

**METHODOLOGICAL APPROACHES TO AVOIDING COMMON GRAMMAR  
MISTAKES IN IELTS FOR STUDENTS OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE UNIVERSITIES*****Shermatov Farrukh Ibragimovich****Assistant Teacher at Zarmed University*

**Annotatsiya:** Ushbu maqolada chet tillar universitetlari talabalariga IELTS imtihonida keng tarqalgan grammatik xatolardan qochishga yordam beradigan samarali metodik yondashuvlar o'rganiladi. Grammatik aniqlikni tushunish, tuzilgan o'qitish usullarini qo'llash va sifatli resurslardan foydalanish muhimligi ta'kidlanadi. Maqolada yozish va gapirish bo'limlarida grammatikani yaxshilash bo'yicha asosiy strategiyalar hamda talabalar tomonidan yo'l qo'yiladigan keng tarqalgan xatolar muhokama qilinadi. Shuningdek, grammatik qiyinchiliklarni yengib o'tish va IELTS ballarini maksimal darajada oshirish uchun amaliy yechimlar taklif etiladi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** IELTS grammatik xatolari, grammatik aniqlik, til universitetlari, tuzilgan o'qitish, mustaqil o'rganish strategiyalari, keng tarqalgan xatolar, yozish ko'nikmalari, gapirish mahorati, xatolarni tuzatish usullari, imtihon topshirish strategiyalari.

**Аннотация:** В данной статье рассматриваются эффективные методические подходы, помогающие студентам языковых вузов избегать распространённых грамматических ошибок на экзамене IELTS. Подчёркивается важность понимания грамматической точности, применения структурированных методов обучения и использования качественных ресурсов. В статье обсуждаются ключевые стратегии улучшения грамматики в разделах «Письмо» и «Говорение», а также распространённые ошибки студентов. Кроме того, предлагаются практические решения для преодоления грамматических трудностей и максимального повышения баллов на экзамене IELTS.

**Ключевые слова:** грамматические ошибки в IELTS, грамматическая точность, языковые вузы, структурированное обучение, стратегии самостоятельного изучения, распространённые ошибки, навыки письма, владение устной речью, методы исправления ошибок, стратегии сдачи экзамена.

**Abstract:** This article explores effective methodological approaches to help students of foreign language universities avoid common grammar mistakes in the IELTS exam. It highlights the significance of understanding grammatical accuracy, applying structured learning techniques, and utilizing high-quality resources. The article discusses key strategies for improving grammar in writing and speaking sections, along with common errors students make. Additionally, it offers practical solutions to overcome grammatical challenges and maximize IELTS scores.

**Keywords:** IELTS grammar mistakes, grammatical accuracy, language universities, structured learning, self-study strategies, common errors, writing skills, speaking proficiency, error correction techniques, test-taking strategies.

Grammatical accuracy is a fundamental aspect of IELTS assessment, particularly in the Writing and Speaking sections. Many students of foreign language universities struggle with grammar due to interference from their native language, lack of structured learning, or inadequate practice. Addressing these issues through effective methodologies ensures better performance in the exam

Many students struggle with recurring grammar mistakes in the IELTS exam, which can significantly impact their scores, particularly in the Writing and Speaking sections. Among the most frequent errors are issues related to subject-verb agreement, tense consistency, preposition usage, article application, and sentence structure. Addressing these mistakes is crucial for achieving grammatical accuracy and improving overall coherence.

One of the most common challenges students face is **subject-verb agreement errors**. These occur when the verb form does not match the subject in number. For instance, a student might write, "She have many ideas for the project," instead of the correct form, "She has many ideas for the project." Such mistakes can make writing appear unnatural and lower grammatical accuracy scores [3; 92].

Another prevalent issue is **tense inconsistency**, where students incorrectly mix verb tenses within a sentence or paragraph. A common mistake would be: "Yesterday, he goes to the market and buys some vegetables." The correct version should be: "Yesterday, he went to the market and bought some vegetables." Maintaining consistent tenses ensures clarity and logical sequencing in both written and spoken responses [4; 115].

**Preposition misuse** is also a frequent problem, as prepositions often do not follow strict rules and vary depending on context. For example, many learners mistakenly say, "I am interested about science," instead of "I am interested in science." Similarly, incorrect usage such as "depend in," rather than the correct "depend on," can make sentences awkward and difficult to understand [5; 134].

Errors involving **articles**—both definite (the) and indefinite (a/an)—are another major concern. Students sometimes omit articles where they are necessary or use them unnecessarily. A typical mistake would be: "She is teacher," instead of "She is a teacher." On the other hand, inserting an article unnecessarily, such as "The happiness is important in life," instead of "Happiness is important in life," can also lead to grammatical inaccuracies [1; 150].

Finally, **sentence structure issues**, such as run-on sentences and sentence fragments, can affect the clarity and readability of writing. A run-on sentence, like "She loves reading she goes to the library every day," should be corrected to "She loves reading, so she goes to the library every day." Conversely, sentence fragments, which lack essential components like a subject or verb, can also be problematic. For example, "Although he was tired," is incomplete unless followed by a main clause, such as "Although he was tired, he continued working" [2; 170].

By identifying and correcting these common grammatical errors, students can enhance their written and spoken communication skills, leading to improved performance in the IELTS

exam. Understanding grammar rules, practicing consistently, and seeking feedback can help learners achieve greater fluency and accuracy.

## **Methodological Approaches to Grammar Improvement**

### **Focused Grammar Drills**

One effective way to enhance grammar skills is through targeted exercises that help students recognize and correct repetitive mistakes. These drills focus on specific grammatical structures, such as verb tenses, subject-verb agreement, or sentence structure. By repeatedly practicing these elements, students internalize the rules and apply them more accurately in their writing and speaking. For instance, an exercise requiring students to transform sentences from the present simple to the past simple reinforces their understanding of tense changes. A widely used resource for such structured practice is *English Grammar in Use* by Raymond Murphy, which provides clear explanations followed by progressive exercises that strengthen comprehension and application. [1;50]

### **Contextual Learning Approach**

Rather than memorizing grammatical rules in isolation, students benefit significantly from encountering grammar in meaningful contexts. This approach involves engaging with reading and listening materials that demonstrate correct grammar usage in natural settings. Authentic sources, such as academic books, literature, newspapers, and even dialogues from films or podcasts, expose learners to grammar as it is used in real-life communication. For example, reading a novel helps students see how complex sentence structures function, while listening to an interview provides insight into spoken grammar, including contractions and informal expressions. By analyzing how grammar is naturally embedded in these sources, students can develop a more intuitive grasp of correct usage and apply it effectively in their own communication. [4;150]

### **Error Analysis and Self-Correction**

Encouraging students to analyze their own writing and speech is crucial for long-term grammar improvement. By reviewing their work, learners can identify recurring patterns of errors, such as misplaced modifiers or incorrect verb forms, and work toward eliminating them. One way to implement this method is through guided error analysis, where students examine a set of incorrect sentences, determine the mistakes, and rewrite them correctly. Additionally, self-correction can be enhanced by utilizing structured feedback from teachers or peers. For instance, a teacher might highlight areas of frequent grammatical errors in a student's essay and provide reference materials for self-study. Grammar reference books, such as *Practical English Usage* by Michael Swan, offer detailed explanations of common mistakes and strategies for avoiding them. Through this process, students develop a deeper awareness of their errors and gain the ability to self-monitor and refine their language use. [5;200]

### **Structured Writing Practice**

Consistent writing practice plays a vital role in improving grammatical accuracy. Regularly engaging in structured writing activities allows students to apply grammar rules in context while receiving feedback to refine their skills. One effective method is guided writing exercises, where learners rewrite incorrect sentences to correct grammatical errors. Additionally, using model essays as references helps students understand how well-structured writing incorporates proper grammar. For example, a student struggling with complex sentence formation can analyze an essay that effectively uses subordinate clauses and attempt to replicate similar patterns in their own writing. Peer review sessions, where students exchange written work and provide constructive feedback, also serve as valuable learning opportunities. By consistently practicing and refining their writing, students gradually enhance their grammatical precision and fluency. [2;110]

### Speaking Section Grammar Strategies

Grammar plays a crucial role in the speaking section of language proficiency tests, as it directly affects both coherence and fluency. Accurate grammar usage allows students to express their ideas clearly, avoid misunderstandings, and demonstrate a strong command of the language. To improve grammatical accuracy in speaking, learners can adopt various self-study strategies that focus on practice, reflection, and feedback.

#### Recording and Reviewing Speech

One effective method for improving spoken grammar is recording oneself while responding to various speaking prompts and then reviewing the recordings critically. This process helps learners identify recurring grammatical errors, such as incorrect verb tenses, subject-verb agreement issues, or sentence structure problems. For example, a student preparing for an exam might record an answer to a question like, "Describe a memorable trip you have taken." Upon reviewing the recording, they may notice that they frequently switch between past and present tense inconsistently. By recognizing such patterns, they can consciously work on correcting them in future responses. Additionally, keeping a speech journal where learners transcribe their spoken responses and correct mistakes can reinforce grammatical improvements over time.

#### Using Language Exchange Programs

Practicing with native or proficient speakers provides valuable exposure to natural grammar usage in conversation. Language exchange programs, such as online platforms and language meetups, allow learners to engage in real-life discussions where they can apply grammatical structures in context. For instance, a student practicing with a native English speaker might initially struggle with conditional sentences ("If I will have time, I go to the gym"), but through repeated interactions and corrections, they learn the correct form ("If I have time, I go to the gym"). These conversations not only enhance grammatical accuracy but also help learners develop confidence in using correct sentence structures spontaneously. Furthermore, interacting with fluent speakers exposes learners to common grammatical patterns and idiomatic expressions that are frequently used in natural speech.

## Engaging in IELTS Speaking Simulations

Participating in mock speaking tests is another effective strategy for improving spoken grammar. IELTS speaking simulations, whether conducted with instructors, language tutors, or AI-based platforms, provide structured opportunities to practice under exam-like conditions. These sessions often include immediate feedback on grammar, pronunciation, and fluency, allowing students to refine their responses accordingly. For example, a student practicing for Part 2 of the IELTS Speaking test might struggle with forming complex sentences when describing a past experience. After receiving expert feedback, they can focus on incorporating relative clauses and past perfect tense to enhance the grammatical range of their answers. Over time, repeated practice with constructive feedback leads to noticeable improvements in accuracy and fluency.

By integrating these strategies into their study routine, learners can significantly improve their grammatical precision in speaking. Regular self-reflection, real-world practice, and expert-guided simulations provide a comprehensive approach to mastering grammar in spoken English, ultimately leading to more confident and articulate communication. [5; 220].

## Overcoming Challenges in Grammar Mastery

Mastering grammar is a fundamental aspect of language learning, yet many students struggle with maintaining motivation and consistency in their practice. The complexity of grammatical rules, along with the repetitive nature of drills, can make the learning process feel overwhelming. However, by incorporating structured and engaging strategies, students can overcome these challenges and develop a solid foundation in grammar. The following approaches focus on tracking progress, personalizing learning, and fostering collaborative study habits.

### Creating Personalized Grammar Logs

One of the most effective ways to improve grammar is by maintaining a personalized grammar log. This tool helps students track their errors, reflect on recurring mistakes, and monitor progress over time. Instead of relying solely on passive learning, such as reading grammar rules, students actively engage in the learning process by documenting their own language use.

For instance, a student who frequently misuses prepositions might create a section in their log specifically dedicated to prepositional errors, writing down incorrect sentences alongside their corrected versions. If they notice that they often say, “I am interested for learning English” instead of “I am interested in learning English,” they can add this to their log and review it regularly. Over time, recognizing these patterns helps reinforce correct grammar usage and reduces the likelihood of repeating the same mistakes. Additionally, learners can include grammar rules, example sentences, and even notes from teacher feedback to create a personalized reference guide tailored to their specific needs.

### Utilizing Adaptive Learning Tools

Digital learning platforms provide an interactive and personalized approach to grammar practice, making the learning experience more engaging and effective. Adaptive learning tools, such as Grammarly, Duolingo, and BBC Learning English, adjust the difficulty level of exercises based on the user's performance. This ensures that students focus on areas where they need the most improvement while gradually progressing to more complex grammatical structures.

For example, an adaptive platform might detect that a student struggles with past perfect tense and subsequently provide targeted exercises and explanations to reinforce understanding. These tools often incorporate gamification elements, such as quizzes, badges, and progress trackers, which help maintain motivation. Additionally, some platforms offer AI-powered feedback on both written and spoken grammar, allowing students to receive instant corrections and suggestions. This level of interactivity makes grammar practice more engaging and reduces the frustration associated with traditional rote learning.

#### Joining Grammar-Focused Study Groups

Collaborative learning through study groups is another powerful method for overcoming grammar challenges. Engaging in discussions with peers allows students to share insights, clarify doubts, and reinforce their understanding of grammatical concepts. Study groups also foster accountability, ensuring that members consistently practice and review grammar rules.

For example, a group of students preparing for the IELTS exam might organize weekly sessions where each member explains a specific grammar topic, such as conditionals or passive voice. They could then create practice exercises for each other and engage in peer correction activities. A student struggling with relative clauses might receive constructive feedback from their peers, who provide alternative sentence structures or suggest clearer ways to phrase ideas. By actively teaching and correcting one another, learners reinforce their own knowledge while helping others improve.

Furthermore, discussing grammar concepts in a group setting makes learning more interactive and less isolating. It also helps students gain different perspectives on how grammar rules function in various contexts, making the learning process more dynamic and engaging. [5; 220].

By implementing personalized grammar logs, leveraging adaptive learning tools, and participating in collaborative study groups, students can overcome common challenges in grammar mastery. These strategies not only enhance motivation and consistency but also ensure that grammar practice remains practical, engaging, and effective. When students take an active role in their learning and incorporate structured methods, they develop greater confidence and accuracy in their grammar skills, ultimately improving their overall language proficiency.

In conclusion, Effective grammar mastery is essential for success in the IELTS exam. By implementing structured methodological approaches, students of foreign language universities can significantly reduce grammatical errors in writing and speaking. Combining grammar drills, contextual learning, self-correction techniques, and structured writing practice ensures

continuous improvement. Overcoming grammar challenges through self-discipline and interactive learning results in enhanced fluency and accuracy, leading to higher IELTS scores.

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