

Malcolm Shuttleworth
Besseres Englisch

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Die 250 häufigsten Fehler

Das Arbeitsbuch mit Aufgaben und Lösungen

Anaconda

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1. Must or had to?

Wrong *Last night I must go to bed at nine o'clock.*

Right *Last night I **had to** go to bed at nine o'clock.*

Erklärung

Die Vergangenheitsform von ‚must‘ ist ‚**had to**‘. ‚must‘ ist das Gleiche wie ‚**have to**‘. Dabei ist ‚**had to**‘ die Vergangenheitsform für beide. ‚must‘ und ‚**have to**‘ werden für die Gegenwart oder die Zukunft verwendet, ‚**had to**‘ für die Vergangenheit. ‚**has to**‘ wird in der Gegenwart für die dritte Person Singular verwendet (‚he/she/it‘).

Practice makes perfect

Fill in the gaps using ‘must’, ‘had to’ or ‘have to’, as in the example.

*Yesterday I **had to** go to bed at nine.*

1. I _____ go to the doctor's tomorrow.
2. John _____ give up his job because of ill health.
3. My mum _____ cook for ten people when she was young.
4. I _____ remember to water my plants.
5. I _____ go now, bye!

2. See you

Wrong *We see us tomorrow.*

Right ***See you*** tomorrow.

Erklärung

‚We see us tomorrow‘ ist ein klassisches Beispiel von Germisch – Deutsch, das direkt ins Englische übersetzt wurde. Richtig ist immer nur **‚see you‘**.

Mit **‚see you tomorrow‘** kann man auch eine Gruppe von 20 Personen verabschieden.

Man kann auch ein Reflexivpronomen benutzen, wenn sich zwei Personen voneinander verabschieden:

*We'll see **each other** tomorrow.*

Practice makes perfect

Fill in the gaps to complete the sentences, as in the example.

See you on Tuesday, bye.

1. I'll _____ on Wednesday at seven.
2. Sue and Alan won't see _____ for six months.
3. We hadn't _____ since school.
4. Have you seen _____ in the mirror?
5. I'm going on holiday tomorrow, _____ in a couple of weeks.

3. Near

Wrong *I live in the near of London.*

Right *I live **near** London.*

Erklärung

Achtung, Gemisch! ,in der Nähe von‘ ist nicht gleich ,in the near of‘, sondern einfach nur ,**near**‘ + Ort – also denk dran: Niemals Wort für Wort übersetzen!

Ähnlich, aber nicht dasselbe sind auch ,**near**‘ und ,**nearby**‘:

*I live **near** Cologne. (nämlich ,in der Nähe von‘ Köln)*

*I live in Leverkusen, Cologne is **nearby**. (nämlich ,in der Nähe‘ ohne nachfolgende Ortsnennung)*

Practice makes perfect

Fill in the gaps to complete the sentences, as in the example.

*I live **near** a church, there is also a mosque **nearby**.*

1. I live _____ Jim.
2. My new flat is great, there are a lot of shops _____.
3. How _____ are you to the school?
4. There are quite a few restaurants _____ the office.
5. Paul moved because he wanted to be _____ his parents.

4. By myself or by my own?

Wrong *I did the decorating by my own.*

Right *I did the decorating **myself/by myself/on my own.***

Erklärung

Es gibt nur die Ausdrücke **‚(by) myself‘** und **‚on my own‘**. Der Ausdruck **‚by my own‘** existiert nicht.

Alle drei Ausdrücke **‚oneself‘**, **‚by oneself‘** (by hier optional) **‚on one's own‘** können, allein, selbstständig, ohne fremde Hilfe bedeuten:

*Paul did all the work **himself/by himself/on his own.***

(NICHT: alone)

Die Formen lauten: **‚(by) myself/yourself/himself/herself/itself/ourselves/yourselves/themselves‘** und **‚on my/your/his/her/its/our/your/their own‘**.

Die beiden Ausdrücke **‚by oneself‘** und **‚on one's own‘** bedeuten außerdem, allein, einsam:

*When I saw Paul, he was **by himself/on his own/alone.***

(allein, kein anderer da)

Practice makes perfect

Complete the sentences by filling in the gaps, using the information above.

1. I was _____ all night.
2. Joe didn't need any help, he did it _____.
3. My mum is very lonely, she is always _____.
4. They did it _____.
5. We did it _____.

5. Which or who?

Wrong *I hate people which tell lies.*

Right *I hate people **who** tell lies.*

Erklärung

‘which’ wird immer für Dinge verwendet:

*A fridge is something **which** everyone needs.*

*A stethoscope is something **which** a doctor needs.*

‘who’ wird immer für Menschen verwendet:

*A thief is someone **who** steals things.*

*A doctor is someone **who** you go to when you're sick.*

Practice makes perfect

Fill in the gaps using ‘which’ or ‘who’, as in the example.

*I didn't know **which** one to choose.*

1. Do you know someone _____ can repair my car?
2. John knows someone _____ got sent to prison.
3. My mum has a washing machine _____ is always breaking down.
4. I was talking to someone _____ remembers you from school.
5. I have a bike _____ I don't need.

6. A friend of you or yours?

Wrong *Is he a friend of you?*

Right *Is he **a friend of yours**?*

Erklärung

Ein weiterer häufiger Fehler! Wie im Deutschen benötigt man in diesen Fällen ein besitzanzeigendes Fürwort (mein, dein etc.). Spricht man über Freunde, braucht man zusätzlich ein „s“:

A friend of yours/ours/hers/his/theirs.

Aber Achtung:

*A friend of **mine**.*

Practice makes perfect

Fill in the gaps to complete the sentences.

*He seemed to know her, is he a friend of **hers**?*

1. *Is he a friend of _____?*
2. *Sue said she's bringing a friend of _____ to the party on Friday.*
3. *We bumped into a friend of _____ in London.*
4. *A good friend of _____ had an accident on Sunday.*
5. *They said he was a friend of _____, but I didn't believe them.*

7. Life or live?

Wrong *Do you watch a lot of life music?*

Right *Do you watch a lot of **live** music?*

Erklärung

„**live**“ wird auf zwei verschiedene Arten ausgesprochen und hat auch zwei Bedeutungen:

*Do you **live** in Germany?*

*Do your children still **live** at home?*

(Verb: leben – Aussprache: liv)

*The band are/is playing **live**.*

*The match will be broadcast **live**.*

(Adjektiv: im Moment des Geschehens – Aussprache: laiv)

„**life**“ ist das Substantiv (Leben – Aussprache: laif – Plural: **lives**) und wird verwendet, um über Dinge zu sprechen, die Tag für Tag passieren:

*My **life** is very complicated at the moment.*

*She has a comfortable **life**.*

*That's **life**!*

Practice makes perfect

Fill in the gaps using 'life' or 'live' in the correct form, as in the example.

*The band weren't/wasn't playing **live**, it was playback!*

1. I _____ in Spain.
2. Where do you _____?
3. This game is coming to you _____ from Wembley.
4. Will there be _____ music?
5. The lifeboat saved many _____.

8. Information or an information?

Wrong *Can you send me an information?*

Right *Can you send me (some) information?*

Erklärung

Viele Fehler entstehen, wenn ein Artikel (**a/an**) benutzt wird, obwohl er nicht nötig ist. Die Artikel **a/an** werden nur für zählbare Substantive in der Einzahl verwendet, also für Dinge, die man zählen kann und die in der Mehrzahl ein **s** am Ende tragen:

shops, chips, hands, fingers, sisters, etc.

Unzählbare Dinge brauchen keinen Artikel, daher:

information – NICHT: *an information*

knowledge – NICHT: *a knowledge*

weather – NICHT: *a weather* usw.

Practice makes perfect

Decide if the following sentences are right or wrong, correct them if necessary.

1. *Jill has a nice furniture in her office.*
2. *We had a great weather on holiday.*
3. *There's an information about the meeting on the noticeboard.*
4. *He has a lot of knowledge about Russia.*
5. *I had a terrible traffic on the way here.*

9. Make or do?

Wrong *He makes a great job.*

Right *He **does** a great job.*

Erklärung

„**make**“ und „**do**“ werden oft verwechselt. „**do**“ wird für die meisten täglichen Aktivitäten verwendet:

*What did you **do** today?*

*Are you **doing** well at school?*

*Did you find time to **do** your housework?*

„**do**“ wird auch verwendet, um arbeitsbezogene Aktivitäten zu beschreiben:

*She **does** a great job.*

*He **does** his homework on Sunday.*

*I **did** the gardening yesterday.*

*I **did** the report you wanted.*

„**make**“ wird verwendet, wenn etwas produziert oder erschaffen wird:

*I've **made** a cake.*

*He **made** a sandwich.*

*Sally is **making** a pizza, it smells great!*

Practice makes perfect

Fill in the gaps using 'make' or 'do' in the right form.

1. John is _____ his homework.
2. Have you _____ your French homework yet?
3. Did you _____ those candles yourself?
4. Who is _____ so much noise?
5. I hope he _____ the right thing.

10. Disappointed or disappointing?

Wrong *He was really disappointing with his exam results.*

Right *He was really **disappointed** with his exam results.*

Erklärung

Adjektive mit **,ing‘** an Ende beschreiben, wie etwas ist:

*Science is **boring**.*

*Football is **exciting**.*

*The weather is **disappointing**.*

Adjektive mit **,ed‘** am Ende sagen uns, wie jemand etwas empfindet:

*He is really **excited** about the trip.*

*Sue is totally **bored** with her job.*

*Harry was really **embarrassed** about his behavior.*

Practice makes perfect

Choose the correct word to finish the sentences.

*The concert will be **exciting**/~~excited~~.*

1. *I think he is really fascinating/fascinated.*
2. *The meeting was really bored/boring.*
3. *Sometimes my brother's behavior can be really embarrassed/embarrassing.*
4. *My job can be very tired/tiring.*
5. *Are you interested/interesting in politics?*

11. Trip or travel?

Wrong *How was your travel to Asia?*

Right *How was your **trip** to Asia?*

Erklärung

‚(to) **travel**‘ ist ein Verb und wird für Ferien, Ausflüge und Reisen im Allgemeinen benutzt:

***Travelling** is one of my hobbies.*

*I like to **travel** alone.*

*Does your wife **travel** light?*

‚**trip**‘ bezeichnet den einzelnen Ausflug oder die Ausflüge:

*Did you enjoy your **trip** to Berlin?*

Practice makes perfect

Fill in the gaps using ‘travel’ or ‘trip’.

1. How many _____ to Cuba is that now?
2. Diane likes to _____ all over the world.
3. The _____ agent chose a great hotel for us!
4. It was a four-hour _____ from the airport to the hotel.
5. My _____ to Rome has been cancelled.

12. Own or an own?

Wrong *We have an own house.*

Right *We have **our own** house.*

Erklärung

„We have an own house“ ist direkt aus dem Deutschen übersetzt und leider völlig falsch! Will man sagen, dass jemand etwas besitzt, wird ein Possessivpronomen („my/your/his/her/its/our/their“) + „own“ benutzt:

*I have **my own** company.*

*He has all **his own** teeth.*

*They have **their own** swimming pool.*

Practice makes perfect

Fill in the gaps to complete the sentences.

1. *I'll have _____ house by the time I'm 30.*
2. *The dog has got _____ basket.*
3. *I can pay for _____ drinks, thank you.*
4. *Did he steal that coat? No, it's _____.*
5. *I can't believe you have _____ flat in Spain!*

13. Five year or years?

Wrong *Steve got a five-years contract.*

Right *Steve got **a five-year** contract.*

Erklärung

Wenn ein Substantiv mit einer Zahl verwendet wird, um ein Adjektiv zu bilden, braucht man kein ‚s‘ am Ende:

*A hotel has five stars, but it's a **five-star** hotel.*

*The little girl is ten years old, but she is a **ten-year-old** girl.*

Das ‚s‘ fällt in diesem Fall weg, weil bei der Verbindung von Substantiv und Zahl ein neues Adjektiv entsteht.

Practice makes perfect

Fill in the gaps to complete the sentences.

1. John has a 10-_____old daughter.
2. The hotel we stayed at had five _____.
3. He was jailed for 10 _____.
4. The prisoner was given a five-_____ sentence.
5. It's a 10-_____ drive into the city.

14. So much or many?

Wrong *I have so much advantages in my new job.*

Right *I have **so many** advantages in my new job.*

Erklärung

„**many**“ wird für zählbare Dinge verwendet. Die meisten Wörter mit ‚s‘ am Ende sind zählbar:

*windows, chairs, desks – **how many**?*

„**much**“ wird für unzählbare Dinge verwendet, z. B. solche, die man nicht sehen kann oder die nur schwer zu zählen sind:

***too much** imagination, **too much** oxygen, **too much** time*

Oder solche, die tatsächlich unzählbar sind:

*water, sand, coffee – **how much**?*

Auch Dinge mit verschiedenen Formen und Größen sind in der Regel unzählbar:

***too much** traffic, **too much** furniture, **too much** money, etc.*

Practice makes perfect

Fill in the gaps using ‘much’ or ‘many’.

1. *I have so _____ to tell you.*
2. *John spends too _____ money on his car.*
3. *How _____ knowledge do you have about computers?*
4. *I don't know _____ people in this town.*
5. *Her job is just getting too _____ for her.*

15. Spend or donate?

Wrong *He spends a lot of money to charity.*

Right *He **donates** a lot of money to charity.*

Erklärung

„**spend**“ wird häufig mit dem deutschen Wort „spenden“ verwechselt:
Spend your money **on** fashion, **on** your kids, **on** holidays, etc. (Geld ausgeben)
Donate money **to** charity or good causes. (spenden)

Practice makes perfect

Fill in the gaps using ‘spend’ or ‘donate’ in the correct form.

1. Did you _____ money to Oxfam again this year?
2. Rick _____ all his bonus on a new car.
3. How much did you _____ on Christmas presents this year?
4. He doesn't like _____ money, he's tight!
5. I _____ € 50 to Save the Children last week.

16. For or since?

Wrong *I have been here since four hours.*

Right *I have been here **for** four hours.*

Erklärung

Die erste Regel lautet: **for** + Zeitraum:

for 20 minutes?

for 10 hours?

for a long, long time

for 25 years

Die zweite Regel lautet: **since** + Zeitpunkt (in der Vergangenheit):

*I've been here **since** three o'clock.*

*I've lived here **since** 1989.*

*I've known John **since** we were kids.*

Practice makes perfect

Fill in the gaps using 'for' or 'since'.

1. *I haven't seen him _____ we left school.*
2. *I've worked for this company _____ 12 years.*
3. _____ *when have you been interested in science?*
4. *I've known her _____ over 30 years.*
5. *They have been keeping me waiting _____ three.*

17. Ride, travel or drive?

Wrong *I drove with the train this morning.*

Right *I **travelled by** train this morning.*

Erklärung

‚(to) **ride**‘ heißt ‚auf etwas sitzen‘:

(to) **ride** a bike, a horse or a pony, (to) **ride** a motorbike or scooter

‚(to) **ride**‘ wird auch benutzt, wenn man irgendwo einsteigen muss:

(to) **ride** the train or the bus

Wenn man selbst am Steuer sitzt, verwendet man ‚(to) **drive**‘:

(to) **drive** a car

ABER:

You don't **drive** the bus or the taxi, leave that to the **drivers**!

‚(to) **travel**‘ heißt ‚reisen‘, also:

(to) **travel** to Spain

(to) **travel by or with** public transport

Auf Englisch kann man zur Arbeit ‚reisen‘:

Roy **travels** to work **by** bus.

She **travels** to work **with** the train.

Practice makes perfect

Fill in the gaps using ‘ride’ or ‘travel’ or ‘drive’ in the correct form.

1. I like _____ by train, it's less stressful than taking the car.
2. She _____ all the way from Frankfurt to Bonn in four hours.
3. _____ by taxi is really expensive these days.
4. How often do you _____ your bike to work?
5. _____ by public transport is getting more and more expensive.

18. At, on or in?

Wrong *I usually read books at the evening.*

Right *I usually read books **in** the evening.*

Erklärung

Zeitangaben und ihre Präpositionen sind oft ein Problem. Hier die Grundlagen!

on bei einem bestimmten Tag oder Datum:

***on** Monday, **on** the 25th*

at zu einer bestimmten Zeit:

***at** seven o'clock, **at** night*

in bei Zeitangaben wie einem Monat oder Jahr:

***in** June, **in** 2024*

in in Verbindung mit einer bestimmten Tageszeit:

***in** the morning, **in** the afternoon, **in** the evening*

Nicht vergessen:

***in** the morning, but **on** Saturday morning*

Practice makes perfect

Fill in the gaps using 'on', 'in' or 'at'.

1. *I'm meeting Sue ____ Saturday morning.*
2. *Harry always goes for a run ____ the morning.*
3. *My birthday is ____ June.*
4. *My party starts _____ eight.*
5. *They met in Paris ____ 2001.*

19. Do or commit?

Wrong *He did a crime and was sent to prison.*

Right *He **committed** a crime and was sent to prison.*

Erklärung

‚(to) **do**‘ ist ein sehr allgemeiner Begriff, um irgendeine Handlung zu beschreiben:

(to) **do** some work, **do** jobs, **do** something, **do** nothing

‚(to) **commit**‘ wird für Verbrechen verwendet, ähnlich wie im Deutschen ‚Verbrechen‘ mit ‚begehen‘ steht:

He **committed** a crime, he **committed** a burglary, she **committed** murder.

She **committed** suicide. (She killed herself.)

Practice makes perfect

Fill in the gaps using ‘do’ or ‘commit’.

1. If you _____ a crime you could get sent to jail.
2. Most murders are _____ in the home.
3. She couldn't take any more, so she _____ suicide.
4. He said he didn't _____ it, but the judge decided he had _____ the crime.
5. The burglary was _____ by two brothers.

20. Prove or proof?

Wrong *The police know he did it, but they can't proof it.*

Right *The police know he did it, but they can't **prove** it.*

Erklärung

„(to) **prove**“ ist das Verb (beweisen):

*I can **prove** it.*

*He **proved** he could do the job.*

*He has **proven** he can do the job.*

„**proof**“ ist das Substantiv (der Beweis):

*We have **proof**.*

Practice makes perfect

Fill in the gaps using ‘prove’ or ‘proof’.

1. *I know he did it, but I have no _____.*
2. *He's guilty, but I can't _____ it.*
3. *He has _____ that he can do the job.*
4. *He admitted it! What more _____ do you need?*
5. *You think I'm a liar? _____ it!*

21. The world

Wrong *It's the biggest country on the world.*

Right *It's the biggest country **in** the world.*

Erklärung

Präpositionen verursachen auch hier manchmal Probleme und es gibt mehrere Möglichkeiten, ‚die Welt‘ in einen Satz einzubauen. **on** steht allerdings nie direkt vor ‚the world‘:

*It's the biggest **in** the world.*

*You can travel **all over** the world.*

*People **of** the world.*

*The four corners **of** the world.*

*News travels **around** the world.*

*You can feel **on top of** the world.*

Practice makes perfect

Decide if these sentences are correct. Correct them if necessary.

1. *After his massage, Phil felt in top of the world.*
2. *This news concerns all the people of the world.*
3. *The travel show reports from the four corners in the world.*
4. *After his retirement he wants to travel around the world.*
5. *It's the biggest lake of the world.*

22. Me, myself, I?

Wrong *I sometimes ask me why I bother.*

Right *I sometimes ask **myself** why I bother.*

Erklärung

Hier wurde ein Objektpronomen anstelle des korrekten Reflexivpronomens eingesetzt. Die Reflexivpronomen sind:

I – myself
you – yourself
he – himself
her – herself
we – ourselves
they – themselves
it – itself

Practice makes perfect

Fill in the gaps using reflexive pronouns.

1. *I hate _____ for being so weak.*
2. *When the job was done, they cleaned _____ in the lake.*
3. *Bob bought _____ a new TV.*
4. *Don't worry, I'm sure it will sort _____ out soon.*
5. *Sue hurt _____ in the fall.*

23. Terrible or terribly?

Wrong *The cruise was terrible expensive.*

Right *The cruise was **terribly** expensive.*

Erklärung

Adverbien korrekt zu benutzen, ist nicht immer einfach. Sie haben zwei Hauptanwendungen. Stehen sie beim Verb, beschreiben sie näher, wie etwas ausgeführt wird:

*She drives **terribly** (because she's a **terrible** driver).*

Stehen sie beim Adjektiv, beschreiben sie dieses näher (z. B. wie teuer etwas ist):

*It's expensive – it's **terribly** expensive.*

*It's cheap – it's **extremely** cheap.*

*It's cold – it's **fiercely** cold.*

Practice makes perfect

Describe the words on the left using an adjective, then describe the adjective using an adverb, as in the example.

bread

*Bread is **cheap**. Bread is **reasonably cheap**.*

1. *Christmas* _____

2. *a cream cake* _____

3. *champagne* _____

4. *a good friend* _____

5. *children* _____