**COMMON ABAU MISTAKES**

**1. WRITINGS**

**GENERAL TIPS**

* Antes de empezar a escribir, haz una lluvia de ideas sobre el tema de la redacción y escribe una lista con ellas.
* Después, selecciona las más relevantes y haz un plan de lo que vas a escribir. Organiza tu escrito de la siguiente manera: Introducción, Desarrollo y Conclusión. Introduce el tema con un par de frases.
* Expresa tus ideas en párrafos, en un orden lógico, manteniendo un punto de vista consistente. Normalmente, con una idea principal al comienzo de cada párrafo es suficiente. Desarrolla esa idea principal con material de apoyo.
* Cada párrafo debe tener coherencia y acabar con una frase que refuerce lo ya expresado y que conecte con el próximo párrafo.
* Termina la redacción con una conclusión que resuma tus ideas.
* **Utiliza palabras de enlace** y otras expresiones que unan ideas adecuadamente. Aquí tienes las más habituales:
* **Para añadir ideas**: again, also, and, besides, equally important, first, in the second place, secondly, furthermore, in addition, moreover, finally…
* **Para comparar:** in the same way, likewise, similarly…
* **Para expresar concesión**: although this way, at the same time, after all, certainly, doubtless, surely, I admit…
* **Para indicar condición**: as if, if, as though, even if …
* **Para mostrar consecuencias o resultados:** and so, after all, at last,as a result, as a consequence, consequently, finally, in conclusion, so, therefore, thus…
* **Para contrastar**: although true, but, yet for all that, however, nevertheless, on the one hand, on the other hand, whereas…
* **Para dar ejemplos**: especially, for example, for instance, in general, in particular, in this way, namely...
* **Para expresar ideas con otras palabras**: in other words, that is to say…
* **Para opinar**: I believe that , I think that, in my opinion…
* **Para mostrar razón**: because, since, for…
* **Para indicar repetición**: and so again, as has been said, in other words, to repeat…
* **Para resumir**: in brief, in short, to sum up, to summarize, in conclusion, to conclude…
* **Para odenar en secuencia**: firstly, to begin with, secondly, next, after that, finally in the end, at last ...

**3. Elige el tipo de redacción adecuado para el tema sobre el que tienes que escribi**r. Ten en cuenta el lenguaje clave que debes incluir en cada tipo:

**Descripciones**: adjetivos y adverbios de grado, frases de relativo…

**Biografías:** enlaces de secuencia y expresiones temporales para situarlas ideas en orden cronológico; adjetivos, frases de relativo…

**Redacciones argumentativas**: enlaces para mostrar consecuencia, expresiones para dar ejemplos, comparar, contrastar, opinar, condicionales…

**Narraciones** : adjetivos , adverbios, enlaces de secuencia , tiempos verbales como el pasado continuo y el pasado simple, estilo directo e indirecto…

Cartas formales o informales: saludos, despedidas, expresiones para indicar razón por la que se escribe la carta…

4. Recuerda **evitar los errores comunes :**

**Errores gramaticales:**

**Orden de palabras en una frase:** ejemplo, I like very much chocolate. Frase correcta: I like chocolate very much.

**Orden de adjetivos:** ejemplo, He has a house very big. Frase correcta: He has a very big house.

**Uso de comparativos y superlativos**: ejemplo, My bag is more big that yours. Frase correcta: My bag is bigger than yours.

**Concordancia entre sujeto y verbo**: ejemplo, People is good. Frase correcta: People are good.

**No poner sujeto en las frases:** ejemplo, In my opinion is an advantage…Frase correcta: In my opinion it´s an advantage…

**Uso de posesivos**: ejemplo, My friend Pablo lives in Madrid. Her house is big. Frase correcta: My friend Pablo lives in Madrid. His house is big.

**Uso de gerundios e infinitivos:** ejemplo, To smoke is bad. Frase correcta: Smoking is bad.

**Confusión entre contables e incontables:** ejemplo, much (debe ir con incontables ), many ( debe utilizarse con contables ). Advice ( es incontable; el plural se hace con pieces delante de advice, por ejemplo: Some pieces of advice).

**Confusión de vocabulario:**

**Make y do**: ejemplo, Make your homewok. Frase correcta: Do your homework .

**Say y tell**: ejemplo, I said her. Frase correcta: I said to her.

**Wait y hope**: wait significa esperar (tiempo) y hope tener la esperanza de…

**Win y earn**: win es ganar algo como un premio, concurso … y earn es ganar un salario.

**Lend y borrow**: lend significa prestar y borrow pedir prestado.

**Remember y remind**: remember es recordar y remind hacer recordar.

**False friends**: sensible ( significa razonable, no sensible ), library ( biblioteca, no librería ), actual ( real, no actual ), success (éxito, no suceso).

**Errores típicos de traducción directa:**

I am agree with you . Frase correcta: I agree with you.

I have 34 years. Frase correcta: I am 34 years old.

He lives here since 1999. Frase correcta: He has lived here since1999.

**Errores de spelling**: ejemplo, babys en lugar de babies…

**Errores de puntuación**: por ejemplo, falta de comas en frases de relativo explicativas: My sister who is a nurse lives in Paris. Frase correcta: My sister, who is a nurse, lives in Paris.

**MORE MISTAKES**

**I am not agree with this.:**

I am not agree with this. I agree with this I don’t agree with this

**The author say that it is impossible.:**

The author say that it is impossible. The author sayS that…

**Many people is helping me.:**

Many people is helping me. Many people ARE helping me People = PLURAL

**I don’t like nothing in the shop.:**

I don’t like nothing in the shop. I don’t like ANYTHING…

**I want to become a doctor but is impossible because…:**

I want to become a doctor but is impossible because… ..but IT is impossible…

**They made some importants discoveries at the museum.:**

They made some importants discoveries at the museum. ..some important discoveries… Adjectives have NO PLURAL

**The childrens ran away from the man.:**

The childrens ran away from the man. The CHILDREN…

**The city is more bigger than before …:**

The city is more bigger than before … The city is BIGGER…

**They are a lot of problems in the city centre .:**

They are a lot of problems in the city centre . THERE are…

**The fast food is a problem…:**

The fast food is a problem… Fast food is a problem…

**The people believe that …:**

The people believe that … People believe that…

**Eat fast is a horrible thing …:**

Eat fast is a horrible thing … EATING fast is a horrible thing …

**This people can be really responsibles .:**

This people can be really responsibles . THESE people can be really RESPONSIBLE.

**They have more opportunities that others.:**

They have more opportunities that others. They have more opportunities THAN others.

**This way of educate our children is wrong. :**

This way of educate our children is wrong. This way of EDUCATING ...

**Parents buy all for their children.:**

Parents buy all for their children. Parents buy EVERYTHING for their children…

**He bought other car for his son. :**

He bought other car for his son. He bought ANOTHER car… WATCH OUT !!! Very popular mistake.

**Mary lost his purse at the party. :**

Mary lost his purse at the party. Mary lost HER purse…

**Apart of that, they are interesting people .:**

Apart of that, they are interesting people . Apart FROM that…

**In the Vasc Country …:**

In the Vasc Country … In the BASQUE country…

**I found a lot of thinks on my desk …:**

I found a lot of thinks on my desk … A lot of THINGS… Consecuence of CARELESS writing

**There is a one taxi at the door …:**

There is a one taxi at the door … There is A taxi at the door…

**I don’t know where he stay :**

I don’t know where he stay …where he IS…

**I think is better to go slowly. :**

I think is better to go slowly. I think IT is better to…

**You can bought potatoes for 2 euros.:**

You can bought potatoes for 2 euros. You can BUY…

**There are many companies in USA :**

There are many companies in USA …in THE USA.

**I'm going to Paris for learn French.:**

I'm going to Paris for learn French. ...TO learn French.

**The life is beautiful :**

The life is beautiful Life is beautiful.

**I love listening music in the morning. :**

I love listening music in the morning. …listening TO…

**I was really boring during the class. :**

I was really boring during the class. …BORED…

**I am not sure where is Anchorage.:**

I am not sure where is Anchorage. …where Anchorage is.

**Einstein was a scientist who he was … :**

Einstein was a scientist who he was … … who was..

**The man dead before the doctor arrived.:**

The man dead before the doctor arrived. The man DIED… The man WAS DEAD…

**The car’s door couldn’t be locked :**

The car’s door couldn’t be locked …door of the car…

**The story take place in Europe. :**

The story take place in Europe. The story takeS place… You are not forgetting the –S in the exam, are you?

**They didn’t told the truth. :**

They didn’t told the truth. …didn’t tell… A typical one if you don’t REVISE your writing.

**The story’s message is that….:**

The story’s message is that…. The message OF the story…

**It consist in 3 parts...:**

It consist in 3 parts... It consistS OF…

**The teenagers they haven’t got any possibility to ...:**

The teenagers they haven’t got any possibility to ... Teenagers haven’t got…

**It is amazing how can a man....:**

It is amazing how can a man.... …how a man can… WORD ORDER in reported speech.

**In this days ...:**

In this days ... These days… Nowadays…

**I want to study in the university.:**

I want to study in the university. at university…

**Most of the people….:**

Most of the people…. Most people…

**The information it has been obtained by...:**

The information it has been obtained by... The information has been…

**The prizes of university are very high.:**

The prizes of university are very high. PRICES

**He is with she.:**

He is with she. He is with her.

**Nowadays are a lot of people that… :**

Nowadays are a lot of people that… Nowadays THERE are…

**Old the secrets are important. :**

Old the secrets are important. All…

**Most of the people were late. :**

Most of the people were late. Most people…

**Is not easy protect everybody. :**

Is not easy protect everybody. IT is not easy TO…

**Old the secrets are important. :**

Old the secrets are important. All… Believe it or not. IT IS REAL

**REPHRASING**

**IDENTIFY THE STRUCTURE AND THEN REWRITE:**

**Complete the second sentence of each pair so that it has the same meaning as the first one. (2 points; 0.5 point each)**

a) Do responsible learners volunteer to clean the blackboard? Are they diligent and obedient?

*The writer asks ……*

b) They may not always be like that.

*Perhaps …..*

c) You can bring a horse to the water

*A horse……*

d) Learning will only happen if learners are willing to contribute.

*Unless …*

a) My clients range from the paranoid to the extremely wealthy.

*Some of my clients …*

b) At the moment we’re working on one of the biggest cases we’ve ever handled.

*The author said that* ….

c) I’ll teach the client how to live a different life

*The client* ........

d) He is criminally connected, so his wife is worried that he’ll try to have her murdered.

*Because ….*

a) By feeding these ‘friendly’ bacteria into our system, we fight the bad bacteria.

*If we ...*

b) Probiotics can help your immune system.

*Your immune system ...*

c) We may not like to eat them so much.

*We may not enjoy …*

d) Our digestive health may be affected if we don’t eat them.

*Unless …*

a) Skaters were transporting goods across frozen waterways.

*Goods ...*

b) The International Skating Union was founded. Six years later, the first official event was celebrated.

*Six years after …*

c) As judges deduct points, a balanced programme is important.

*If judges didn’t ....*

d) Ice dancing consists of three sections.

*There are …*

**COMMON MISTAKES:**

**- Adjective + noun.**

Adjectives go before, not after nouns. This includes comparatives and superlatives, and adjectives modified by “very”. For example: a very interesting film, the most important thing...  
 **- Comparatives and superlatives.**

In short adjectives, you add –er for  
comparatives and –est for superlatives (the fastest player in Real Madrid; she’s shorter than her sister...). With long adjectives, you use MORE for comparatives and THE MOST for superlatives (the book is more expensive than the magazine; this is the most exciting film I’ve ever seen...). Some adjectives areirregular (better, the best; worse, the worst...)

**- Adjectives don’t have a plural form.**

**-** For example: “cheap cars”, “good news”,“big problems”...  
  
- THIS / THESE / THAT / THOSE. “These” is the plural of “this” (“these houses”) and “those” is the plural of “that” (“those people”)  
  
- People is a plural word. It’s the plural of “person”.

**Word Order.**

In English, it’s far more rigid than in Spanish: subject + (some  
adverbs: “only”, “also”, frequency adverbs) main verb (except “to be”) + object+ adverbials (manner + place + time). For example: “I like football very much”.  
“I like very much football” is incorrect. Another example: “She had also writtena lot of interesting novels in London before she moved to the USA” or “She wonthe race easily last Sunday”.

You can place some adverbials before the subject  
(especially some time and place adverbials): “In 1992, he came to live toSeville”, “In London, he met some very interesting people”.

**Plurals.**

You can avoid this mistake easily if you check your composition. This is a “stupid” and unfortunately common mistake. Remember some irregular plurals: “women”, “men”, “children”, “teeth”, “feet”, “people”, “mice” ...  
 **Articles.**

Don’t use “the” when talking about something general. For example: “Violence is found in streets all over the city”, I’m going to write about sport”, “Cats are cleaner than dogs”... Use “a / an” only for singular countable nouns. For the rest, use some / any. For example: “a book”, “a boy”, but “some / any books”, “some / any boys”, “some / any money”...  
 **Gerunds as subject.**

Don’t forget to use –ING when you use a verb as a subject. For example: “Speaking English is easy for me”, “Working 14 hours a day is too much for me”, “Studying Maths is very useful”...  
 **Possessives.**

Use “its” when you are talking about something. “His” and “her” refer to people. For example: “Rome is beautiful. I love its museums and churches”.  
 **Modifiers.**

“Very” modifies adjectives and it means “muy” (“very good”, “very intelligent”). If we want to say “mucho /s” we can use “a lot of” . For negatives and interrogatives, we tend to use “much” (uncountable) and “many” (countable).

**MORE MISTAKES  
  
- When they ask you “why?” you should use a complete sentence,** including “because”. For example: “Why did it happen?” – “It happened because he was driving too fast”.  
 **- When writing down your mistakes, write complete sentences, not words.**  
**- Other / another**. “Other” is used with plural nouns (“other things”) and “another” with singular noun (“another thing”).  
  
**- Present simple 3rd person singular**. You add –s (“The book tells the story of...”, “This influences their behaviour...”)  
  
- **Too / also.** You use “too” atthe end of the sentence (...and it is original too) and also before the main verb (this also implies that...).  
  
- **Impersonal “you”.** You use “you” when you are referring to everybody (as in this sentence!): You should eat fruit every day (in Spanish: “hay que comer fruta todos los días).  
 **- As / like.** You use “as” + a prepositional phrase (Shakespeare dealt with racism in his plays, as in “Othello”). You use “like” + noun phrase / personal pronoun  
(“He lives like a king”, “His sister doesn’t look like him”).  
  
- **Such as.** It means “como”, “tales como”, “por ejemplo”. “Shakespare wrote great comedies, such as The Merchant of Venice”.  
  
**- Don’t use contractions in compositions.**  
**- Word categories.** Sometimes you say “violence” (noun) when you want to say “violent” (adjective), for example. When you have to give a word for a definition, a synonym or opposite, make sure you give a word of the same category.  
  
**- Spelling.**Don't mix up BRITISH ENGLISH SPELLING with AMERICAN ENGLISH SPELLING (Your composition has to be written in one of these accents, but not mixing up both. Examples: COLOUR / NEIGHBOUR - British English; COLOR / NEIGHBOR - American English.  
-*After every simple modal verb the following verb is ALWAYS an infinitive without to (and if it's a compound modal, the structure is always MODAL + HAVE + past participle): Examples: (This is called simple modal structure):*

***-MODALS***

*MIGHT / MUST / SHOULD / Will / Would ... + infinitive without to: - I should study /must go to the police.*

*- Children, even adults might make a show. (And not: (...) might ~~to~~make a show).*

*If the modal is compound (that is to talk about the past or to talk about something that has possibly happened), we use the structure MODAL + HAVE + past participle:*

*- He must have been to the dentist, because he had a tooth-ache (This structure is used to talk an event that has possibly happened, as he has a tooth-ache, he has probably gone to the dentist).*

*- You might have lost your bag at the train station. (This time, the meaning is related to a event that happened in the past. It's is clear that you don't have your bag with you now, so you are thinking about where you lost it, in the past by using this past structure).*

**WARNING: (SOME DESPERATE TIPS FOR THE EXAM):**

- THINK IN ENGLISH (or try to do so),  
- CHECK, CHECK, CHECK, CHECK AND DON’T STOP  
CHECKING UNTIL THE TIME COMES WHEN YOU HAVE TO  
HAND OUT YOUR EXAM.  
- AVOID “STUPID MISTAKES” (plurals, spelling...)  
- IN COMPOSITIONS, THINK BEFORE YOU WRITE. PLEASE  
MAKE A LIST OF IDEAS FIRST.  
- DON’T MAKE EXPERIMENTS IN AN EXAM (inventing words  
that sound like Spanish words...)  
- USE PARAGRAPHS  
- INCLUDE A CONCLUSION  
- BE ORIGINAL. If you can.  
- DON’T REPEAT IDEAS.  
- EXPLAIN AND JUSTIFY EVERYTHING YOU SAY  
- USE CONNECTORS

 SOME GOOD STUDY HABITS:  
- REPEAT GRAMMAR ACTIVITIES. USE THE PHOTOCOPIES OR THE BLOG WITH THE ANSWER KEY.  
- VOCABULARY: LOOK FOR WORDS OF COMMON USE AND LEARN THEM FIRST.  
- READ THE TEXTS IN THE BOOK AND PHOTOCOPIES OF SELECTIVIDAD TEXTS. LOOK UP DIFFICULT WORDS IN A DICTIONARY.  
- WRITE DOWN YOUR MISTAKES (COMPLETE SENTENCES)  
- TRY TO REMEMBER THE LYRICS OF SONGS WHERE A PARTICULAR WORD OR GRAMMAR STRUCTURE IS USED.  
- PRACTICE ENGLISH EVERY DAY. THERE’S A LOT TO STUDY, SO DON’T LEAVE EVERYTHING FOR THE DAY BEFORE.