

"Say it Right: Common Mistakes in Spoken English"

English is one of the most commonly spoken languages around the world. However, it can be a challenge to non-native English speakers. Even those with a solid grasp of English grammar and vocabulary may find it difficult to speak the language accurately and fluently. It's because spoken English is often different from the written version, and it can be easy to make mistakes. This essay will examine some of the most common mistakes made and provide insight into how to avoid them. [Spoken English Training in Pune](#)

The misuse of verb tenses is one of the most common mistakes made in spoken English. The English tense system is complex, and the use of the wrong tense may lead to confusion. Non-native English speakers have difficulty with the present perfect, which is used for actions that are relevant to the current moment. It is incorrect to say "I've seen that film yesterday", because "yesterday", clearly indicates an end date in the past. This should be expressed using the simple past tense, "I saw that film yesterday." It is important to understand the context of the sentence and the reference time in order to choose the correct tense.

The incorrect use of prepositions is another common mistake. The use of prepositions can be tricky in English because they don't always translate from other languages. When referring to dates and days, it is common to use "in" rather than "on". As an example, "I'll meet you Monday" should read "I'll meet you Monday." Similarly, the word "at" can be used to indicate a specific time, while "in" refers to a period of time, such as a day, month, year, or longer. A common mistake is to say "in 3 PM", instead of "at" 3 PM. The correct use of prepositions in different contexts and with practice will help you master them.

Many non-native English speakers also struggle with pronunciation. Many words in English do not sound as they are written. Some common pronunciation errors include mispronouncing consonant groups, such as saying "ask", instead

of "aks", and confusing vowel sound, such as saying "sheep", instead of "ship". These mistakes can have a significant impact on the clarity of communication. Improve your pronunciation by practicing with native speakers and listening to English media.

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It is also difficult to use the articles "a," "an," and "the". The use of articles is different in many languages, resulting in frequent errors. Saying "I own a car" rather than "I own a car" or "He's the best player" as opposed to "He's the best player." When referring to specific things that are known by the listener, "the" should be used. "A" and "an", however, can refer to general or non-specific objects. It is important to understand the rules that govern articles and how they should be used.

Another common problem is incorrect word order. English follows a Subject, Verb, Object (SVO), which is different from other languages. Non-native English speakers may say "I went to store" instead of "I was at the store." The incorrect word order can lead to sentences that are confusing and difficult to understand. To ensure clear communication, it is important to practice building sentences in the right order.

For non-natives, colloquialisms (the habitual combination of two words) can be confusing. In English, for example, "makes" is preferred to "does" and "takes" over "makes" when referring to a mistake. The rules of these combinations are not always logical and they must be learnt through exposure and repetition. Fluency and naturalness in spoken English can be greatly improved by becoming familiar with common collocations.

Another stumbling point is idiomatic expressions. The meanings of phrases like "kick it" (meaning die) or "look at" (meaning admire) are often unclear because they do not have a literal translation. These expressions are often misused or misunderstood, which can result in awkward or incorrect sentences. Media in English and interaction with native speakers can help students understand and use these idiomatic expressions.

In spoken English, intonation and stress are also important. The intonation and stress of words in sentences can alter the meaning and impact comprehension. If you stress different words within the sentence, "I didn't tell him to steal the money", it can have different meanings. This is a difficult aspect for non-native speakers because it's not only about the words, but also how they

are said. By observing native speakers' speech patterns and practicing with them, learners can improve their intonation.

The last issue is overusing fillers like "um," "uh," or "like." Native speakers may also use fillers excessively, but non-natives might do so out of nervousness or lack of confidence. This can make the speech sound less fluid. To reduce the use of fillers, you can practice speaking clearly and slowly, organize your thoughts before speaking and build confidence by practicing regularly. [Spoken English Classes in Pune](#)

While speaking English accurately and fluently is difficult, a constant practice and awareness of common errors can help you improve. This journey begins with understanding the correct usage of verb tenses and prepositions. It also includes mastering collocations and idiomatic expressions. In addition, paying attention and stressing intonation and fillers will improve the fluency and clarity in spoken English. Non-native English speakers can overcome common errors by practicing and being dedicated.