

# Some common errors in writing english.

## Causes and solutions

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**Abstract:** With the fast-paced changes brought about by globalization and technological development, applying foreign languages to communication, academic and writing is increasingly urgent especially English language. The English language is well known for being the language of international communication in the modern world as well as a global language. In addition to, studying English is very important for everyone who needs to improve or enhance his (her) English in period of world economic integration. Come from that practical meaning, we carry out the paper “Some common errors in writing English, causes and solutions” aims to help all learners who are studying different majors and have general knowledge to improve their English writing skills during their time at Thu Dau Mot University and other universities. We hope that the paper also helps learners as well as all students at all Universities have a proficiency in writing English skill after reading the paper.[4]

**Keywords:** Common errors, phrasal verbs, non-English major student

### 1. Introduction

English is one of the most popular languages all over the world. It is widely used in many fields such as education, science, business, aviation, commerce, politics, ect [4]... Not like speaking, listening and reading, writing skill in English has been considered a difficult skill. In the writing skill, students have to make sentences from available words or phrase. Another form of writing skill, change the bottom sentence with the same meaning as the given sentence so that the meaning stays the same previous sentence. Writing is a technical skill that you use to communicate effectively through the written word, phrase or expression (idom). Though these may vary depending on what you're writing, there are several that transcend categories. In writing skill, it can more specifically include: grammar, vocabulary, spelling, sentence construction, structure, research and accuracy, clarity and persuasiveness[4]. Therefore, most students must have an extensive knowledge in English grammar so as to become a skillful person in writing skill during their time studying at Thu Dau Mot University and others.

### 2. Research content

Because of our limited time, we supply learners some best methods to make the acquaintance English writing skills. According to the following tips, we would like to suggest some pair of words that help learners as well as students to avoid making common

mistakes in writing English.

#### 2.1. Pair of words that some learners often make mistakes in writing English

*Affect* is usually a verb meaning «to produce an effect upon,» as in «the weather affected his mood.» *Effect* is usually a noun meaning «a change that results when something is done or happens,» as in «computers have had a huge effect on our lives.» There are exceptions, but if you think of *affect* as a verb and *effect* as a noun, you'll be right most of the time.[3]

Here's a sentence that uses both words correctly: “The cold weather affected the crops; the effect of the cold weather was a lower yield.” If you find yourself scratching your head unable to discern the difference between *affect* and *effect* in the above sentence, never fear!

| No | Words               | Meaning and some typical examples  |
|----|---------------------|--|
| 1  | Affect (Verb)       | - To change something or someone<br>EX: How does smoking affect your lungs?<br>- The food affected the crops because of the bad weather.<br>- The loud music affected her ability to concentrate |
| 2  | Effect (Noun, Verb) | - To effect change<br>Sally hoped that The Prime Minister would effect change in her country.  |

Bring means “to carry to a nearer place from a more distant one” (mang một vật, người từ một khoảng cách xa đến gần người nói hơn)

- Take on the other hand “to carry to a more distant place from a nearer one” (mang một vật,

người từ vị trí gần người nói ra xa phía người nói.)

I give learners some typical examples.

Bring this package to the post office. => False

- Don't forget to take this package to the post office. => True

(*Đừng quên đem gói hàng này đến bưu điện nhé!*)

- I am still waiting for you. Don't forget to take my book. => False

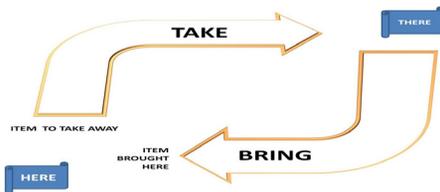
- I am still waiting for you. Don't forget to bring my book. => True

(*Minh vẫn đang đợi cậu đấy. Đừng quên mang sách đến cho mình nhé!*)

Ví dụ :

He brought an umbrella to me (anh ấy đã mang 1 chiếc ô đến cho tôi)

Don't forget to take your umbrella (Đừng quên lấy dù của bạn đi)



Lend means 'give something to someone for a short time, expecting that you will get it back'. The past simple and the -ed form are *lent*:

*I never lend my CDs to anyone.*

*I lent Gary £30.* (I expect that Gary will return this to me)

Borrow is a regular verb meaning 'get something from someone, intending to give it back after a short time':

*Could I borrow your pen for a minute, please?*

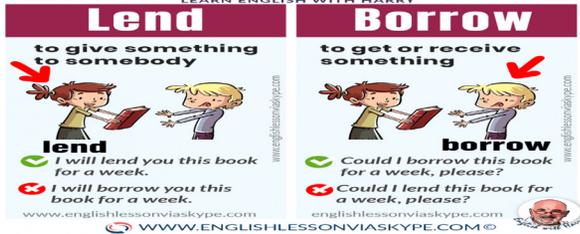
*Laura used to borrow money from me all the time.*

When you give something, you *lend* it; when you get or receive something, you *borrow* it:

*Can I borrow your dictionary? True*

*Do not write: Can I lend your dictionary? False*

### What's the Difference?



## 2.2. Pair of words (adjectives) that some learners often make mistakes in writing English

Using correct English style is extremely necessary to avoid misleading readers and writers.<sup>[1]</sup> Therefore,

we could also make a list some pair of adjectives that learners often make mistakes in English writing.

| No | Words       | Meaning  | Give examples   |
|----|-------------|--|---|
| 1  | Responsible | Đầy trách nhiệm, chịu trách nhiệm cho cái gì.  | You should be responsible for your own future.  |
|    | Responsive  | Phản hồi tích cực với cái gì.  | The disease has proved responsive to the new treatment.   |
| 2  | Successive  | Liên tục, liên tiếp.   | He won the World Championship for the third successive year.  |
|    | Successful  | Thành công   | My second attempt at making bread was a little more successful.   |
| 3  | Sensitive   | Nhạy cảm, dễ phát hiện ra cái gì.  | Women are sensitive nowadays  |
|    | Sensible    | Hợp lý, nhạy bén.  | My mom is a sensible woman because she thinks carefully before purchasing anything.   |
| 4  | Comparable  | Có thể so sánh   | Comparable can imply a degree of similarity that makes two things almost equivalent in some aspects.  |
|    | Comparative | Cấp so sánh  | Comparative usually refers to the comparative degree in grammar, or the systematic comparison in academic disciplines like comparative literature or comparative politics.                |
| 5  | Among       | The most common use for among is when something is in or with a group of a few, several, or many things.     | I sat among the other students. [=There were other students all around and I sat within the group.]   |
|    | Between     | The most common use of between is when something is in the middle of two things or two groups of things.     | He sat in between Allen and Melissa. [= He sat in the middle of Allen and Melissa.]   |
| 6  | Lay         | Lay có nghĩa là đặt, xếp thứ gì đó nằm ở vị trí tĩnh. Dưới đây là một vài ví dụ về lay trong câu hoàn chỉnh. | I don't like to lay my purse on the floor.<br>The dogs always lay their toys next to their water bowls.<br>The delivery boy took pleasure in gingerly laying each newspaper on the stoop. |

(Xem tiếp trang 179)

giáo dục. Cần có những thú vui chơi văn hoá, thể dục có tính chất tập thể và quần chúng”.

### 3. Kết luận

Tên tuổi và sự nghiệp của Chủ tịch Hồ Chí Minh thực sự là ngọn đuốc soi đường chỉ lối cho mỗi con người Việt Nam. Tư tưởng Hồ Chí Minh có sức vẫy gọi mọi tâm lòng người Việt Nam bởi lẽ nó gần gũi với mỗi người, ai cũng có thể tìm thấy phần mình trong những lời dạy của Bác. Học tập và làm theo tấm gương đạo đức, phong cách Hồ Chí Minh là việc làm hết sức cần thiết và có ý nghĩa, góp phần tạo bước chuyển biến mạnh mẽ về ý thức tu dưỡng, rèn luyện đối với mỗi người, nhất là với “lớp người thừa kế xây dựng chủ nghĩa xã hội”. Để thực hiện được mong ước của Bác Hồ kính yêu và kỳ vọng, quan tâm, chăm lo của Đảng, nhân dân và toàn xã hội đã

dành cho thanh niên, mỗi thanh niên Việt Nam phải luôn không ngừng học tập, rèn luyện và tu dưỡng đạo đức cách mạng, luôn “Đưỡng tâm trong - Rèn trí sáng - Xây hoài bão lớn”, góp phần cùng toàn Đảng, toàn dân và toàn quân giữ vững các thành quả cách mạng, thực hiện bằng được mục tiêu cao cả: Xây dựng đất nước ta ngày càng giàu mạnh, nhân dân ta ngày càng hạnh phúc, sánh vai với các cường quốc năm châu.

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|   |                                      |  |  |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|
|   | Lie                                  | Danh từ lie nghĩa là một lời nói dối. Động từ lie có nghĩa là nói dối  | Sometimes children lie to get out of trouble.<br>The fat cat likes to lie in the sun<br>“If you tell an untruth it is a lie, not a lay; and if you are in the process of telling an untruth you are lying and not laying”.<br>I can always tell when my friend is lying because she bites her lip. |
| 7 | A great deal of và a large amount of | Nhóm từ này được dùng theo cách tương tự như a lot of và lots of nhưng mang tính chất trang trọng hơn, thường được dùng với danh từ không đếm được (Non count Noun). | Mr Lucas has spent a great deal of time in the Far East<br>I’ve thrown out a large amount of old clothing.   |
|   | A large number of                    | thường được dùng với danh từ đếm được (Count Noun).  | A large number of problems still have to be solved soon.   |

### 2.3. Meaning of the word belongs to the context.

In English, Elephant that means a heavy plant-eating mammal with a prehensile trunk, long curved ivory tusks, and large ears, native to Africa and

southern Asia. It is the largest living land animal, Phrasal noun ‘a white elephant’ in Vietnamese that means *keep a white elephant*. We could explain above proverb. The proverb expresses the hesitation of a boy and a girl in a bad love. When they break up, they feel sorry for each other; but when they stay together, they feel that this is something they should not do, because in the end the result is not good. [2]

### 3. Conclusions

In short, we also point out some best solutions for learners in learning english skill in a relatively short period of time. However, learning a foreign language is a long process of accumulating knowledge as well as practical experience. Therefore, learners should focus and invest properly so as to achieve the best results in the shortest time. We hope that with limited time, this article will partly contribute to improving the English writing skills of university students in general and learners who need to improve their foreign language problems in particular. Hopefully, after reading this paper, learners also avoid making some common mistakes in using english writing.

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