Grammar Workshop: Word Form

**RECOGNIZE THE ERROR TYPE**

- Alone or with a tutor, see if you can find the error in each sentence. If you can, underline the word or words that seem incorrect. Do you know why the sentence is wrong? Can you correct it?
  1. INCORRECT: The windy today has made a mess of my hair.
  2. INCORRECT: My History teacher correction the answers on my exam.
  3. INCORRECT: Alice was surprised that he gave her a riding home.

**UNDERSTAND THE GRAMMAR RULE**

- If you can learn more about grammar rules, you will develop your ability to correct your own mistakes, sometimes even before you make them! Review the following explanation about word forms in English grammar.
- After you have read this section carefully, go back to the sentences above and try to correct them now that you have more information about this grammar error.

There are main eight parts of speech in English grammar. Each part of speech does a different job in the sentence to communicate a complete idea.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VERB: action or state of being</th>
<th>NOUN: person, place, thing, idea</th>
<th>ADJECTIVE: describes a noun</th>
<th>ADVERB: describes a verb (action)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Examples: swim, sleep, is, like, rest, feel</td>
<td>Examples: woman, beach, shoe, freedom</td>
<td>Examples: smooth, straight, beautiful, angry</td>
<td>Examples: quickly, lazily, affectionately, slowly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRONOUN: takes the place of a noun</th>
<th>PREPOSITION: links a noun to another word</th>
<th>CONJUNCTION: joins clauses, sentences, or words</th>
<th>INTERJECTION: short exclamation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Examples: he, she, it, some</td>
<td>Examples: for, or, below, at</td>
<td>Examples: and, but, so, yet</td>
<td>Examples: Ouch! Hey! Oh!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These are just the main categories of words. All words belong to at least one category, which is determined by the job the word is doing in the sentence. Here is an example:

Oh! The **amazing** soccer **team** quickly raced across the **field**, but they were unable to score **against** their **opponents**.
The four parts of speech in the first row of the grammar rule chart (nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs) can often be formed from the same base form of the word by adding a specific ending.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Base form</th>
<th>VERB</th>
<th>NOUN</th>
<th>ADJECTIVE</th>
<th>ADVERB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>anger</td>
<td>To anger</td>
<td>anger</td>
<td>angry</td>
<td>angrily</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Example sentences**

- The waiter was unaware that he **angered** the customer when he didn’t help her right away.
- She developed more **anger** towards the waiter with each passing minute.
- Although the waiter tried to make the customer happy, she only became more **angry**.
- When the waiter finally told her that she would have to wait a little more, the customer stormed **angrily** out of the restaurant.

**A few common endings**

- to talk
  - --
  - to inform
- talk
  - home
  - information
- talkative
  - homely
  - informatively
- to talk
  - --
  - to inform
- talk
  - home
  - information
- talkative
  - homely
  - informatively

**CAUTION!**

Some endings appear in more than one category; some words serve more than one function

- hated (past tense)
  - ponder
- butcher
  - cupful
  - candidate
- hated
  - taller
  - fanciful
  - degenerate

**Try some of your own**

---

**RECOGNIZE THE ERROR IN YOUR PAPER AND APPLY THE FOLLOWING STRATEGY AND GRAMMAR RULES ABOVE TO CORRECT YOUR OWN ERROR**

If you are not sure if you have chosen the correct form of a word, try this strategy:

- Read your sentence aloud. Does it seem to make sense?
- Identify the parts of speech: find the nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. Remember that simple English grammar phrases and sentences often follow this word order:

  Beautiful    Lydia          quickly    gave    the present     to Lorena.
  Adjective        noun subject    adverb        verb       noun object       noun direct object

- Examine the word forms and check the dictionary to see if they are correct.

Write a few sentences from your paper and apply this strategy.

---


Created 7/07