

FREE GUIDE — FROM THE MASTERING ENGLISH LIBRARY

FREE GUIDE FOR ARABIC SPEAKERS

20 English Mistakes Arabic Speakers Make

...and the quick fix for each one

Level B1–C1

8 pages · A4 PDF · English + Arabic

SPOT IT → FIX IT

He is tired

Life is hard

I agree

turn on

make a mistake

“Everyone makes mistakes. Not the same ones twice.”

BY

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Twenty mistakes, twenty quick fixes

These are the errors teachers see again and again from Arabic-speaking learners — even at B2 and C1.

1. **Read pages 3–5.** Each mistake has a wrong sentence, the fix, a one-line rule and a short Arabic note.
2. **Tick the ones you make.** Be honest — most learners tick five to eight.
3. **Take the self-test on page 6.** Twenty new sentences, one mistake in each.
4. **Check your answers on page 7.** Every answer tells you which mistake it was, so you know what to practise.

WHY THESE MISTAKES STICK

Most of them are not careless. They come from Arabic grammar, sounds and spelling habits that feel natural — so your brain keeps choosing them. Once you can **see** the pattern, you can stop it.

Pages	What you get
3	Mistakes 1–7: sentence basics
4	Mistakes 8–14: word order and verbs
5	Mistakes 15–20: spelling, sounds and word partners
6	Self-test: find and fix 20 errors
7	Answer key with the mistake number for each
8	Where to go next

MY MISTAKES

Write the numbers of the mistakes you make here:

PART A SENTENCE BASICS

Mistakes 1–7

The building blocks: *be*, articles, pronouns, the third-person -s and countable nouns.

#	Mistake → fix	لماذا؟
1	Leaving out <i>be</i> × He very tired today. ✓ He is very tired today. Arabic has sentences with no verb; English needs <i>am/is/are</i> .	العربية تقبل جملة اسمية بلا فعل، والإنجليزية لا.
2	Repeating the object after <i>that/which</i> × This is the book that I read <u>it</u>. ✓ This is the book that I read. <i>that</i> already stands for the object — don't add <i>it</i> again.	لا تُعدّ الضمير بعد الاسم الموصول.
3	<i>the</i> with general ideas × <u>The</u> life is hard for students. ✓ Life is hard for students. Talking about something in general? No <i>the</i> .	عند التعميم لا نستخدم <i>the</i> .
4	Forgetting <i>a/an</i> with jobs × My brother is engineer. ✓ My brother is an engineer. One person, one job: use <i>a/an</i> .	مع المهنة المفردة نضع <i>a/an</i> .
5	Dropping the -s after he/she/it × She work in a bank in Muscat. ✓ She works in a bank in Muscat. Present simple with he/she/it adds -s.	مع he/she/it نضيف -s للفعل.
6	Saying the subject twice × My father <u>he</u> lives in Sohar. ✓ My father lives in Sohar. One subject is enough.	لا نكرر الفاعل بضمير.
7	Making uncountable nouns plural × Can you give me some <u>informations</u>? ✓ Can you give me some information? <i>information, advice, furniture, news</i> have no plural.	هذه الأسماء لا تُجمع في الإنجليزية.

PART B WORD ORDER AND VERBS

Mistakes 8–14

Where words go, which words never change form, and verb patterns that give learners away.

#	Mistake → fix	لماذا؟
8	Plural adjectives × They have <u>different</u> s ideas. ✓ They have different ideas. English adjectives never take -s.	الصفة لا تُجمع.
9	Adjective after the noun × I bought a car red. ✓ I bought a red car. Adjective comes before the noun.	الصفة تأتي قبل الموصوف.
10	open/close the light × Please <u>open</u> the light. ✓ Please turn on the light. Lights and devices: <i>turn on / turn off</i> .	للأجهزة والإضاءة: turn on/off.
11	I am agree × I <u>am</u> agree with you. ✓ I agree with you. <i>agree</i> is a verb — no <i>am</i> .	agree فعل، فلا نضع قبله am.
12	Continuous with state verbs × I <u>am knowing</u> the answer. ✓ I know the answer. <i>know, want, like, need</i> are rarely in -ing.	أفعال الحالة لا تأتي غالبًا بصيغة -ing.
13	since for a period × I have lived here <u>since</u> three years. ✓ I have lived here for three years. <i>for</i> + period; <i>since</i> + starting point.	for للمدة، since لنقطة البداية.
14	Questions without do/does × Where you work? ✓ Where do you work? Present simple questions need <i>do/does</i> .	نحتاج do/does في السؤال.

PART C SPELLING, SOUNDS AND WORD PARTNERS

Mistakes 15–20

Spelling habits, pronunciation, punctuation and the words that always go together.

#	Mistake → fix	لماذا؟
15	Missing vowels in spelling × It's diffrent bcause ... ✓ It's different because ... Say the word slowly and write every vowel you hear — and the ones you don't.	انتبه لحروف العلة التي لا تُنطق بوضوح.
16	p and b × Where can I bark the car? ✓ Where can I park the car? Arabic has no /p/ — <i>park, pay, pen</i> start with a puff of air.	العربية لا تحتوي صوت p.
17	Long sentences joined by commas × I went to the market, I bought fruit, it was expensive. ✓ I went to the market and bought fruit. It was expensive. Two full sentences need a full stop or a joining word.	لا نربط جملتين كاملتين بفاصلة فقط.
18	do a mistake × Everyone does mistakes. ✓ Everyone makes mistakes. We <i>make</i> mistakes, decisions and plans.	نقول make a mistake.
19	married with × She is married with a doctor. ✓ She is married to a doctor. <i>married to, get married to.</i>	الصحيح married to.
20	discuss about × We discussed about the plan. ✓ We discussed the plan. <i>discuss</i> takes its object directly.	discuss لا تحتاج about.

SELF-TEST FIND AND FIX

Twenty sentences, one mistake each

Rewrite the wrong part. Don't look back at pages 3–5 until you finish.

#	Sentence	Your correction
1	Fatma is teacher at a school in Nizwa.	_____
2	My sister she studies medicine.	_____
3	We need more equipments for the lab.	_____
4	Khalid very busy this week.	_____
5	Can you close the air conditioner?	_____
6	He has worked here since five years.	_____
7	The man who I met him was kind.	_____
8	What time the shop opens?	_____
9	I am wanting a new phone.	_____
10	They are very importants rules.	_____
11	My uncle drive a taxi.	_____
12	I am agree that exams are useful.	_____
13	The honesty is very important.	_____
14	She has a dress blue.	_____
15	I did a big mistake yesterday.	_____
16	Let's discuss about the price.	_____
17	He got married with his cousin.	_____
18	Please bay the bill at the counter.	_____
19	I will remmber this lesson.	_____
20	The bus was late, I missed the class.	_____

Score: ____ / 20 · 18–20 excellent · 14–17 good · under 14: reread the mistakes you got wrong.

ANSWER KEY ANSWERS AND WHY

Check your self-test

The last column tells you which mistake it was — reread that one.

#	Correct version	Mistake
1	Fatma is a teacher ...	No. 4
2	My sister studies medicine.	No. 6
3	... more equipment ...	No. 7
4	Khalid is very busy ...	No. 1
5	... turn off the air conditioner?	No. 10
6	... for five years.	No. 13
7	The man who I met was kind.	No. 2
8	What time does the shop open?	No. 14
9	I want a new phone.	No. 12
10	... very important rules.	No. 8
11	My uncle drives a taxi.	No. 5
12	I agree that ...	No. 11
13	Honesty is very important.	No. 3
14	She has a blue dress .	No. 9
15	I made a big mistake ...	No. 18
16	Let's discuss the price.	No. 20
17	He got married to ...	No. 19
18	Please pay the bill ...	No. 16
19	I will remember ...	No. 15
20	The bus was late, so I missed the class. / ... late. I missed ...	No. 17

THE RULE MOST LEARNERS MISS

No. 17: a comma cannot join two full sentences. Use a full stop, or a joining word such as *and, so, but, because*.

[NEXT STEP](#) [KEEP GOING](#)

Where to go from here

Fixing these twenty mistakes is the fastest way to sound more accurate. These Website Exclusive Editions go further.

Exclusive No. 19

Find Your Fossilised Errors — a 60-question diagnostic that finds the mistakes you keep making. \$9

Exclusive No. 22

Translation Traps Quiz — 50 questions that stop word-for-word translation. \$5

Exclusive No. 24

Vowel-Gap Spelling Fix — 150 words to write the vowels you can't hear. \$5

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