

Advanced 2
Unit 2 Language Focus 3
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Some Common Errors in English

Missing Subject:

The error of a missing subject happens when a sentence lacks the necessary subject to perform the action of the verb. In English, every sentence typically needs a subject and a verb to be complete. Without the subject, the sentence feels incomplete and unclear.

Example:

Wrong: *In this research have figured out fatty dairy products are beneficial for our heart.*

Right: *In this research, scientists have figured out fatty dairy products are beneficial for our heart.*

Right: *This research has informed us fatty dairy products are beneficial for our heart.*

Ambiguous Antecedent:

ambiguous = unclear; vague

antecedent = a word or phrase to which a pronoun or a possessive adjective refers

An "ambiguous antecedent" occurs when a pronoun (like "he," "she," "it," "they") could refer to more than one noun, making the sentence unclear. It's confusing because the reader doesn't know which noun the pronoun is replacing.

For example:

- "When **John** met with **Mark**, he told **him** about the project."

Here, it's unclear whether "he" refers to John or Mark. The sentence can be fixed by clarifying:

- "When John met with Mark, John told him about the project."
- "When John met with Mark, he told Mark about the project."

Clarity is important! Ambiguous antecedents are sneaky, but once you spot them, they're easy to fix.

Using the Pronoun and the Antecedent Beside Each Other:

The error of using the pronoun and the antecedent beside each other happens when the pronoun is placed directly next to the noun it refers to. This redundancy can make the sentence awkward and repetitive.

For example:

Incorrect: "John he went to the store."

Correct: "John went to the store." or "He went to the store."

In the incorrect sentence, "John" and "he" are used together, which is unnecessary. The corrected sentences show how either the noun or the pronoun alone suffices.

Source:

[Advanced 2 \(anglophone.ir\)](http://anglophone.ir)