

English- Beginner Class

Part 2- Mistakes Native Speakers Make

A dark blue diagonal graphic that starts from the bottom left corner and extends towards the top right corner, covering the lower half of the slide.

B1 Speaking Practice

A2 Listening Practice

If you are B1: Talk about your idioms (if you have them)

If you are A2: Listen to B1 people talk about their idioms (If they have them)

Examples of idioms:

Don't put all your eggs in one basket: That's risky

Get a taste of your own medicine: Get treated how you've been treating others. (Only used negatively)

Give them the cold shoulder: Ignore someone (This is sometimes shown in cartoons as ice on a character's shoulder)

Under the weather: Being sick

It's your funeral: That's a bad idea, but I'm not stopping you. (Typically used humorously)

Your/My neck of the woods: Describes your neighborhood/ country/ region

Contractions

- Shortened form of two (or more) words
- Contractions are used a lot in both written and spoken English, but the amount of use varies depending on region

Examples:

Do + Not = Don't

I **don't** like that.

Will + Not= Won't

You **won't** do that.

I + Am= I'm

I'm from ____.

You + Are= You're*

You're late.

They + Are= They're*

They're hungry.

Can + Not= Can't

She **can't** swim here.

* **You're** is sometimes confused with **Your** by native speakers.

* **They're** is sometimes confused with **Their** and **There** by native speakers.

Can't, Cannot, and Can Not

All of these are correct and can be used in sentences, **however**:

- **Can't** is a contraction of Can + Not and is **informal**.
- **Cannot** is **formal**.
- **Can not** is not as *common* due to its clunky nature in speech and is used only to **enunciate** (speak clearly) or to emphasize.

Examples:

- You **can't** do that.
- They **cannot** pursue that course of action
- He **can not** say that to you.

You're vs. Your

These two words can cause a lot of confusion, even for native speakers. This is because they are **homophones** (**homo= same, phone= sound**). This means they sound the same in spoken English but have different spellings and different meanings.

You're is a contraction of You + Are and is correct to use in sentences that would work with You + Are

- **You're** late.
- **You are** late.

This only works in present tense and future tense, not past tense.

- **You're** going to be late.
- You **were** late.

Your is meant to show that you **own** something.

- Is that **your** water?
- Here is **your** sweater.

Your works in present, past, and future tense because it is not a contraction.

Their, There, and They're

Their shows that something belongs to a person or animal. *This can be plural or singular based on context. It is *technically* not grammatically correct to use in a singular context, but the [definition of the word is actively changing](#). Thus, it is appropriate to use in informal speech but (as of now) not formal.

- That's **their** house.
- Did you see **their** new cat?

There refers to a **place**. You can remember this because **there** has the word “**here**” in it.

- **There's** a hill over **there**.
- He lives over **there**.

They're is a contraction of **They + are**.

- **They're** going to be here soon.
- I don't know where **they're** going.

Effect vs. Affect

Affect is a verb which means: to **act** on or change something/someone. You can remember this word because it has the word “**act**” in it. **Affect**.

- They're trying not to let their emotions **affect** their decisions.
- Her fear of dogs has **affected** her.

Effect is a noun which means: a change **created by** something. This is used to discuss the end result of something and can be remembered because this word starts with “**E**” like the word “**end**”.

- That had no **effect** on me.
- The new law goes into **effect** on the 17th of this month.

Whom, Whose, Who's, Who

Who is a pronoun referring to a subject such as a person or a group of people or animals. It can be used to ask a question or to reference a past subject.

- **Who** is the new girl?
- My father, **who** is the CEO, will be hearing about this.

Whom is objective and can be used to replace **me/her/him/them/us**. It can be used to ask a question or as a part of the sentence. It's formal and is typically not used these days, in fact, you might sound like someone's grandparent or (in America) you might get some weird looks if you attempt to use **whom** casually.

- To **whom** it may concern.
- She was picked by the conductor, **whom** he deemed perfect to play the solo.
- To **whom** do I have to speak with to set up an appointment?

Whom, Whose, Who's, Who

Who's is a contraction of Who + Is and is used to help improve the flow of sentences. If you can replace **who's** with "who is" then you are using the correct word.

- **Who's** coming with me?
- Do you know **who's** going to the show?

Whose indicates ownership and is commonly mixed up with **Who's**.

- **Whose** jacket is this?
- I spoke with the new kid in class today, **whose** name escapes me, and he was really nice!

Its vs. It's

This is another homophone that trips up native speakers, though **it's** rather easy to get the hang of.

It's is a contraction of It + Is (or It + Has) and is used to help improve the flow of a sentence or shorten it

Fun Fact: In school, students sometimes don't contract "it's" in order to make the word count on their papers higher. They think **it's** sneaky, but **it is** the oldest trick in the book.

- **It's** sunny outside today.
- Do you know when **it's** going to start?

Its shows ownership of something. This is used for objects and non-living things or animals and can be used to reference a previous subject.

- Did you feed the dog?
Yes, that's **its** food.
- The sun is so bright today, it blinded me with **its** rays.

Study...

A2 People:

Try the grammar exercises

Try to write two questions you have

B1 People:

Try to write about something that will happen

Try to write about something that you learned in the past

Try the grammar exercises

For both levels: Try to attend the weekly speaking practice to work on your pronunciation and expose yourself to new words, phrases, and grammar.

Hard Mode: Watch a video without subtitles on (if applicable) and leave a comment talking about what you liked. You can also read a story/article and leave a comment saying what you liked.