

6. Avoiding Common Errors

Common errors: We all make mistakes, but there are some language errors which many students make. These problem words are highlighted and explained in the *Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary* in the **COMMON LEARNER ERROR** boxes.

A Choose the correct word to complete these sentences. Be very careful about which word you choose.

Example: The bank's governor has criticized the President's **economical/economic** policies.



1. The weather was bad so I decided to **rest/stay** at home.
2. We have reserved you a double room as you **required/requested** for the night of 24th April.
3. Many people like to keep their concert tickets as a **souvenir/memory** of the occasion.
4. Clothes, books and empty coffee cups had been left **lying/laying** around on the floor.
5. Are any shops **opened/open** on a Sunday?
6. There's entertainment to **suit/fit** everyone's taste.
7. The world's number one player has announced that he will not **take part/take place** in the US Open.
8. They have invested a lot in advertising **in/on** television.
9. The whole family were tired after their long **travel/journey**.
10. Society needs to do more to help **ancient/old** people.

B The piece of writing below contains a number of errors which have been underlined but not corrected. Correct the mistakes.

When you (1)arrive to the airport, I (2)propose you take a taxi. Make sure you check the fare before you (3)enter the taxi though. It should be about (4)two hundreds of crowns to the city centre.

Most of the famous (5)sightseeings are in the Old Town. If you want to try (6)the local kitchen, there are also many good restaurants in the Old Town. If you are (7)interesting in classical music, there are excellent concerts at the National Theatre. You can get more (8)informations from the box office.

C **Spellcheck:** These short texts contain some of the most common spelling errors made by learners. There are 10 errors, can you find them and correct them?

An embarrassing moment: I remember when I was at school I won a poetry competition and I had to collect my price from the headmaster in front of the whole school. As I was going up onto the stage though, I tripped on a step and felt over, flat on my face! Every one was laughing and I just burst into tears.

Choosing a dictionary: There are so many dictionaries around, it's difficult to know which one to buy. I'd recommend asking your teacher to advice you about what type of dictionary to go for. It maybe that if you're in a lower level class an intermediate learner's dictionary might be better for you.

The Big Match: I support my local football team, Exeter City, a small team in the second division. This week they're going to play the champions Arsenal in the League Cup competition. The whole city is really excited about the big match and there are banners every where wishing the team luck. If I'm realistic, I know they'll probably loose, but I just hope they play well though. I'll be disapointed if they don't manage to score at least one goal.



Answer Key:

6. Avoiding Common Errors

A

1. stay
2. requested
3. souvenir
4. lying
5. open
6. suit
7. take part
8. on
9. journey
10. old

B

1. you arrive at the airport,
2. I suggest/recommend you take a taxi.
3. you get into the taxi though.
4. about two hundred crowns
5. the famous sights
6. the local cuisine,
7. If you are interested in classical music
8. more information from the box office.

C

1. An **embarrassing** moment
2. my **prize** from
3. I tripped on a step and **fell** over
4. **Everyone** [one word] was laughing.
5. I'd **recommend** asking
6. your teacher to **advise** you
7. It **may be** [two words] that
8. there are banners **everywhere** [one word]
9. they'll probably **lose**
10. I'll be **disappointed** if

