

## 16 Common English Verb Errors Beginners Make, Series: Part 2

In their everyday interactions, beginners make common English verb errors. If these are not fixed they can actually affect their performance and slow down confidence building. In this post under [English grammar essentials](#), you'll learn 16 more common verb mistakes beginners make. And you will know how to handle them. [Learn more here about the site](#) and how to get started.

Ready?

**Mistakes:**

1. English Verb Mistakes: "Bring" vs. "Take"— Direction Matters → "Bring" = Trazer; "Take" = Levar

These verbs depend on **where the object is going**.

**Bring = toward the speaker**

- Bring the book to me.

**Take = away from the speaker**

- Take the book to your room.

**Mistake to Avoid:**

✗ *Can you take this to me?*

✓ *Can you bring this to me?*

**English Verb Mistakes: Practice**

Write 2 sentences with **bring** and 2 with **take**.

See also [common mistakes: series part 1](#)

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2. Mistakes with English Verbs: "Come" vs. "Go"— Similar but Not the Same  
→ "Come" = vir; "Go" = ir

**Come = toward the speaker**

- Come here, please.

### Go = away from the speaker

- Go to the store.

### Mistake to Avoid:

✗ *I'm coming to the supermarket.* (when you're not at the supermarket)

✓ *I'm going to the supermarket.*

### English Verb Mistakes: Practice

Write 3 sentences using **come** and **go**. Sometimes incorrect use of English verbs is due to lack of practice.

[Check here other mistakes.](#)

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### 3. English Verb Mistakes: "Hear" vs. "Listen" — Passive vs. Active → "Hear"= Ouvir; "Listen"= Escutar

#### Hear = sound enters your ears naturally

- I hear music outside.

#### Listen = you pay attention

- I listen to music every day.

### Mistake to Avoid:

✗ *I'm hearing to music.*

✓ *I'm listening to music.*

### English Verb Mistakes: Practice

Write 2 sentences with **hear** and 2 with **listen**.

For more practices, check also our [free speaking practice resources](#).

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### 4. English Verb Mistakes: "Live" vs. "Stay" → "Live = Viver; "Stay"= Ficar

Incorrect use of English verbs sometimes happens due to confusion to meanings:

### Live = where you permanently reside

- I live in Maputo.

### Stay = temporary

- I'm staying at a hotel.

### Mistake to Avoid:

✗ *I'm living at a hotel this week.*

✓ *I'm staying at a hotel this week.*

### English Verb Mistakes: Practice

Write 3 sentences using **live** and **stay**.

To learn some everyday English verbs [visit our guide](#)

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### 5. Common English Verb Errors: "Look For" vs. "Find" → "Look for" = Procurar; "Find"= Achar

Try to locate.

- I'm looking for my keys.

### Find = you located it

- I found my keys.

### Mistake to Avoid:

✗ *I'm finding my phone.*

✓ *I'm looking for my phone.*

### English Verb Mistakes: Practice

Write 2 sentences with **look for** and 2 with **find**.

See also [English verb tenses for details](#).

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## 6. Incorrect Use of English Verb: "Teach" vs. "Learn" — Opposite Actions → "Teach" = Ensinar; "Learn" = Aprender

### Teach = give knowledge

- She teaches English.

### Learn = receive knowledge

- I learn English.

### Mistake to Avoid:

✗ *I teach English at school.* (when you are a student)

✓ *I learn English at school.*

### English Verb Mistakes: Practice

Write 2 sentences with **teach** and 2 with **learn**. This can help you overcome the incorrect use of the two English verbs.

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## 7. English Verb Mistakes: "Start" vs. "Begin" → "Start" = Iniciar; "Begin" = Começar

Good news: these verbs are almost the same.

### Start = more common in everyday English

- Let's start the lesson.

### Begin = slightly more formal

- The movie begins at 8.

The incorrect use of the two English verbs results in the following common mistakes:

### Mistake to Avoid:

✗ *The class is beginning now.* (Not wrong, but unnatural in casual speech)

✓ *The class is starting now.*

### Practice

Write 3 sentences using **start** and **begin**.

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## 8. Incorrect Verb Forms: "Put" vs. "Place" → "Put" = Pôr; "Place" = Colocar /Posicionar)

### Put = everyday English

- Put your bag on the table.

### Place = formal

- Please place your signature here.

### Mistake to Avoid:

✗ *Place your phone on the bed.* (sounds too formal)

✓ *Put your phone on the bed.*

### Practice

Write 3 sentences using **put**.

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## 9. English Verb Mistakes: "Ask" vs. "Ask For" → "Ask" = Pedir; "Ask for" = Perguntar

The incorrect use of these two English verbs is due to the similarity of the forms. Here is how to differentiate them:

### Ask = request information

- I asked her a question.

### Ask for = request an object

- I asked for water.

### Mistake to Avoid:

✗ *I asked a coffee.*

✓ *I asked for a coffee.*

### English Verb Mistakes: Practice

Write 2 sentences with **ask** and 2 with **ask for**.

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## 10. Common English Verb Errors: "Spend" vs. "Waste" → "Spend" = Gastar / Dedicar/Passar; "Waste" = Desperdiçar

### Spend = use time or money

- I spent two hours studying.
- I spent \$10 on lunch.

### Waste = use badly

- Don't waste your time.
- Don't waste money on things you don't need.

### Mistake to Avoid:

✗ *I wasted some money on food.* (Food is necessary)

✓ *I spent some money on food.*

### English Verb Mistakes: Practice

Write 2 sentences with **spend** and 2 with **waste**.

## 11. Mistakes with English Verbs: "Hope" vs. "Wish" → "Hope" = esperar / ter esperança; "Wish" = desejar

### Hope = something possible

- I hope you feel better.
- I hope it doesn't rain.

### Wish = something impossible or unlikely

- I wish I had a car. (I don't have one)
- I wish I were taller.

Common mistake resulting in the incorrect use of the two English verbs:

✗ *I hope I had more money.*

✓ *I wish I had more money.*

### English verb mistakes: Practice

Write 2 sentences with **hope** and 2 with **wish**.

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12. English Verb Mistakes: "Look" vs. "Look Like" → "Look" = Olhar; "Look Like" = Parecer

**Look = focus your eyes**

- Look at the board.

**Look like = describe appearance**

- She looks like her mother.

**Mistake to Avoid:**

✗ *He looks his father.*

✓ *He looks like his father.*

**Practice**

Write 3 sentences using **look like**.

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13. "Remember" vs. "Remind"— Opposites! → "Remember" = Lembrar; "Remind" = Recorder Alguém sobre algo

One way that helps avoid the incorrect use of these two English verbs is to understand their meaning:

**Remember = you keep something in your mind**

- I remember your birthday.

**Remind = someone helps you remember**

- Please remind me tomorrow.

**Common mistake as a result of incorrect use of the above English verbs:**

✗ *Can you remember me to call her?*

✓ *Can you remind me to call her?*

## English Verb Mistakes: Practice

Write 2 sentences with **remember** and 2 with **remind**.

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14. "Miss" vs. "Lose" — → "Miss" = Sentir Falta/ Não alcançar; "Lose" = Perder/Deixar de Ter

**Miss = you can't catch/attend something**

- I missed the bus.
- I missed the meeting.

**Lose = you can't find something**

- I lost my keys.

**Mistake to Avoid:**

✗ *I missed my keys.*

✓ *I lost my keys.*

 **Practice**

Write 2 sentences with **miss** and 2 with **lose**.

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15. "Stop to Do" vs. "Stop Doing" → "Stop to do" = Parar para Fazer; "Stop Doing" = Parar de Fazer

Example:

- I stopped to drink water. (I paused walking)
- I stopped drinking soda. (I gave up drinking)

**Mistake to Avoid:**

✗ *I stopped to smoke last year.*

✓ *I stopped smoking last year.*

**English Verb Mistakes: Practice**

Write 2 sentences using each structure.

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## 16. Incorrect Use of the English Verbs: “Stay” and “Keep” → “Stay” = Ficar; “Keep” = Continuar

Stay = remain in a place or condition

- Stay here.
- Stay calm.

Keep = continue doing something

- Keep studying.
- Keep going.

### Mistake to Avoid:

✘ *Stay going.*

✔ *Keep going.*

### Practice

Write 3 sentences using **keep**.

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How to handle common English verb errors and make use of them? Mistakes are not just errors — they’re signals. They show you exactly where your internal grammar system is still forming. This gives you a road map for improvement.

[See here other English mistakes](#) and here [8 verbs for expressing everyday life](#).

Find here [the Blog](#).