



THE GRAMMATICAL CONFUSION

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Abstract: This article discusses the common causes of grammatical confusion among English learners, especially at beginner and intermediate levels. It explains the main areas where learners often struggle—such as verb tenses, articles, prepositions, and word order—and offers insight into how these difficulties can be addressed in both teaching and self-study. The article also explores the impact of native language interference and highlights practical methods to overcome grammar-related challenges.

Keywords: grammatical confusion, English learners, verb tenses, prepositions, interference, grammar teaching, common errors.

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqolada ingliz tilini o'rganayotganlar orasida uchraydigan grammatik chalkashliklarning asosiy sabablari tahlil qilinadi. Ayniqsa, fe'l zamonlari, artikllar, predloglar va so'z tartibi kabi sohalarda yuzaga keladigan qiyinchiliklar yoritilgan. Shuningdek, ona tilining ta'siri va grammatik xatolarni kamaytirish uchun samarali o'qitish hamda o'z-o'zini o'rgatish usullari tavsiya etiladi.



Kalit so‘zlar: grammatik chalkashlik, ingliz tilini o‘rganish, fe’l zamonlari, predloglar, ona tili ta’siri, grammatik xatolar.

Introduction

Grammar is the foundation of any language, yet it is often a major source of confusion for learners. In English, grammar includes complex systems of tenses, irregular structures, and exceptions that can puzzle even advanced students. This article explores why grammatical confusion arises, what the most frequent problem areas are, and how they can be addressed effectively.

1. Common Causes of Grammatical Confusion

Grammatical confusion occurs due to several key reasons:

- **L1 Interference:** Learners often apply the rules of their native language (L1) to English, which can lead to errors.
- **Overgeneralization:** Learners may apply one rule to all cases, such as adding "-ed" to form all past tenses.
- **Inconsistencies in English:** English has many irregular verbs, exceptions, and idiomatic expressions.
- **Lack of Contextual Practice:** Grammar rules learned without real-life context often lead to memorization rather than understanding.

2. Problematic Areas in English Grammar

a) Verb Tenses

English has 12 tenses, and students often confuse:

- **Present Perfect vs. Past Simple**
- **Future forms (will, going to, present continuous)**



- **Continuous vs. Simple aspects**

Example:

✗ *I have seen him yesterday.*

✓ *I saw him yesterday.*

b) Articles (a, an, the)

Languages like Russian or Uzbek do not have articles, which leads to errors in usage or omission.

Example:

✗ *I saw dog in street.*

✓ *I saw a dog in the street.*

c) Prepositions

Prepositions in English are idiomatic and often differ from other languages:

- *interested in, good at, depend on*

Example:

✗ *She is good in English.*

✓ *She is good at English.*

d) Word Order

Unlike some languages, English has a strict SVO (Subject-Verb-Object) structure:



✗ *Goes he to school?*

✓ *Does he go to school?*

3. Effects of Native Language (L1) Interference

When learners try to translate directly from their native language into English, grammar errors are common. This can lead to:

- Wrong sentence structures
- Misuse of tenses or verb forms
- Omission or overuse of articles and prepositions

The deeper the structural differences between the learner's native language and English, the more likely confusion will occur.

4. Strategies to Overcome Grammatical Confusion

Teachers and learners can take specific actions to reduce confusion:

- **Context-based grammar teaching:** Learning grammar through stories, conversations, and real-life examples.
- **Visual aids and diagrams:** Verb tense charts and timelines help visualize usage.
- **Error correction exercises:** Identifying and correcting common mistakes strengthens awareness.
- **Contrastive analysis:** Comparing English grammar with learners' native grammar to highlight differences.
- **Practice through writing and speaking:** Using grammar in production helps internalize it.

5. The Role of the Teacher



An effective teacher:

- Identifies common student errors
- Explains grammar in simple, practical ways
- Encourages natural language use
- Builds learner confidence with positive feedback

Grammar should not be taught as a set of isolated rules, but as a living, flexible part of communication.

Conclusion:

Grammatical confusion is a natural part of the language learning process. By recognizing the main areas of difficulty and applying targeted strategies, learners can overcome these obstacles. With patience, practice, and the right support, mastering English grammar becomes achievable and even enjoyable.

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