

REVISION AND EDITING

Common Errors in Grammar and Collocations

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Levels	Any
Aims	Learn how to correct common errors
Class Time	30 minutes
Resources	Copies and overhead computer screen



his activity has been successful in tackling editing of common errors of grammar, collocations, and prepositions.

PROCEDURE

- Using student papers, type into a file a few sentences that contain errors typical to your class, such as these:
 - “Most of country people . . .” (*People in most countries*)
 - “I have been eaten at McDonald’s. (This is passive voice. Use either *I have eaten* or *I have been eating* and explain the difference.)
 - “I am interesting about . . .” (Should be *interested in*. *-ed* participles are passive, feelings.)
 - “Student like the pizza.” (*Students like pizza*; general count nouns usually take plurals and no articles.)
 - “Have many trees in this city.” (*There are* introduces ideas, whereas many non-English languages use *have*, such as Chinese, Spanish, and French.)
- Make copies and distribute them to the class.
- Put students in groups and tell them to correct all the errors. Explain that you didn’t select the worst sentences, just those that contain typical mistakes. Students often enjoy seeing their sentences.

4. Save a new document for the corrected answers. Discuss as a class corrected answers that are projected on the overhead screen. Elicit how to fix them. Explain why the correction is needed, and go over cases in which more than one answer is plausible. Students need to make corrections. You could also have students make the corrections and explain the errors.
5. Tell students that they will have a graded quiz on these sentences in the next class. You will make copies of the original sentences and have students correct them. If requested, post both files on the class site.