

# Common Errors in English

*Believe it or not, English native speakers sometimes make mistakes when using their own language! To find them, simply read a daily newspaper regularly or check out some of the leaflets at an English Tourist Information Centre or library! Identify one mistake in each sentence below and write the letter of the category that it belongs to out of the following:*

- |                      |             |                           |
|----------------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| A. apostrophes       | B. articles | C. capital letters        |
| D. clumsy style      | E. commas   | F. extra or missing words |
| G. spelling mistakes |             |                           |

1. Keep the kid's brains active during the holidays with our great summer school!
2. Are you fed up with reading about others good fortune?
3. Newcastle, it is clear is a city of great contrasts.
4. I had told the papers that I didn't had want to talk to them, but they still followed me into the hotel.
5. We can go by car, or it's about twenty minutes walk from here.
6. We were glad that the councillors were able to stay did for the whole afternoon.
7. When you see our prices you won't beleive your eyes!
8. The children's play train is now boarding. Get on borad!
9. An umbrella that stays up when it gets windy – what an great idea!
10. Are you going out on New Years Eve?
11. Thinking of learning to hang-glide? You'll soon ge the hang of it!
12. The station is only about thirty-five minutes drive away.
13. Adult tikets – £4.60.
14. We are aiming to improve individual's skills with our new computer courses.
15. Children will be able compete in four different age categories.
16. Make Someone happy Today – Smile!
17. If things aren't going well, why not advise yourself of a new course of action?
18. We're all really looking forward to the wedding on October 8<sup>th</sup>!!!!

19. Our products offer solutions to a range of every day IT and wireless communication needs.
20. We are working hard to improve our store so that it will be without question, the best hardware store in the city.

## Answers

How the sentences **should** read:

1. Keep the **kids'** brains active during the holidays with our great summer school! (A)
2. Are you fed up with reading about **others'** good fortune? (A)
3. Newcastle, **it is clear**, is a city of great contrasts. (E)
4. I had told the papers that I didn't [**extra word: had**] want to talk to them, but they still followed me into the hotel. (F)
5. We can go by car, or it's about twenty **minutes'** walk from here. (A)
6. We were glad that the councillors were able to stay [**extra word: did**] for the whole afternoon. (F)
7. When you see our prices you won't **believe** your eyes! (G)
8. The children's play train is now boarding. Get on **board**! (G)
9. An umbrella that stays up when it gets windy – what **a** great idea! (B)
10. Are you going out on New **Year's** Eve? (A)
11. Thinking of learning to hang-glide? You'll soon **get** the hang of it! (G)
12. The station is only about thirty-five **minutes'** drive away. (A)
13. Adult **tickets** – £4.60. (G)
14. We are aiming to improve **individuals'** skills with our new computer courses. (A)
15. Children will be able [**missing word: to**] compete in four different age categories. (F)
16. Make Someone **Happy** Today – Smile! (C)
17. If things aren't going well, why not **take a** new course of action? (D)
18. We're all really looking forward to the wedding on October 8<sup>th</sup>!!!! (D)

19. Our products offer solutions to a range of **everyday** IT and wireless communication needs. (G)
20. We are working hard to improve our store so that it will be, **without question**, the best hardware store in the city. (E)