



SOME IMPORTANT USAGE OF ENGLISH GRAMMAR FOR THE COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Prof.Dr.D.Nagarathinam

Principal, Theni Kammavar Sangam College of Tech., Theni-625 534.

Email: dnagarathinam1960@gmail.com



Prof.Dr.D.Nagarathinam

Article Received:02/09/2020

Article Accepted: 30/09/2020

Published online:07/10/2020

DOI: [10.33329/rjelal.8.3.420](https://doi.org/10.33329/rjelal.8.3.420)

Abstract

English is a universal language and it is a widely spoken language today. English is a global language and it is a Foreign Language for us. Currently the English language is taught as a second language not only in India but around the world. The English was introduced during the reign of British Government. English language helps people hailing from different ethnicity to connect and continue conversations. Any grammar is the structure and sound of a language. The main aspects of spoken and written in English depend upon its grammar. When the grammar is proper, the sentences make sense. English grammar is important to realize the importance of language. Native English speakers are able to speak and write with proper speak grammatically correct sentences. But for non-native speakers who have to learn the language from its core and whose mother language is another language. For students, understanding the grammar may seem to be difficult. This paper presents some important usage of English Grammar which will helpful for college and university students for their internal and external written communication, Campus Placement, Interview, and Office purposes.

Keywords: Usage of English grammar, Lord Macaulay, higher education, advantage, students.

I. Introduction:

All states in India have accepted as the medium of instruction in higher education is in English and it has become an integral part of the curriculum almost at all levels of education. English is considered to be the 21st century Lingua Franca in science and engineering ⁽¹⁾. English is taught as a second language at every stage of education in all states of India ⁽²⁾. The researchers of various fields such as: science, engineering and technology, law, medicines are using the books in English. In the age of globalization, everyone needs to enhance the communication skills in English in order to meet the tough completion in the job market. Mere subject

knowledge will not help in finding the right job. Multinational companies and major IT companies recruit only those candidates who have good communication skills along with subject knowledge. All over the world, the demand for English as a second language or as a foreign language has always been at its peak. Eventually it needs engineers with a mixture of communication skills – obviously English and Technical skills. According to the University Grants Commission in the year 2011, English language proficiency has got the highest priority. It established the importance of English language proficiency for a globally competitive graduate. In order to meet the global competitions, the UGC has made compulsory

subject of functional English at the undergraduate level ⁽³⁾.

II. English Development during Pre-Colonial Period:

The British East India Company has established on 31 December 1600 AD to conduct trade with India and other countries in the east. When their political powers increased, the East India Company laid the foundation at metros like Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai. The English traders gave more importance to English. The English East India Company had deepening its roots the English language also was taking roots ⁽⁴⁾. The growth of English in India was started with colonization by the British. During the 18th century Christian missionaries entered India and the efforts of Rev. Swartz during 1787 to establish schools for the teaching of English. Another significant effort was the publication of the first book, 'The Tutor', to teach English to the non-Europeans by author John Miller in 1797. **Lord Macaulay** came to India, and he found that the Indian education system was redundant and innovative and it did not match the advancements of the European education system and, he believed that Indians could only thrive based on western civilization, particularly in the spheres of justice and science, engineering and technology. The British colonial rule in India grafted into the Indian society the system of education which was designed by the British for the maintenance of their imperial administration in India. English was introduced by Macaulay in our Educational system during the British rule is called the **Macaulay scheme of education** ^(5, 6). From that day onward English has been part and parcel in our Country for Business, Commerce, and Education and Job market. After Independence also the English language has been blooming. At the time of Independence, leaders and people raised slogans against English but after independence it boomed in India. Thus, the role of English in education was set by the end of the 18th century. Today in India, the English speaking population has increased and India is one among the top three countries in the world with the highest number of English speakers.

III. Advantage of English communication for professional purposes:

1. English communication is important for any administrative position.
2. Attractive salary and promotion high is more for good communicator.
3. Having good communication skills is a valuable asset for any organization.
4. In today's world, employers seek graduates with sound communication skills, along with technical engineering knowledge.
5. Social status is high with good communication skills.
6. Professionals with strong hold on English language are set in higher level of standards in the organization.
7. English may not be the most spoken language in the world, but it is the official language in a large number of countries.
8. English is the dominant business language and it has become almost a necessity for people to speak English if they are to enter a global market.
9. The world's top films, and books are published and produced in English.
10. Most of the content produced on the internet (50%) is in English.

IV. Important Usage of English Grammar:

Most of the students fail to speak in English like English man because they are not born to that country or its culture. All the subjects and even lectures in major universities are conducted in English and therefore it is necessary to have a good command over the language. All in all, English language fluency is a significant aspect of an engineering student's in their academic life and future career. Some of the most common mistakes made by students in while writing in English grammar are given below. The following are some of the most common grammatical errors and some of the sentences are given for better understanding of the

grammar are also given below ⁽⁷⁻¹⁰⁾:

1. Habitual action can also be expressed in simple past:

Usually the habitual action is expressed in simple present tense. Ex. The sun rises in the east.

But in some cases it can also be expressed in simple past tense. Ex. Nagu always wrote the examination with a special pen.

2. Combination of present and past in a sentence:

Arunan tells to Prof.Biju that there was a car accident last night.

2.a). Ponarun is going to see the Secretary tomorrow. (Present continuous tense for Future)

2.b). I am going to see the Chief Minister tomorrow.

3. Difference between hunger and hungry. Which one is correct?

a). I'm feeling hunger. Hunger is noun.

b). I'm feeling hungry. Hungry is an adjective.

(Both sentences are correct. I'm hungry is the way people use it more often in English)

4. Difference between did you have? and have you had?:

a) *Did you have Lunch?*

If you use the past simple, it means lunch time is over. (Finished – Time may be 4.30 PM.)

b) *Have you had lunch?*

The use of the present perfect here implies that it's still lunch time. (Unfinished – Time may be 1.00 PM.)

5. Difference between worked and have been working:

a). *I worked for 2 years* at Theni Kammavar Sangam Engineering College (Now I am sitting idle).

b) *I've been working for 2 years* at Theni Kammavar Sangam Engineering College. (Now also I am working),

6). Tender has been used as Verb, adjective, noun:

6. a. I am tendering my resignation letter with two months notice (Verb)

6. b. I asked the sales man to give tender coconut. (Adjective)

6. c. The Govt. has given tender notification. (Noun)

6. d. Eating neem tree tender leaf is good for health (Gerund)

6. e. Please tender exact change. (It is written in the bus).

6. II. Fast/Fasting has been used as Verb, noun, adjective, adverb:

6. II.a). Nagu has not eaten anything; he is on **fast**. (Noun)

6. II.b). All members of my family **are fasting** today. (Verb)

6. II.c). Balaji is a **fast** runner. (Adjective – describing word).

6. II.d). Kumar is driving **fast**. (Adverb - describes a movement as happening quickly).

7. S-V-O sentence pattern:

7. a). S-V-O-O-A sentence pattern:

Kumar gave me a question directly.

7. b). S-V-O-A-C pattern:

Anusiya gave sweets in a bag last night.

7. c. S-V-O sentence pattern with 3 adverbs:

I went with my father to the college last week by auto.

8. Conditional Sentence “was”, “were” & “would” (Imaginary):

The unreal conditional sentences are used in Imaginary situation ⁽⁷⁾. The examples are as follows:

If I were a millionaire, I would buy a BMW car.

I would buy anything if I got a lucky prize in lottery.

I would be a millionaire, if I won in the lottery.

If Nagu was rich, he would give some money to the poor.

If Nagu wrote the examination well, he would get First class.

If I were in PM's place, I would have resigned, says Badal. (Active voice).

Badal said that he would have been resigned, if he was in PM's place (Passive voice).

9. Conditional Sentence "would have" & "would have been" (Impossible) ⁽⁷⁾:

In conditional sentence the impossible conditional statements are used as follows:

The accident would not have occurred, if the driver had not been driving fast.

If they had taken to hospital earlier, he would not have died.

If I had studied hard, I would have passed in the examination.

9. 1: Conditional Sentence "would have" & "would have been" (Impossible) with Active and Passive voice:

9.1.a) I would have bought a presentation for my sister, if I had known it was her birthday. (Active voice).

9.1.b) A presentation would have been bought by me for my sister, if I had known it was her birthday. (Passive voice).

9. 2.a).The Police would have prevented the clash, if they had taken action early in the law college premises at Chennai during the year 2008. (Active form).

9. 2.b) The clash would have been prevented by the Police, if they had taken action early in the law college premises at Chennai during the year 2008. (Passive form).

10. Convert into Passive form:

a. "Did they take anything" - convert this sentence into passive form.

b. "Was anything taken by them" – Answer.

11. In many sentences have is used as the Main verb:

a). For example —

- I **have** exam.
- I **will have** exam.
- I **have** lunch.
- I **will have** lunch.

b). In these cases, where the word *have* is used as a **Main Verb in Tenses:**

For example —

- I **have** lunch. (Simple Present Tense)
 - I **have had** lunch. (Present Perfect Tense)
 - I **had had** lunch. (Past Perfect Tense).
- She **has** lunch. (Simple Present Tense)
 - She **has had** lunch. (Present Perfect Tense)
 - She **had had** lunch. (Past Perfect Tense)
- I **have** an exam. (Simple Present Tense)
 - I **have had** an exam. (Present Perfect Tense)
 - I **had had** an exam. (Past Perfect Tense).

12. Difference between (both past tense) hung and hanged:

a. *Hung* is the correct past tense under nearly all circumstances. (Hung – past tense).

b. *Hanged* is only used to describe one very specific situation. Example: Four Nirbhaya case convicts hanged to death in Tihar jail. (Hanged – past tense).

13. I. When a student wants to enter into the Interviewer's Room which sentence he can use. May I come in sir? Can I come in sir?

a. Interview room. The next candidate is Arunan.

Arunan: Excuse me Sir, May I come in sir? (This is polite form)

b. Arunan friend's room. He wants to go inside. Here Arunan has to use Can.

13. II. Difference between Shall I come in and May I come in?

a). Shall I come in? It indicates a strong assertion.

b). Principal room. A student Prasad wants to get signature from the Principal.

Prasad: Excuse me Sir, May I come in? (This is polite form and ask for permission)

14. Difference between "It rained all night" and "It rained overnight"

a). It rained all night means the falling of rain continuously for the entire night.

b). It rained overnight means the rain falls some during the night. The time and duration is also not mentioned.

15. The difference between "He looks forward to meeting you" and "He is looking forward to meet you"

a). He looks forward to meeting you. (Gerund)

b). He is looking forward to meeting you. (Gerund)

16. Can I delete the last comma in the sentence, "I like eating idlies, dosa, vada, and rice"?

If you omit comma after vada it could be "vada and rice" considered to be a single dish with two ingredients, instead of two separate foods. But vada and rice are separate food. So, comma should be there after vada.

17. Difference between "alright" and "all right" in English.

a). Alright means okay.

b). All right means all correct. I got 100% marks in Mathematics, because all my answers were all right.

18. Difference between "I have visited Tanjore Temple last year" or "I visited Tanjore Temple last year".

a). Tanjore Temple is one of the land mark place in India. Therefore the definite article the can be included before Tanjore Temple.

I have visited the Tanjore Temple last year is also not correct. (Present perfect tense should not be used here).

b). I visited the Tanjore Temple last year is correct. (Past tense)

19. Difference between (both past tense) learnt and learned:

a). Last year my brother learnt to speak Hindi. (Past tense)

b). Last year my brother learned to speak Hindi. (Past tense - the word "learned" replaces "learnt" in the United States and Canada.

20. Difference between I and my family are going for Delhi. & I and my family am going for Delhi.

a). I and my family are going for Delhi is grammatically correct. A plural subject calls for a plural verb.

b). I and my family am going for Delhi is grammatically incorrect. A plural subject calls for a singular verb.

21. Difference between I and my parents went to the shop & me and my parents went to the shop.

a). The correct sentence would be: "My parents and I went to the shop." English grammar prefers the order second person, third person, first person. It's considered more polite.

b). me and my parents went to the shop is incorrect. (me is object pronoun will not start with subject pronoun).

22. Difference between I and my group & me and my group.

a). My group and I plan to go for the Cinema.

b). She gave the tickets to my group and me.

23. Difference between present tense and present continuous tense in sentences:

a). I *leave* for Chennai tomorrow, (my plan)

b). I am leaving for Chennai tomorrow. (certainty)

Through both sentences make a statement about my plan for tomorrow, the second sentence conveys about the certainly going more than a plan.

24. Different meanings of verbs when they are used to talk about states:

All the verbs in English grammar will not have the same meaning and some verbs have different meanings when they are used to talk about states and some verbs describe actions. The verbs which are used in this context may take simple or continuous forms, depending on the condition.

a) The treatment for controlling recent Corona fever does not appear to work. (Here appear: state. Does not appear meaning does not seem)

b) The actress Mrs. Kusboo is currently appearing in the serial films. (Kusboo is currently appearing meaning is Kusboo is currently taking part)

c) What do you think about this solution? (What do you think is a state which means expecting about an opinion).

d) I am thinking of going in August.(think: action=consider).

25. With some verbs describing mental states (e.g. find, realize, regret, think, and understand).

a). *I regret that the company will have to be sold. (I have made the decision and I am sorry about it)*

We can use the present continuous to emphasize that we have recently started to think about something or that we are not sure about something.

b). *I am regretting my decision to give her the job (=I am increasingly aware that it was the wrong decision)*

Some other verbs describing preferences and mental states (e.g. agree, believe, conclude, know, prefer) rarely used with the present continuous.

c). *I believe you now (not I am believing now.)*

d). *we use the present simple with verbs which perform the action they describe.*

d.1). *I admit I can't see as well as I used to.*

d.2). *We apologize for not replying earlier.*

26. The present simple is often used in newspaper headlines to talk about events that have recently happened.

a). The Cyclone hits Chennai.

b). The Prime Minister visits America.

c). Fire breaks out in hotel TAJ-MUMBAI

26. II. We can use the present simple to refer to the contents of books, films, newspapers, etc...

a). Thomson gives a largest European companies in chapter six.

b). At the beginning of the book, three men find \$4 million in a crashed plane.

c). In the film, the actor Elizabeth tailor takes the role of the Egyptian Queen-Cleopatra.

27. Use of the in a sentence:

Mr.Kannan is going to barber shop (It refers that Kannan is a barber-employee)

Mr.Arun is going to the barber shop (for hair cut).

It is essential that everyone should understand the basic grammar rules in order to communicate efficiently. In the present world of social networking and the latest advancement in technology, students are lazy towards grammar usage in their everyday communications. Unclear communications due to incorrect grammar not only create misunderstandings, but also make a poor first impression. The English language and grammar knowledge helps the students in correction of mistakes in writing and soft skill development in English language enhance communication ⁽¹¹⁻¹⁵⁾. If an employer receives a covering letter for a job application with full of grammatical errors with poorly written English then they simply put it off or ignore it. It is also important to use correct grammar while writing on behalf of your organisation, as this can mean the difference between readers trusting your expertise questioning your knowledge of the subject matter.

V. Conclusion

Now a day the English language learning, communication skills and writing skills are based

the traditional mode of grammar and translation based. The main function of English grammar is to discipline the language by deciding word formation, structure, syntax and parts of speech. The student of English has to learn grammar properly. The grammar acts as of a guru for the students who teaches how to use the words in the sentence and it stops the disorder in the language. In the globalized world it is necessary for everyone that they should know English and Computer otherwise they will face lot of difficulty. The teacher's role in the spoken English class is very important. The teacher should make the students, individually and to make them loudly the sentence structures in perfect manner.

References

- [1]. N.Jayaram, The Language Question in Higher Education: Trends and Issues, Higher Education, Vol.26, No.1, July 1993. PP. 93-114.
- [2]. <http://www.shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream>.
- [3]. National Educational Policy 2020, MHRD, Govt. of India, 2020.
- [4]. www.byjus.com>IAS Preparation>This Day in History- British East India Company.
- [5]. Elmer H. Cutts, the Background of Macaulay's Minute, *The American Historical Review* Vol. 58, No. 4 . pp. 824-853., July 1953, Oxford University Press.
- [6]. M.S. Thirumalai, "Lord Macaulay: The Man Who Started It All, And His Minute", Language in India, Volume 3, 4 April 2003.
- [7]. N.Karpaha, Prof.L.Lakshmanan & Dr D Nagarathinam, "Would you Like to Know About Would", International Journal of ELT, Linguistics and Comparative Literature, Research Articles, Vol.7, Issue 2, pp.1-8, March- April 2019.
- [8]. T.J.Fitikides, "Common Mistakes in English", Longman, 2002
- [9]. Martin Hewings, "Advanced Grammar in Use", Cambridge University Press, 2003
- [10]. A University Grammar of English-Randolph Quirk Sidney Greenbaum, 2000
- [11]. Marc J. Riemer , "English and Communication Skills for the Global Engineer"., Global Journal of Engineering Education, vol. 6, no. 1. 2002. Published in Australia.
- [12]. Marc J. Riemer, "Communication Skills for the 21st Century Engineers", Global Journal of Engineering Education, Vol.11, No.1, 2007 , Published in Australia.
- [13]. Dr.Shikha Seetha, "Necessity of Soft Skills Training for Student and Professional", (IJEBA) ISSN (Online): 2279-0039.
- [14]. Rukshar Moin and Smrutihara Biswal, 5 May 2012 "Soft Skills in Status quo", IJPSS, Vol.2, Issue. ISSN: 2249-5894.
- [15]. [http:// www.thehindu.com/news/](http://www.thehindu.com/news/) July 16th, 2010.