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Practical English Usage

LESSONS 21-30

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Lesson 21: Into and in to.



Confusing *into* and *in to* is a very common mistake.

1. *Into* is a preposition that describes movement towards or inside something.

- The train disappeared **into** the tunnel.
- I think he went **into** that shop.
- Plug the mouse **into** the computer.

2. *In to* is an adverb (*in*) followed by a preposition (*to*). They often sit together due to correct sentence construction.

- I will hand this bag full of money **in to** the police.
- The courier came **in to** deliver a parcel.

Note: These sentences work without the adverb *in*. The adverb makes the sentences more expressive and definite.

- I will hand this bag full of money **to** the police.
- The courier came **to** deliver a parcel.

Lesson 22: Common irregular plural nouns (A – D).



| Singular | Plural |
|------------|--------------------------|
| aircraft | aircraft |
| alumnus | alumni |
| antithesis | antitheses |
| axis | axes |
| bacterium | bacteria |
| bison | bison |
| child | children |
| crisis | crises |
| criterion | criteria |
| curriculum | curricula or curriculums |
| deer | deer |
| diagnosis | diagnoses |
| dwarf | dwarves |

Lesson 23: Common irregular plural nouns (E – I).



| Singular | Plural |
|------------|------------|
| ellipsis | ellipses |
| fish | fish |
| focus | foci |
| foot | feet |
| formula | formulae |
| fungus | fungi |
| goose | geese |
| grouse | grouse |
| half | halves |
| hoof | hooves |
| hypothesis | hypotheses |
| index | indices |

Lesson 24: Common irregular plural nouns (J, K, L – P).



| Singular | Plural |
|------------|------------|
| larva | larvae |
| loaf | loaves |
| louse | lice |
| man | men |
| matrix | matrices |
| memorandum | memoranda |
| moose | moose |
| mouse | mice |
| nucleus | nuclei |
| oasis | oases |
| offspring | offspring |
| ox | oxen or ox |
| prognosis | prognoses |

Lesson 25: Common irregular plural nouns (Q-S).



| Singular | Plural |
|------------|-----------|
| quiz | quizzes |
| radius | radii |
| referendum | referenda |
| salmon | salmon |
| scarf | scarves |
| self | selves |
| sheep | sheep |
| shrimp | shrimp |
| species | species |
| stimulus | stimuli |
| swine | swine |
| syllabus | syllabi |
| synopsis | synopses |

Lesson 26: Common irregular plural nouns (T-Z).



| Singular | Plural |
|----------|-----------|
| thesis | theses |
| thief | thieves |
| tooth | teeth |
| trout | trout |
| tuna | tuna |
| vertebra | vertebrae |
| vortex | vortices |
| wharf | wharves |
| wife | wives |
| wolf | wolves |
| woman | women |

Lesson 27: Mustn't & Don't have to (Modal verbs)



| Mustn't (Must not) | Don't have to |
|--|--|
| Meaning | Meaning |
| It is not allowed. It is prohibited, dangerous, inadvisable. | There is no requirement or obligation. It is not necessary. |
| You must not eat that. | You don't have to eat that. |
| = You are not allowed to eat that. It is forbidden or dangerous. | = You don't need to eat that but you can if you want to. |
| You mustn't talk to Bob. | You don't have to talk to Bob. |
| = Do not talk to Bob. You are not allowed to talk Bob. | = You can talk to Bob if you want to, but it is not necessary. |

Lesson 28: Speak and Talk



Speak and *talk* are interchangeable. However, one or the other is preferred in certain situations.

1. Generally, *talk* is more informal, *speak* is more formal and more serious:

- Could I **talk** to you about my birthday after lunch?
- I need to **speak** to my son before he gets himself into serious trouble.
- John is going to **talk** to us about Youtube cat videos.
- Jane is going to **speak** about the recent disintegration of the economy.

2. People *speak* languages.

- He **speaks** many languages fluently.
- He needs to learn to **speak** French before his holiday.

3. People *speak* on the telephone.

- Hello, can I **speak** to Mike please? Hi, Mike **speaking**.

4. Nonsense and rubbish.

- Don't **talk** nonsense/rubbish.

Lesson 29: Imply and Infer



Imply and *infer* are often misused and confused. *Imply* and *infer* are actually almost opposites.

To *imply* is to suggest something indirectly. Both people and things can *imply*.

- The use of some Keynesian terms by Treasury officials does not **imply** the acceptance of Keynes's precepts.
- When she said, "I will think about it" with a wink, she seemed to **imply** a positive answer in the future.

To *infer* is to gather, deduce, or figure out from given information.

- Are we to **infer** from the texts that the pupils do not understand the differences between right and wrong?
- This was used to **infer** values of the Census variables for households which never returned a form.

The speaker or writer **implies**, while the listener or reader **infers**.

Lesson 30 : Here and There



Use *here* for the place of the writer or speaker, and *there* for other places.

- She wants to escape from home, and the least we can do is to let her stay **here** for a while.
- Don't stand over **there** on your own, come over **here** and join us.
- I'm going over **there**, to get a better view of the mountain.
- You have 2 choices: stay **here** or go **there**.

Here and *there* are not usually used as nouns.

- This place is awful. It's awful **here** (NOT: ~~Here is awful~~).
- That place is awful. It's awful **there** (NOT: ~~There is awful~~).

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