



# 21 typical speaking mistakes

1. **Incorrect:** The people was very friendly.  
**Correct:** The people WERE very friendly.

**Explanation:** 'People' is a plural countable noun. You need 'were'.  
Person = was    People = were

2. **Incorrect:** Yes, I'm agree.  
**Correct:** I agree.

**Explanation:** 'Agree' is an active verb in the present simple. You don't need 'be'. You wouldn't say: I **am** talk, I **am** think, I **am** buy...

3. **Incorrect:** It depends of my mood.  
**Correct:** It depends on my mood.

**Explanation:** 'Depends on' is a phrasal verb. You can also use 'depends upon', but that is more formal and less common.

4. **Incorrect:** Clara said me that she is allergic to dust.

**Correct:** Clara told me that she is allergic to dust.

**Explanation:** We use 'tell + person' (*my mum, him, her, us etc.*), not SAY. However, 'say **to** + person' is correct.

5. **Incorrect:** I took a coffee with some friends.

**Correct:** I HAD a coffee with some friends.

**Explanation:** We use 'have' with food and drinks. I *have* breakfast every morning. We *had* a few beers last night.

6. **Incorrect:** That shop is very cheaper.  
**Correct:** That shop is very cheap.

**Explanation:** 'Cheaper' is a comparative. Only use comparatives

when you are comparing two or more things.

7. **Incorrect:** I didn't do nothing yesterday.  
**Correct:** I didn't do ANYTHING yesterday.

**Explanation:** Don't use double negatives in a sentence.

8. **Incorrect:** I go always to bed late.  
**Correct:** I always go to bed late.

**Explanation:** Put 'always' before the main verb. I can always **find** great deals online. My colleague is always **talking**.

9. **Incorrect:** I'm no tired.  
**Correct:** I'm NOT tired.

**Explanation:** Use 'not' before a negative adjective. I'm not hungry. We are not happy.

10. **Incorrect:** I will visit my parents on Sunday.

**Correct:** I AM GOING to visit my parents on Sunday. / I am visiting my parents on Sunday.

**Explanation:** Use 'going to' and the 'present continuous' for future arrangements.

11. **Incorrect:** I'm in England for learn English.

**Correct:** I'm in England TO learn English.

**Explanation:** Use 'to' when you express *purpose*.

Why do you wear glasses? TO see better.

Why are you going to the shop? TO buy milk

Why are you in England? I'm in England TO learn English.



# 21 typical speaking mistakes

12. **Incorrect:** Where is?

**Correct:** Where is IT?

**Explanation:** You need a noun.

Where is **my phone**? Where is **your house**?

13. **Incorrect:** Can you borrow me a pen?

**Correct:** Can you LEND me a pen?

**Explanation:** LEND = give for a short period

BORROW = take for a short period

You wouldn't say: *Can you take me a pen?*

You would say: *Can you give me a pen?*

14. **Incorrect:** I always do the same mistakes.

**Correct:** I always MAKE the same mistakes.

**Explanation:** We use 'make' with 'mistakes'.

15. **Incorrect:** I should ask to my boss.

**Correct:** I should ask my boss.

**Explanation:** Do not use TO after 'ask'.

16. **Incorrect:** I'm late because I lost my bus.

**Correct:** I'm late because I MISSED my bus.

**Explanation:** 'Miss' means that you were too late.

17. **Incorrect:** Can you tell me where is the toilet?

**Correct:** Can you tell me where the toilet IS?

**Explanation:** Put 'be' at the end of an indirect question.

18. **Incorrect:** I love very much coffee.

**Correct:** I love coffee very much.

**Explanation:** 'Very much' normally goes at the end of the clause

19. **Incorrect:** We can to go out on Friday.

**Correct:** We can go out on Friday.

**Explanation:** Do not use 'to' after a modal verb.

20. **Incorrect:** This food remembers me of my family.

**Correct:** This food REMINDS me of my family.

**Explanation:** These are two different verbs.

**remind – something makes me remember something**

- You remind me of my sister. (*I look at you and I think of my sister.*)
- This reminds me of the time I lost my passport. (*This situation makes me think of a past situation.*)

**remember – I can think of past events/information without any help.**

- I can remember people's names very well. (*I can think of this information without any help.*)
- I never remember to set my alarm. (*I can't think of this information. I always forget.*)

21. **Incorrect:** I'll see you in Monday.

**Correct:** I'll see you ON Monday.

**Explanation:** We use 'on' before days of the week.