.
Most of our friends (6) Spanish, but my
best friend (7) from Argentina. She (8)
..... a secretary in an international bank.

4 Write sentences using the notes. Use *is or are* and capital letters where necessary.

- 1 THE NILE / THE LONGEST RIVER IN AFRICA
.....
- 2 CHINESE NEW YEAR / OFTEN IN JANUARY
.....
- 3 NICOLE KIDMAN / AN AUSTRALIAN ACTRESS
.....
- 4 JUVENTUS AND LAZIO / ITALIAN FOOTBALL TEAMS
.....
- 5 KING LEAR / PLAY ABOUT AN OLD ENGLISH KING AND HIS THREE DAUGHTERS
.....
- 6 THE HIMALAYAS / IN ASIA
.....
- 7 SHOPS IN BRITAIN / OFTEN OPEN ON SUNDAY
.....
- 8 LOS ANGELES / IN CALIFORNIA
.....

5 Are the sentences right or wrong? Correct those which are wrong.

- 1 How deep is the pacific ocean?
- 2 I'm meeting one friend of mine later.
- 3 They not sure about the answer.
- 4 I've got some apples. Would you like one?
- 5 There is some people in the park.
- 6 I very tired today.
- 7 We're staying at the Ramsey Hotel.
- 8 See you in half a hour.

4 Singular or plural?

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

- a I'm going to have the most wonderful holiday of my life here.
b I'm going to have the most wonderful holidays of my life here.
- a I don't wear old cloths for work.
b I don't wear old clothes for work.

Curtain or curtains?

We use *curtains* unless we are referring to one curtain only:

*I'd like to buy some new **curtains** for my room. (but *The right **curtain** is longer than the left one.*)*

Holiday or holidays?

We say *a holiday / on holiday* when we talk about a trip or a day off work. We can say *school holidays / summer holidays* to describe a period of time:

*I hope you enjoy your **holiday** in Britain.*

Mountain or mountains?

We use *mountains* when we talk about an area:

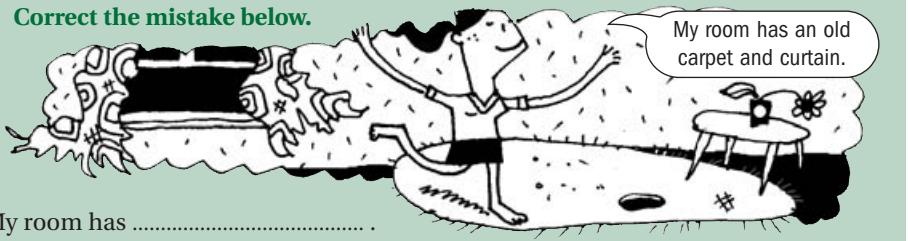
*My uncle's house is in the **mountains** near Turin.*

Cloth, cloths or clothes?

We use *clothes* to talk about things people wear. We say *an item or a piece of clothing* to describe one thing only. A *cloth* (plural *cloths*) is a piece of material for a particular purpose, e.g. *table cloth*, or for making clothes:

*I am going to buy some new **clothes** for the wedding.*

2 Correct the mistake below.



3 Complete the sentences with a singular or plural word from this page.

- That *curtain* is torn, so I'm going to mend it.
- During the summer, I worked in a shop.
- I climbed the behind the house one morning.
- Where's the for washing the dishes?
- My bed cover is flowery, just like the at the windows.
- Come and visit me for your next
- I wore my new at the weekend.
- I always take a map when I go to the

5 Plural or uncountable?

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a My feet are too small for these shoes.
b My foots are too small for these shoes.
- 2 a I think Italian food is the best in the world.
b I think Italian food are the best in the world.

Most plural nouns end in -s. However, some plural nouns are irregular:
My neighbour is a wonderful person. → Our neighbours are wonderful people.

Other irregular plural nouns include: *man → men, woman → women, child → children, foot → feet, tooth → teeth, mouse → mice*

☆ *Police and staff* are also plural: *The police are hard-working.*

Some nouns have no plural form. We say that nouns such as *water* and *cheese* are 'uncountable' because we can't count them. We can only count *glasses / bottles of water* and *pieces / slices of cheese*. Compare:

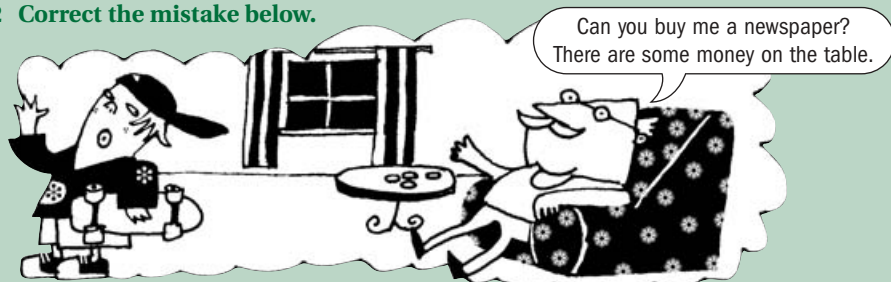
I'd like some water, please. and *I'd like a glass of water, please.* (not ~~two waters~~)

Other common uncountable nouns include *food, furniture, hair, homework, information, money* and *work*. We use singular verbs with uncountable nouns:

The furniture in my bedroom looks good.

My hair is dark brown. (but *I've got one grey hair behind my ear.*)

2 Correct the mistake below.



Can you buy me a newspaper? on the table.

3 Underline the correct form.

- 1 Here is / are some information about hotels in Paris.
- 2 Some children is / are afraid of dogs.
- 3 There was / were a bottle of water in the fridge.
- 4 The staff is / are on a training course.
- 5 The woman / women is reading the newspaper.
- 6 Your hair looks / hairs look very nice.
- 7 How many slices of bread / bread have you got?
- 8 This homework was / were easy.

6

When do I use *of* and when do I use an apostrophe?

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a We spent two days in *my grandmother's* house.
- b We spent two days in the house of *my grandmother*.
- 2 a Look at the top of the page.
- b Look at the page's top.

We use apostrophe + s ('s) to talk about things associated with one person:

My friend's name is Natalia.

These are my husband's things.

We use s + apostrophe (s') to talk about things associated with more than one person:

Here is my friends' teacher.

The students' records are in the cupboard.

☆ Note that we use an apostrophe + s ('s) with irregular plural nouns:

The children's party is at the club.

We also use apostrophe + s ('s) on its own:

My birthday is the same day as my mother's.

We use *of* to talk about things associated with places and objects:

Rome is the capital of Italy. (not Italy's capital)

The answers are at the back of the book.

2 Correct the mistake below.



These are my parents. And this is

3 Write possessive sentences using the words in brackets.

- 1 I visited (*my friend's school* / school / my friend).
- 2 We stayed in (*other house* / her family).
- 3 'Garden Designs' is (*name* / his company).
- 4 It's (*birthday* / my little brother).
- 5 (*cousins* / my father) live in Argentina.
- 6 They are (*brothers* / my best friend).
- 7 (*phone numbers* / my friends) are in this book.
- 8 I found (*glasses* / man).