



COMMON ENGLISH ERRORS

when a learner's first language is Japanese

Common language errors can vary a lot according to the first language of the learner. When teaching English as a second language to Japanese students, it is common to spot the following mistakes in a learner's grammar and vocabulary.

Words learners most typically spell incorrectly

- **convenient** (for example, spelled **convinient**)
- **recommend** (for example, spelled **recomend**)
- **advertisement** (for example, spelled **advertisment**)
- **accommodation** (for example, spelled **accomodation**)
- **environment** (for example, spelled **enviroment**)
- **disappointed** (for example, spelled **dissappointed**)
- **definitely** (for example, spelled **definatly**)
- **course** (for example, spelled **couse**)
- **atmosphere** (for example, spelled **atomosphere**)
- **opportunity** (for example, spelled **oppotunity**)

Not remembering to include all the determiners

Determiners are words like *the*, *a/an*, and also *my*, *your*, *their*, etc. Determiners are a major problem for languages in the Eastern Hemisphere which tend not to use a word like *the*. They are hard to remember, as there may be more than one in a sentence (shown in bold).

- I called him to ask about fixing **the** TV.
- **The** National Art Gallery and **the** river trip to Greenwich would please them.
- I think it's **a** good idea for us to find a job together.

Key: errors in **red**, corrections in **blue**.



Learners tend to confuse verbs and collocations

The most frequent verbs that learners tend to miss out are *have*, *get* and *go* and the most common errors are using **wish** for **hope** and **can** for **will**.

- Well, I **wish hope** you will enjoy your stay.
- I was disappointed with it so I **would must** ask you for my money back.
- It could **be have** either good or bad effects for them.

Learners tend to make mistakes with prepositions

The most common error is **in** for **on**, while *in* and *for* are the most common prepositions that learners tend to miss out.

- The reasons **of for** the increasing weight (of people) in some countries can be impacted by fast food.
- More than one in five students were enrolled **to for** further study.
- I often used to go out and play with my friend **at in** the countryside.
- The technologies are based **in on** the old history or culture.

A prominent error for Japanese learners is forgetting prepositions. For example “I looked **at** it very carefully”.

Confusion between verb tenses

The most common errors are made when Japanese learners use **would** for **will**, **is** for **was** and **can** for **could**.

- She **is was** not kind to us.
- The sun **is shining shone** very much.
- Please ensure next year’s programme **would will** be great for students.

Key: errors in **red**, corrections in **blue**.