

Lesson 20: Errors with Adjectives and Adverbs

Today we'll focus on mistakes with adjectives and adverbs. The first one involves the word "enough":

Error #72

Don't say:

- This box isn't **enough big** for all the books.

Say:

- This box isn't **big enough** for all the books.

Enough goes *after* adjectives, adverbs, and verbs:

- Are you **old enough** to see this movie?
- She's **smart enough** to take the advanced class.
- You sing **well enough** to be a professional!
- The teacher speaks **slowly enough** for me to understand.
- I play the piano, but I don't **practice enough**.
- Make sure you **eat enough** now so that you're not hungry later.

Enough goes *before* nouns:

- There are **enough chairs** for everybody to sit down.
- There isn't **enough information** in this report; I need more details.
- We don't have **enough people** to form a soccer team.
- Do you have **enough money** to buy that motorcycle?

Error #73

Don't say:

- I can't believe **how much stubborn** he is.

Say:

- I can't believe **how stubborn** he is.

We only use **how much** and **how many** before nouns.

With adjectives and adverbs, we use only **how**:

- **How tall** are you?
- I want to see **how comfortable** the couch is before buying it.
- **How quickly** can they finish the project?
- This software measures **how efficiently** the employees are working.

Error #74

Don't say:

- These are my **favorites shoes**.

Say:

- These are my **favorite shoes**.
- These shoes are my **favorites**.

Adjectives before nouns are always singular in English, even if the noun is plural!

- Our house has three **small rooms**.
- The forest is filled with **giant trees**.
- I have a couple of **friendly dogs**.

- I've finished this book, now I'll read the **other ones** I borrowed from the library.

Some adjectives - especially "others" - can be used in plural form, if the noun was mentioned earlier (and is not directly after the adjective). Here are two examples:

- I have many pairs of shoes, but these red shoes are my **favorites**.
(= *favorite shoes*)
- The boss gave raises to some employees but not **others**.
(= *other employees*)
- Some of the shows on this channel are great, and **others** are terrible.
(= *other shows on this channel*)

Error #75

Don't say:

- Last night I was **a lot** tired.

Say:

- Last night I was **so/very/really** tired.

The words **so, very, really**, are all used before adjectives and adverbs to add emphasis or describe something that is intense:

- This book is **so/very/really** interesting.
- She plays the piano **so/very/really** well!
- They moved here **so/very/really** recently.

A lot of / lots of are used before nouns to describe a large quantity:

- I ate **a lot of / lots of** pizza last night.
- There were **a lot of / lots of** kids at the playground.

Note that it's always **a lot** and never **alot**.

We can also use **a lot** after verbs to describe something we do frequently/often:

- I read **a lot**.
- Do you exercise **a lot**?

Error #76

Don't say:

- My new computer is **more better** than my old one.

Say:

- My computer is **better** than my old one.
- My computer is **much better** than my old one.

Let's review how we form comparative adjectives:

- 1 syllable: fast → **faster**
- Words ending in Y: easy → **easier**
- 2+ syllables: popular → **more popular**
- Irregular: good/bad → **better/worse**

We only use "more" to make comparisons using adjectives of 2+ syllables: more popular, more interesting, more efficient, more comfortable, etc. The word "better" is *already* a comparative, so we shouldn't add "more."

If you want to add extra emphasis to a comparative, you can add "much":

- My new computer is **much** better than my old one.
(*not just a little bit better... MUCH better*)

- This lesson is **much** easier than yesterday's.
- My sister is **much** more popular than me.
- The problem is **much** worse than we imagined.

Error #77

Don't say:

- My apartment is ten miles **far** from here.

Say:

- My apartment is ten miles **away** from here.

When talking about *general* long distances, we can say **far from** or **far away from**:

- My apartment is **far (away) from** here.

However, when talking about a *specific* distance, we say **away from** or **simply from**:

- My apartment is ten miles **away from** here.
- My apartment is ten miles **from** here.

This is confusing because the question might ask "**How far...?**" but we don't use the word "far" when giving an answer with a specific distance:

- **How far** is the nearest gas station? / **Where** is the nearest gas station?
It's about two blocks **away**.
- **How far** is the museum from here?
At least five miles - you should probably take the bus.

You can only use "far" in the answer when speaking in general terms:

- **It's not far.** (it's a short distance away)
- **It's pretty/quite/very far.** (it's a long distance away)

That's all for now. The next lesson is our last one in the grammar section, and I'll teach you about a number of mistakes that I've found in my students' written English, which they've sent in for correction in other courses. See you next time!

THIS IS A FREE SAMPLE LESSON FROM THE
[200 COMMON ERRORS IN ENGLISH COURSE:](#)



Quiz – Lesson 20

Mark each sentence correct or incorrect, and fix any mistakes.

1. The next exit is about five miles far.
2. Do you know how many people are in the program?
3. He has lots of great ideas.
4. His work isn't excellent, but it's enough good.
5. How much beer did you drink?
6. I grabbed one book and put the others away.
7. The symptoms of the disease are getting more worse.
8. I love how much friendly Brazilians are.
9. If you don't succeed, you'll have many other chances in the future.
10. Is there enough space in the house for all our stuff?
11. She's a lot good at her job.
12. The class is much more interesting than the last one I took.
13. The portions at that restaurant are more smaller than I expected.
14. I wonder how close the hotel is to the city center.
15. There weren't customers enough to sustain the business.
16. They set up their tent twenty feet away from the trail.
17. This neighborhood is much nicer than where I lived before.
18. I have a gym membership, but I don't go enough.
19. Bob is married, but all my others friends are single.
20. Both my parents always worked a lot.

Answers – Quiz – Lesson 20

1. Incorrect (Correct: The next exit is about five miles away.)
2. Correct
3. Correct
4. Incorrect (Correct: His work isn't excellent, but it's good enough.)
5. Correct
6. Correct
7. Incorrect (Correct: The symptoms of the disease are getting worse.)
8. Incorrect (Correct: I love how friendly Brazilians are.)
9. Correct
10. Correct
11. Incorrect (Correct: She's so/very/really good at her job.)
12. Correct
13. Incorrect (Correct: The portions at that restaurant are smaller / much smaller than I expected.)
14. Correct
15. Incorrect (Correct: There weren't enough customers to sustain the business.)
16. Correct
17. Correct
18. Correct
19. Incorrect (Correct: Bob is married, but all my other friends are single.)
20. Correct