

3

× In 1991 appeared a much stronger battery.

- ✓ In 1991 there appeared a much stronger battery.
 ✓ In 1991 a much stronger battery appeared.

When **appear** means 'to become available', we sometimes use **there** as an empty subject and put the real subject after the verb. If we do not use **there**, the real subject must come before the verb.

4

× Making punishments more severe doesn't appear that it makes any difference.

- ✓ Making punishments more severe doesn't appear to make any difference.
 ✓ It appears that making punishments more severe doesn't make any difference.

⇒ 708.2

apply

69

1

× They asked about my reasons for applying the job.

- ✓ They asked about my reasons for applying for the job.

We **apply for** a job, licence, scholarship, etc.

2

× This paint should be applied on clean surfaces only.

- ✓ This paint should be **applied to** clean surfaces only.

We **apply** paint, varnish, etc., **to** a surface.

appreciate

70

× I would appreciate if you could let me know when you receive this letter.

- ✓ I would appreciate it if you could let me know when you receive this letter.

⇒ 838.3

approach

71

× As we approached to the cage, the monkeys got very excited.

- ✓ As we approached **the cage**, the monkeys got very excited.

We **approach** someone or something (WITHOUT **to**). Compare: 'As we **went up to** the cage, the monkeys got very excited.'

approve

72

× Neither of my parents approved my new girlfriend.

✓ Neither of my parents approved of my new girlfriend.

When we think that something is good, we **approve of** it: 'I don't **approve of** sending young children to boarding school.'

When **approve** is used without **of**, it means 'officially accept': 'The council is unlikely to **approve** the building plans.' 'We are pleased to inform you that your application for renewal of contract has been **approved**.'

Arabic

73

× To my surprise, his friend was an Arabic too.

✓ To my surprise, his friend was an Arab too.

Arabic is the name of a language: 'She is learning **Arabic**.' A person whose first language is Arabic is an **Arab**.

arithmetic

74

× My arithmetics are not very good.

✓ My arithmetic is not very good.

Arithmetic (without **-s**) is an uncountable noun and takes a singular verb.

arrival

75

1

× At my arrival in London, all the banks were closed.

✓ On my arrival in London, all the banks were closed.

The phrase is **on** (someone's) **arrival**, NOT **at**.

⇒ 87.4

2

× On my arrival at Brussels, I went straight to the nearest hospital.

✓ On my arrival in Brussels, I went straight to the nearest hospital.

⇒ 76

arrive

76

1

× It was very late when we arrived London.

✓ It was very late when we arrived in London.

× He will be arriving to Heathrow at 11 o'clock.

✓ He will be arriving at Heathrow at 11 o'clock.

We normally **arrive in** a town, city or country, especially when it is the end of our journey and we intend to stay there. We **arrive at** an airport, bank, hotel, office, school, station, etc.

We use **arrival in** and **arrival at** in the same way.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 2 | × The summit was arrived at just before dawn. | ✓ The summit was reached just before dawn.
✓ We arrived at the summit just before dawn. |
|---|---|--|

When **arrive** means 'come to a place at the end of a journey', it is intransitive and cannot be used in passive structures. ⇒ 575.5

as

77

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | × As I knew she was interested in tennis, so I decided buy her a book about Wimbledon. | ✓ I knew she was interested in tennis, so I decided buy her a book about Wimbledon.
✓ As I knew she was interested in tennis, I decided to buy her a book about Wimbledon. |
|---|--|---|

We do not use **as** and **so** together in the same sentence. To link **two** clauses, we use just one conjunction (NOT two). ⇒ 169.2

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 2 | × As I arrived home, I phoned the police | ✓ When I arrived home. I phoned the police. |
|---|--|---|

In the above sentence, the first action ('arrived') happens before the **second** action ('phoned'). When there are two actions and one happens **before** the other, we join the two clauses with **when, once, as soon as** or **after**.

We use **as** to show that two actions take place at exactly the same time: ('Henry came in **as** Philip went out.') or to show that two actions take place **over the** same period of time: ('**As/While** I was cooking the dinner, Rubiah **was having** a bath.') or to show that one action takes place while another action is **in progress**: ('**As/While** I was driving to work, I saw a serious road accident.')

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 3 | × Suddenly I heard a terrible noise, as a bomb exploding. | ✓ Suddenly I heard a terrible noise, like a bomb exploding . |
|---|---|--|

When we are making a comparison, we normally use **like** (NOT **as**): 'Helen is very intelligent, just **like** her mother.'

We use **as** in comparisons when it is part of the structure **as + adjective/adverb + as**: 'Helen is **as** intelligent **as** her mother.'

4

× In some countries, as England, the police do not carry firearms.

✓ In some countries, such as England, the police do not carry firearms.

When we give an example, we use **such as** or (in informal styles) **like**.

⇒ 456.2

5

× In Denmark, it is always hotter in July as in September.

✓ In Denmark, it is always hotter in July than in September.

After a comparative form ('hotter'), we use **than**. Compare: 'It is not **as** hot in September as in July.'

as if and as though

78

! He has been treated as if he was a criminal.

✓ He has been treated as if he were a criminal.

In formal styles we use **were** (NOT **was**) after **as if** and **as though**. In informal styles, both **was** and **were** are commonly heard. However, some careful users insist that **was** is always incorrect.

as long as

79

× We're going to the beach tomorrow as long as it won't rain.

✓ We're going to the beach tomorrow as long as it doesn't rain.

⇒ 163.2

as soon as

80

× I will telephone you as soon as I will reach London.

✓ I will telephone you as soon as I reach London.

⇒ 25

as well

81

× She didn't want to see him again but she didn't want to hurt his feelings as well.

✓ She didn't want to see him again but she didn't want to hurt his feelings either.

In negative contexts we use **either**, NOT **as well**.

⇒ 53.2

as well as

82

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | ✗ The accident ruined our holiday, as well as cost us a lot of money. | ✓ The accident ruined our holiday, as well as costing us a lot of money. |
|---|---|--|

When we use a verb after **as well as**, we use the *-ing* form: 'As well as giving piano lessons, she teaches French.' ➡ 882.7

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 2 | ! The driver as well as the two passengers were taken to hospital. | ✓ The driver, as well as the two passengers, was taken to hospital. |
|---|--|---|

When two nouns are linked by **as well as**, careful users insist that the verb should agree with the first noun ('driver'). In informal styles, however, a plural verb is fairly common.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 3 | ✗ Bettina plays both the piano as well as the guitar. | ✓ Bettina plays both the piano and the guitar. |
|---|---|--|

Both is followed by **and**.

ashamed

83

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | ✗ The ashamed look on her face made me feel sorry for her. | ✓ The look of shame on her face made me feel sorry for her. |
|---|--|---|

Ashamed is not used before a noun.

➡ 16.1

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 2 | ✗ I am ashamed of saying that I am very lazy. | ✓ I am ashamed to say that I am very lazy. |
|---|---|--|

When someone is unwilling to do something because of what people **will** think or say, they are (*too*) **ashamed to do** it: 'He was **ashamed to admit** that he couldn't read or write, and tried to keep it a secret.'

When someone feels bad because of something that they have done, they are **ashamed of/about doing** it: 'He feels **ashamed about neglecting** his family for all these years.'

ask

84

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | ✗ I asked to the air hostess if there were any empty seats. | ✓ I asked the air hostess if there were any empty seats. |
|---|---|--|

We **ask** someone something (NOT **to** someone): 'We **asked the driver** where he was taking us.' 'Ask **her** how long it will take.' ⇒ 390.3

- 2
- | | |
|---|---|
| × I asked him how far was it to the nearest town. | ✓ I asked him how far it was to the nearest town. |
|---|---|

⇒ 389.1

- 3
- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| × The woman asked me a cigarette . | ✓ The woman asked me for a cigarette. |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|

We **ask** someone **for** something that we would like to have: 'He **asked me for** my name and address.'

- 4
- | | |
|---|---|
| × I asked for them to change the shoes for a larger size. | ✓ I asked them to change the shoes for a larger size. |
|---|---|

We **ask** someone **to do** something (WITHOUT **for**).

- 5
- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| × He asked for using my car. | ✓ He asked if he could use my car. |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|

We **ask** (someone) **if/whether** we can do or have something.

assist

85

- | | |
|---|---|
| × Our sales staff will be pleased to assist you to make the right choice. | ✓ Our sales staff will be pleased to assist you in making the right choice. |
|---|---|

We **assist** someone **in doing** something. Compare: 'Will you **help me (to) move** the piano?'

associate

86

- | | |
|---|---|
| × He does not wish to be associated to any political party. | ✓ He does not wish to be associated with any political party. |
|---|---|

After **associate** and **associated**, we use **with** (NOT **to**): 'Most people **associate** Stratford **with** Shakespeare.'

at

87

- 1
- | | |
|---|---|
| × We spent the first two weeks at London. | ✓ We spent the first two weeks in London. |
|---|---|

We live, work, or spend a period of time **in** a town, city, country or region:

'I live **in** Amsterdam.' 'We spend our holidays **in** France.' 'He has been working **in** the Middle East.'

2

× At the day I planned to travel, I got up very early.

✓ On the day I planned to travel, I got up very early.

Something happens **on** a particular day or date: '**on** Monday', '**on** New Year's Day', '**on** the following day', '**on** 26th June'. ➡ 549.1

3

× At the winter we always go skiing.

✓ In the winter we always go skiing.

Something happens **in** a particular month, season, year, decade or century: '**in** June', '**in** the spring', '**in** 1994', '**in** the 1990s', '**in** the twentieth century'.

4

× At my arrival in Brussels, I went straight to the nearest hospital.

✓ On my arrival in Brussels, I went straight to the nearest hospital.

When we mean 'at the same moment as' or 'just after', we use **on** (in formal contexts **upon**):

On my return to Bali, I noticed that many things had changed.

The goods will be despatched **upon** receipt of payment.

5

! Call us during office hours at 733 4593.

✓ Call us during office hours on 733 4593.

Users of British English **call/ring/phone/reach** someone **on** a particular number. To **call** someone **at** a number is American English.

attend

88

× Most of the people who attended at the book exhibition were teachers.

✓ Most of the people **who** attended the book exhibition **were** teachers.

We **attend** a meeting, exhibition, concert, etc., (WITHOUT **at**). Compare: 'I'm sorry that I couldn't **be present at** the meeting.'

attention

89

1

× Teachers should give slow learners more attentions.

✓ Teachers should give **slow** learners more attention.

Attention is an uncountable noun and does not have a plural form.

- 2
- | | |
|--|--|
| × She didn't pay attention on what I was saying. | ✓ She didn't pay attention to what I was saying. |
|--|--|

We *pay attention to* something.

attitude

90

- | | |
|---|--|
| × Some people have a very poor attitude for work. | ✓ Some people have a very poor attitude to work. |
|---|--|

We talk about someone's *attitude to* or *towards* something.

avoid

91

- | | |
|--|--|
| × You cannot avoid to speak to someone when you both live in the same house. | ✓ You cannot avoid speaking to someone when you both live in the same house. |
|--|--|

We *avoid doing* something (NOT *to do* something).

baby

92

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| × She is going to have baby. | ✓ She is going to have a baby. |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|

⇒ 3.1

bad

93

- | | |
|--|--|
| × I don't understand how she could treat him so bad. | ✓ I don't understand how she could treat him so badly. |
|--|--|

Bad is an adjective: 'He received very *bad* treatment.'

⇒ 26.1

baggage

94

- | | |
|--|---|
| × She had no money to pay for all the excess baggages. | ✓ She had no money to pay for all the excess baggage. |
|--|---|

Baggage is an uncountable noun and does not have a plural form.

be: use

95

- 1
- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| × She is goes to Spain every year. | ✓ She goes to Spain every year. |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|

When we use **be** as an auxiliary verb, the next verb is either an **-ing** form or a past participle. Compare:

- This year he **is going** to Florence. (**be** + **-ing**)
 Last year he **was sent** to Rome. (**be** + past participle)
 Next year he **is being sent** to Turin. (**be** + **-ing** + past participle)

- 2
- | | |
|--|---|
| × The woman is waiting to see you looks rather angry. | ✓ The woman (who is) waiting to see you looks rather angry. |
|--|---|

⇒ 670.1

be: wrongly omitted

96

- 1
- | | |
|--|--|
| × My sister now eager to start her new job.
× Listening to the radio while you are driving often dangerous. | ✓ My sister is now eager to start her new job.
✓ Listening to the radio while you are driving is often dangerous. |
|--|--|

To join a subject and a complement, we use a linking verb. The most common linking verb is **be**:

SUBJECT	BE	(ADVERB)	COMPLEMENT
My sister	is	now	eager to start her new job.
Listening to ... driving	is	often	dangerous.

This error is particularly common when there is an adverb before the complement.

- 2
- | | |
|--|---|
| × A small country like ours must alert to such dangers. | ✓ A small country like ours must be alert to such dangers. |
|--|---|

A modal verb ('must') cannot come immediately before an adjective ('alert'). Between the modal and the adjective there has to be a linking verb. This is normally **be**: 'The letter **should be ready** for posting by now.' 'She **may be reluctant** to come without her husband.'

because

97

- 1
- | | |
|---|--|
| × Because I had forgotten my watch, so I didn't know the time. | ✓ Because I had forgotten my watch, I didn't know the time.
✓ I had forgotten my watch. so I didn't know the time. |
|---|--|

We do not use **because** and **so** together in the same sentence. To link **two** clauses, we use just one conjunction (NOT two).

⇒ 169.2

- 2
- | | |
|---|---|
| × Because the bad weather, we stayed at home. | ✓ Because of the bad weather, we stayed at home.
✓ Because the weather was bad, we stayed at home. |
|---|---|

Because is a conjunction, NOT a preposition.

⇒ 882.7

- 3
- | | |
|--|---|
| ! The reason I didn't take the exam was because I didn't think I would pass. | ✓ The reason I didn't take the exam was that I didn't think I would pass. |
|--|---|

Careful users insist that **reason** (or **reason why**) should be followed by a **that**-clause (NOT **because**). The meaning of **because** is included in the word **reason**.

because of

98

- | | |
|--|---|
| × Because of I had no money, I had to walk home. | ✓ Because I had no money, I had to walk home. |
|--|---|

Because of is a preposition, NOT a conjunction.

⇒ 882.7

bed

99

- | | |
|--|---|
| ! I jumped out of my bed and ran over to the window. | ✓ I jumped out of bed and ran over to the window. |
|--|---|

⇒ 532.2

before

100

- 1
- | | |
|--|---|
| × I came to England about two months before. | ✓ I came to England about two months ago. |
|--|---|

When we talk about a past event in relation to **now** (the moment of speaking), we use **ago**: 'Her birthday was two days ago.' (= If it is now Wednesday, her birthday was on Monday.)

We use **before** when we talk about a past event in relation to **then** (a time in the past): I saw her last December in Rome but our first meeting was two years **before** in Monaco. (= our first meeting was two years before last December)

Ago means 'before now'; **before** means 'before then'.

- 2
- | | |
|---|--|
| × The woman sitting before us turned round and told us to be quiet. | ✓ The woman sitting in front of us turned round and told us to be quiet. |
|---|--|

When talking about position, we normally use **in front of**: 'His car was parked **in front of** the house.' 'I wish you wouldn't stand **in front of** the television.' We can use **before** (or **in front of**) when talking about order: 'There were six people **before** me in the queue.'

3

× I want to have their bedrooms ready before they will arrive.

✓ I want to have their bedrooms ready before they arrive.

⇒ 25

begin

101

1

× He stood in the middle of the room and begun to cry.

✓ He stood in the middle of the room and began to cry.

Begin (infinitive), **began** (past simple), **begun** (past participle).

2

× I am beginning writing a book about my father.

✓ I am beginning to write a book about my father.

! It's about time they began considering the possibility of further tax relief.

✓ It's about time they began to consider the possibility of further tax relief.

⇒ 839.8

behaviour

102

× Society is no longer prepared to tolerate such a violent behaviour.

✓ Society is no longer prepared to tolerate such violent behaviour.

Behaviour is an uncountable noun and is not used with **a/an**.

⇒ 2.1

behind

103

1

× The fighting started behind of the far goal.

✓ The fighting started behind the far goal.

We do not use **of** after **behind**. Compare: 'She stood **in front of** the television so that he couldn't see.'

2

× I was so angry that I dropped my bags and ran behind the thief.

✓ I was so angry that I dropped my bags and ran after the thief.

When we want to catch somebody, we run/drive/etc. **after** them. **When we**

walk/drive/etc. **behind** someone, we keep a steady distance from them:
 'We wondered why Mr Patel's wife always walked **behind** him.'

believe

104

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | × Her eyes showed that she was obviously not believing me. | ✓ Her eyes showed that she obviously did not believe me. |
|---|--|--|

Believe is not used in progressive tenses.

⇒ 627.3

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 2 | × I just couldn't believe in what he told me about her. | ✓ I just couldn't believe what he told me about her. |
|---|---|--|

If we **believe in** something, we think that it exists or that it is good for us: 'I stopped **believing in** Father Christmas when I was five.' 'Philip and I don't **believe in** dieting.'

belong

105

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | × Do you mean that the whole building is belong to one man? | ✓ Do you mean that the whole building belongs to one man? |
|---|---|---|

Belong is a verb, not an adjective.

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2 | × Nobody belonged the suitcase. | ✓ The suitcase belonged to nobody. |
|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|

If we buy something, for example a suitcase, the suitcase **belongs to** us. Note the alternative: 'Nobody **owned** the suitcase.'

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 3 | × All these houses belong His Majesty. | ✓ All these houses belong to His Majesty. |
|---|--|---|

Something **belongs to** someone.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 4 | × Most of the books we use are belonging to the school. | ✓ Most of the books we use belong to the school. |
|---|---|--|

Belong is not used in progressive tenses.

⇒ 627.3

beside

106

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | × Beside wasting my time, she was also rather rude. | ✓ Besides wasting my time, she was also rather rude. |
|---|---|--|