

Teacher's Notes

Topic: Grammar rules and mistakes

Level: Intermediate/Upper-Intermediate

Skills: Reading, writing, grammar, speaking

Time: 45+

- 1) Put the students into pairs and give each pair a copy of Student worksheet.
- 2) Tell them to scan the rules and to ignore the vocabulary they don't know.
- 3) Discuss some of the rules. Do your students find them funny?
- 4) Tell them to read the list again, this time they should focus on the grammar mistakes the rules point out. Help them with any vocabulary if needed.
- 5) Check that they understand all the rules, explain if necessary.
- 6) In pairs, the students correct the mistakes and rewrite the rules.

Student's Worksheet

Fumblerules

- 1) Avoid run-on sentences they are hard to read.
- 2) Don't use no double negatives.
- 3) Use the semicolon properly, always use it where it is appropriate; and never where it isn't.
- 4) Reserve the apostrophe for its proper use and omit it when its not needed.
- 5) Do not put statements in the negative form.
- 6) Verbs has to agree with their subjects.
- 7) Proofread carefully to see if you any words out.
- 8) Avoid commas, that are not necessary.
- 9) If you reread your work, you will find on rereading that a great deal of repetition can be avoided by rereading and editing.
- 10) A writer must not shift your point of view.
- 11) Eschew dialect, irregardless.
- 12) And don't start a sentence with a conjunction.
- 13) Don't overuse exclamation marks!!!
- 14) Place pronouns as close as possible, especially in long sentences, as of 10 or more words, to their antecedents.
- 15) Hyphenate between syllables and avoid un-necessary hyphens.
- 16) Write all adverbial forms correct.
- 17) Don't use contractions in formal writing.
- 18) Writing carefully, dangling participles must be avoided.
- 19) It is incumbent on us to avoid archaisms.
- 20) If any word is improper at the end of a sentence, a linking verb is.
- 21) Take the bull by the hand and avoid mixed metaphors.
- 22) Never, ever use repetitive redundancies.
- 23) Everyone should be careful to use a singular pronoun with singular nouns in their writing.
- 24) If I've told you once, I've told you a thousand times, resist hyperbole.
- 25) Also, avoid awkward or affected alliteration.
- 26) Don't string too many prepositional phrases together unless you are walking through the valley of the shadow of death.
- 27) Always pick on the correct idiom.
- 28) Last but not least, avoid clichés like the plague; seek viable alternatives.

Correct rules

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____
- 7) _____
- 8) _____
- 9) _____
- 10) _____
- 11) _____
- 12) _____
- 13) _____
- 14) _____
- 15) _____
- 16) _____
- 17) _____
- 18) _____
- 19) _____
- 20) _____
- 21) _____
- 22) _____
- 23) _____
- 24) _____
- 25) _____
- 26) _____
- 27) _____
- 28) _____