**English Conventions Error List**

1. **Run-on Sentences**

Clauses must be joined together properly with a comma and conjunction (not just a comma) or a semi colon, or they must be separated with a period (.) into 2 shorter sentences. A sentence should have no more than 2 independent clauses.

***Incorrect* X** It’s raining today, we still have soccer practice.

***Incorrect* X** It’s raining today, and we still have soccer practice, and I don’t want to go.

***Correct*** ☺ It’s raining today, and we still have soccer practice. I don’t want to go.

1. **Fragments / Improper Sentences**

Every sentence needs a subject (someone/something doing the action), verb (action) and complete idea (it needs to make sense). In English, you cannot have a verb without a subject.

***Incorrect* X** Can kick the ball very far.

***Incorrect* X** The ball that I kicked very far.

***Correct*** ☺ I kicked the ball very far.

1. **Comma Errors**

A comma should set off an introductory phrase, go between items on a list, and separate independent clauses in a sentence (with a conjunction).

***Incorrect* X** By the way are you**,** going to the partyand do you want to go**,** with me?

***Correct*** ☺ By the way**,** are you going to the party**,** and do you want to go with me?

1. **End Punctuation**

You need a period (.) at the end of every sentence. You can also use an exclamation mark (!) for exclamatory sentences or a question mark (?) if it is a question. Do not start sentences with upside down exclamation or question marks. This can only be done in Spanish.

1. **Capitalization**

The first letter of every sentence must be capitalized. Also capitalize names of places, people, months, days, and titles.

***Incorrect* X** federico tuesday armenia october “little red riding hood”

***Correct*** ☺ Federico Tuesday Armenia October “Little Red Riding Hood”

1. **Verb Errors**

The verb must agree with the subject. If you have 1 subject, the verb needs to be singular (ex. She walk**s**). If you have more than one subject, the verb needs to be plural (ex. They were). Be consistent with the use of different tenses. Stories should almost always be written in the past tense. Dialogue (when characters talk) can be written in different tenses.

***Incorrect*  X** Juan Esteban **like** sandwiches. Yesterday, he **eat** three of them.

***Correct*** ☺ Juan Esteban **likes** sandwiches. Yesterday, he **ate** three of them.

***Incorrect* X** Pablo raised his hand. Ms. Goslin **ask** him what he wanted and he **say**, “Miss, I **leave** the class today at 1:30 for the soccer game. You **say** it was ok, remember?”

***Correct*** ☺ Pablo raised his hand. Ms. Goslin **asked** him what he wanted and he **said**, “Miss, I **am going to leave** the class today at 1:30 for the soccer game. You **said** it was ok, remember?”

1. **Word Usage**

Some words do not translate directly from Spanish to English. You need to be careful to choose the right word to say what you mean. Many masculine / feminine words in Spanish (hijo / hija) have totally different words in English (son / daughter).

***Incorrect* X** Mr. Olsen, I **lost** your **husband**’s test!

***Correct*** ☺ Mr. Olsen, I **failed** your **wife**’s test!

1. **Spelling**

Ensure that words are spelled correctly

***Incorrect* X** Don’t go **thought** that door.

***Correct*** ☺ Don’t go **through** that door.

1. **Prepositions**

Prepositions (words like *to, of, for, above, without, through*) have specific uses in English that you need to know.

***Incorrect* X** She lived in house **for** the park.

***Correct*** ☺ She lived in a house **by** the park.

1. **Pronoun Agreement**

Every pronoun must agree with what comes before (the antecedent).

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Subject Pronoun | Object Pronoun | Possessive Adjective | Possessive Pronoun |
| I | me | my | mine |
| you | you | your | yours |
| he | him | his | his |
| she | her | her | hers |
| it | it | its | its |
| we | us | our | ours |
| they | them | their | theirs |

***Incorrect* X** Carolina kicked the ball so hard, she broke **his** foot.

***Correct*** ☺ Carolina kicked the ball so hard, she broke **her** foot

1. **Possessives**

If something belongs to something else you need to add 's to the owner.

***Incorrect* X** The **car of Valentina** is over there.

***Correct*** ☺ **Valentina’s car** is over there.

1. **Pluralisation**

When there is more than one of a noun, you need to use the plural form of the word. Some plural words are irregular. Some nouns are *non-countable*, which means you can’t have more than one, only some, a lot, etc. *Some* adjectives need to be plural too.

***Incorrect* X** I did so **many works** today! My **foot** are very sore from **this** shoes.

***Correct*** ☺ I did so **much work** today! My **feet** are very sore from **these** shoes.

1. **Quotation Conventions**

Use quotation marks to write down exactly what another person (or character says). In dialogue, every time a new character starts to speak you need to start a new paragraph on a new line with an indent. The words that a character says should be surrounded by quotation marks ("). There must be a comma between the dialogue and the narration. The first word inside every set of quotation marks must be capitalized unless it is continuing the character’s sentence.

***Correct*** ☺

**"I** don't want to go the store right now**,"** I said.

My sister replied**, "B**ut you have to go. Mom said so**."**

**"W**ell**,"** I hesitated**, "i**f I have to, I guess I will**."**

1. **Word Order**

Ensure you use the correct word order. (Adjectives go before the nouns they modify, normal order for sentence construction is Subject-Verb-Object.)

1. **Paragraphing / Indentation**

Start each new main idea in your writing with a new paragraph. Begin it with a topic sentence that introduces what the paragraph is about. The first line of each new paragraph must be ***indented***. This means the first line starts 1-2 centimetres to the right of the left margin. If you are typing, you only need to press the TAB key.