

## COMMON MISTAKES – SECUNDARIA AND BACHILLERATO

	<b>MISTAKE</b>	<b>CORRECTION</b>	<b>REASON</b>
<b>1</b>	I came <u>whit</u> my friend.	I came <u>with</u> my friend.	Spelling: Mistaking “with” for a Wh- particle.
<b>2</b>	He <u>can not</u> do that.	He <u>cannot</u> do that.	“Cannot” is a single word, not two.
<b>3</b>	It’s very <u>dificult</u> .	It’s very <u>difficult</u> .	Spelling: In Spanish, “difícil” has only one “f”.
<b>4</b>	England is <u>diferent</u> .	England is <u>different</u> .	Spelling: In Spanish, “diferente” has only one “f”.
<b>5</b>	Have you got <u>de</u> money?	Have you got <u>the</u> money?	Spelling: The sound of the article “The” is very similar to the sound of the Spanish preposition “de”.
<b>6</b>	I saw him on <u>saturday</u> .	I saw him on <u>Saturday</u> .	In English, the days of the week must be written with a capital letter.
<b>7</b>	On the other hand, in <u>june</u> .	On the other hand, in <u>June</u> .	In English, the months of the year must be written with a capital letter.
<b>8</b>	I’m learning <u>italian</u> .	I’m learning <u>Italian</u> .	In English, the names of languages must be written with a capital letter.
<b>9</b>	She’s <u>french</u> .	She’s <u>French</u> .	In English, nationalities must be written with a capital letter.
<b>10</b>	They <u>usualy</u> get up at 7:00.	They <u>usually</u> get up at 7:00.	Spelling: “Usually” has a double “l”.
<b>11</b>	I’m watching <u>a film very interesting</u> .	I’m watching <u>a very interesting film</u> .	Word order: The adjective always comes before the noun in a phrase.
<b>12</b>	It’s <u>a</u> incredible book.	It’s <u>an</u> incredible book.	Spelling: The indefinite article “a” is written “an” when the following word starts with a vowel.
<b>13</b>	We have <u>the</u> lunch at 1 o’clock.	We have <u>lunch</u> at 1 o’clock.	We do not normally use the article “the” before the names of the meals of the day.
<b>14</b>	She’s staying <u>in</u> home.	She’s staying <u>at</u> home.	The word “home” only accepts the stative preposition “at”.
<b>15</b>	Are very nice.	<u>They</u> are very nice.	In English, a subject is required before the verb.
<b>16</b>	John <u>say</u> that everybody came.	John <u>says</u> that everybody came.	Grammar: In affirmative sentences in the Present Simple, the verb has an “-s” ending.
<b>17</b>	John and Mary think	John and Mary think	There are two persons in the

	they have to show <u>his</u> interest.	they have to show <u>their</u> interest.	subject, therefore, the possessive must be plural.
18	It caused <u>terribles</u> difficulties.	It caused <u>terrible</u> difficulties.	In English, the adjective NEVER takes the plural.
19	That was a <u>story beautiful</u> .	That was a <u>beautiful story</u>	Adjective Order: In English the adjective goes before the noun it modifies
20	English is my favourite <u>signature</u> .	English is my favourite <u>subject</u> .	The word “signature” (firma) must not be confused with “subject” (asignatura, tema).
21	He’s got three <u>childs</u> .	He’s got three <u>children</u> .	The word “child” has an irregular plural: “children”.
22	They’re <u>studing</u> maths.	They’re <u>studying</u> maths.	Spelling: verbs ending in consonant + y DO NOT lose or change the “-y” when adding the “-ing” suffix.
23	She’s <u>coping</u> me.	She’s <u>copying</u> me.	Spelling: verbs ending in consonant + y DO NOT lose or change the “-y” when adding the “-ing” suffix.
24	He’s <u>comeing</u> tomorrow.	He’s <u>coming</u> tomorrow.	Spelling: Verbs ending in a silent “-e” lose it when adding the “-ing” suffix.
25	He was <u>danceing</u> all night.	He was <u>dancing</u> all night.	Spelling: Verbs ending in a silent “-e” lose it when adding the “-ing” suffix.
26	I <u>studyed</u> Maths last night.	I <u>studied</u> Maths last night.	Spelling: Regular verbs ending in consonant + “-y” change it to “-i-“ before adding the “-ed” suffix.
27	English is <u>easier</u> than German.	English is <u>easier</u> than German.	Spelling: Adjectives ending in consonant + “-y” change it to “-i-“ before adding the comparative “-er” suffix.
28	She <u>_</u> watching TV.	She <u>’s</u> watching TV.	Grammar: The Present Continuous requires the use of the verb “to be” in the present simple and the “-ing” form.
29	<u>To listen</u> to music is her favourite hobby.	<u>Listening</u> to music is her favourite hobby.	In English we use the “-ing” form when we want to have a verb as the subject of a sentence.
30	The film was very <u>large</u> .	The film was very <u>long</u> .	False friends: In English, “large” means the same as “big”.
31	Remember, as the Americans say, “The Time is money”.	Remember, as the Americans say, “Time is money”.	The article THE is not used when we are talking about something IN GENERAL.
32	<u>The</u> life is often unfair.	<u>Life</u> is often unfair.	The article THE is not used

			when we are talking about something IN GENERAL.
33	I watch <u>always</u> that programme on television.	I <u>always</u> watch that programme on television.	Frequency adverb position is usually before the main verb.
34	They like <u>listening music</u> .	They like <u>listening to music</u> .	You normally add “to” after listen to say what you are listening to. Example: Listen to the radio / the news ...
35	They <u>can not</u> do that.	They <u>cannot</u> do that.	“Cannot” is a single word, not two.
36	He works as <u>disc jockey</u> .	He works as <u>a disc jockey</u> .	In English, when we are talking about ONE PERSON’S PROFESSION, we use the indefinite article a/an before the name of the profession.
37	Come out. I can <u>to</u> see you.	Come out. I can see you.	The verb “Can” doesn’t take “to” before the verb in the infinitive.
38	The books of Valle <u>Inclán</u> are very interesting.	<u>Valle Inclán’s</u> books are very interesting.	We use the ‘s genitive to say that some things belong to a person.
39	It’s a <u>city beautiful</u> .	It’s a <u>beautiful city</u> .	Adjective Order: In English the adjective goes before the noun it modifies.
40	I like listening <u>__</u> the radio.	I like listening <u>to</u> the radio.	The verb “Listen” takes the preposition “To” when you use it with a complement.
41	English is an important <u>idiom</u> .	English is an important <u>language</u> .	“Language” means “Lengua, Idioma”. “Idiom” means “expresión idiomática, frase hecha o refrán”.
42	I’ll see you <u>the</u> next week.	I’ll see you next week.	“Next” does not take the article “The” when it is used to refer to future periods of time.
43	Have you met <u>the</u> Mr. Jones?	Have you met Mr. Jones?	You don’t use the article “The” before a proper name.
44	They don’t <u>to</u> smoke or drink.	They <u>don’t</u> smoke or drink.	You don’t use “to” after the auxiliary verb DO / DOES.
45	That part of France <u>have</u> some nice countryside.	That part of France <u>has</u> some nice countryside.	The verb has to be in the singular form here, since the subject is “part”, which is singular.
46	The book <u>wich</u> you are reading.	The book <u>which</u> you are reading.	Spelling.
47	Listen <u>carefully</u> .	Listen <u>carefully</u> .	Spelling: Adjectives ending in “l” double this letter when adding the “-ly” suffix.

			Careful => carefully
48	I didn't see <u>no</u> animals.	I didn't see <u>any</u> animals.	Double negative: If the verb is in the negative form, you cannot have a negative particle afterwards—use “any” instead of “no” when the verb is in the negative.
49	I use this towel <u>for dry</u> my hands.	I use this towel <u>to dry</u> my hands.	Grammar: The infinitive of purpose = To + Infinitive. After prepositions we use a verb in the “-ing” form when we need to use a verb.
50	I'm going to <u>the</u> bed.	I'm going to <u>bed</u>	In English we say “Go to bed”, Not “to the bed”. We also say “Go to school”, “Go to University”...
51	How many people <u>was</u> there?	How many people <u>were</u> there?	In English, the word “people” is always plural.
52	There are <u>much</u> things to do.	There are <u>many</u> things to do.	False friends: In Spanish “muchos/as” = In English “Many”.
53	The situation <u>seemed often</u> very unfair.	The situation <u>often seemed</u> very unfair.	Frequency adverb position is usually before the main verb.
54	He got a better mark <u>that</u> me.	He got a better mark <u>than</u> me.	Do not use “that” with comparatives. Use “THAN”.
55	It <u>sometimes</u> can help.	It can <u>sometimes</u> help.	Frequency adverb position is usually before the main verb.
56	I'm not going to Scotland. It's too <u>much</u> cold there.	I'm not going to Scotland. It's too cold there.	In English we use “Too much” with uncountable nouns. With adjectives we use “Too”.
57	I think that Paris is the <u>more</u> beautiful city in the world.	I think that Paris is the <u>most</u> beautiful city in the world.	Do not use the comparative when you have to use the superlative. We use the superlative in English when we want to say that something has the highest rank in a group of more than two elements.
58	Those people <u>has</u> to take quick decisions.	Those people <u>have</u> to take quick decisions.	In English, the word “people” is always plural.
59	It was <u>more easy</u> than I expected.	It was <u>easier</u> than I expected.	In English, adjectives which end in “-y”, take the “-er” comparative with changes.
60	She is the <u>more</u> important person here.	She is the <u>most</u> important person here.	Do not use the comparative when you have to use the superlative. We use the superlative in English when we want to say that something has the highest

			rank in a group of more than two elements.
61	Probably he'll come tomorrow.	He'll <u>probably</u> come tomorrow.	Adverb position: Usually before the main verb.
62	They haven't got <u>many</u> patience.	They haven't got <u>much</u> patience.	"Patience" is an uncountable noun. So, you can't use a plural determiner as "many".
63	May <u>of</u> 1997	May 1997	No prepositions are used in dates.
64	I liked <u>watch</u> the children play.	I liked <u>watching</u> the children play.	The gerund is used after the verb "Like" (Except in "Would like to + INFINITIVE).
65	How <u>I can</u> help you?	How <u>can I</u> help you?	Interrogative Order: The auxiliary verb is placed before the subject.
66	He married <u>with</u> Susie.	He married Susie.	The verb "Marry" does not take a preposition in English.
67	He didn't ask <u>to</u> Mary.	He didn't ask Mary.	You don't use a preposition with the verb "ask" and the person.
68	I liked <u>german</u> beer.	I liked <u>German</u> beer.	In English you use capitals with nationalities and languages.
69	He's the best actor <u>of</u> the world.	He's the best actor <u>in</u> the world.	With the superlatives, you use <b>IN</b> the world.
70	I love <u>the</u> books	I love <u>books</u> .	You don't use the article "the" when you're talking in general.
71	"What's your name?" I asked <u>to</u> the boy.	"What's your name?" I asked the boy.	You don't use the preposition "to" after the verb ASK with the person you're asking.
72	I usually read <u>in the</u> night.	I usually read <u>at</u> night.	In English we say: <u>In the</u> morning; <u>in the</u> afternoon, <u>in the</u> evening AND <u>at</u> night.
73	It's one of the biggest cities <u>of</u> Spain.	It's one of the biggest cities <u>in</u> Spain.	With the superlatives, you use <b>IN</b> + Name of a country.
74	After <u>to open</u> the door, he said "hello".	After <u>opening</u> the door, he said "hello".	After prepositions we use a verb in the "-ing" form when we need to use a verb.
75	She gave me <u>other</u> book	Two possibilities: - She gave me <u>another</u> book. - She gave me <u>the other</u> book.	In English we use "another" to mean "one additional". We use "the other" to refer to "a different one from the same set".
76	We will call you when we <u>will</u> arrive.	We will call you when we <u>arrive</u> .	In English, the word "people" is always plural.
77	We had <u>a time</u> very relaxing.	We had <u>a very relaxing</u> time.	Word order: In English, the adjective always comes

			before the noun.
78	She was angry because she did <u>bad</u> in the test.	She was angry because she did <u>badly</u> in the test.	BAD is an adjective (malo) and BADLY is an adverb (mal)
79	He asked <u>to</u> the man: "What's your name?"	He asked the man: "What's your name?"	In English the verb "ask" uses no prepositions.
80	I haven't seen him for more <u>that</u> three days.	I haven't seen him for more <u>than</u> three days.	In English we say "more than", NOT "more that"
81	We arrived <u>to</u> the station at 8 o'clock.	We arrived <u>at</u> the station at 8 o'clock.	In English we say "arrive at (a place)" or "arrive in (a country)". We NEVER say "arrive to (a place)".
82	He's <u>making</u> a good job.	He's <u>doing</u> a good job.	Although both "MAKE" and "DO" can be translated as "HACER" in Spanish, you can't use one or the other when you like. Some expressions use "DO" and some use "MAKE". For instance, in English we say "Do a favour" (hacer un favor), but we say "make trouble" (causar problemas).
83	"Bad news" – "Why? What <u>did happen</u> ?"	"Bad news" – "Why? What <u>happened</u> ?"	When a Wh- particle is asking about the subject of the action, the structure of the question is like the affirmative.
84	He did it too <u>quick</u> .	He did it too <u>quickly</u> .	In order to modify a verb, you have to use an adverb (quickly), not an adjective (quick).
85	It was a <u>large</u> , hot summer.	It was a <u>long</u> , hot summer.	"Large" means "Big in size". It is a common mistake to use it instead of "long".
86	I picked up the book <u>of</u> the floor.	I picked up the book <u>from</u> the floor.	The preposition "from" is used to determine the place of origin.
87	She has very <u>few</u> time.	She has very <u>little</u> time.	You use "Few" with countable nouns in plural, and "little" with uncountable nouns.
88	Give the money before <u>of</u> you go to the station.	Give the money before you go to the station.	"Before" means "Antes de". You don't need another preposition.
89	I saw <u>much</u> people at the party.	I saw <u>many</u> people at the party.	"People" is a plural, countable noun in English. You use it with "many".
90	He should <u>to</u> tell us his	He should tell us his	Modal verbs use the bare

	name.	name.	infinitive (Infinitive without "To").auxiliary verb is placed before the subject.
91	I couldn't see <u>that</u> he was doing.	I couldn't see <u>what</u> he was doing.	"What" means "lo que" when you use it to join two sentences.
92	I <u>live</u> in Valencia since I was six.	I <u>have lived</u> in Valencia since I was six.	In English we use the present perfect to talk about actions or states that started in the past and continue up to the present.
93	<u>In</u> the other hand, I saw a lot of flowers.	<u>On</u> the other hand, I saw a lot of flowers.	Idioms: We say " <u>On</u> one hand / <u>on</u> the other hand", NOT " <u>In</u> ".
94	They <u>play badly</u> the guitar.	They play the guitar <u>badly</u>	You cannot put an adverbial immediately after the main verb if this verb takes a direct object. The structure is VERB + DIRECT OBJECT + ADVERBIAL
95	Last summer he worked <u>like</u> barman.	Last summer he worked <u>as</u> a barman.	In English we say "work <u>as</u> a..." when we want to say the name of the job, not "work like a..."
96	I want <u>that you go out</u> .	I want <u>you to go out</u> .	Grammar: Want + Object + to + Infinitive => We use this construction to say that we want a person to perform a specific action.
97	"I've met the new teachers". "Really? <u>How</u> are they like?"	"I've met the new teachers". "Really? <u>What</u> are they like?"	If we want to ask about the character of a person, we ask " <u>What</u> is he like?", NOT " <u>How</u> ..."
98	I'm going on holidays <u>in</u> September.	I'm going on holiday <u>in</u> September.	In English we say "on holiday" (singular) when we want to say "DE VACACIONES" (plural).
99	They <u>are</u> working here since 1980.	They <u>have been</u> working here since 1980.	In English we use the present perfect when an action starts in the past and reaches the present.
100	There aren't <u>no</u> books here.	There aren't <u>any</u> books here.	Double negative: Use "any" instead of "no" when the verb is in the negative.
101	I lived in Granada <u>during</u> six years.	I lived in Granada <u>for</u> six years.	"During" cannot be used in that way. You have to use "for" = DURANTE.
102	The film had an exciting <u>argument</u> .	The film had an exciting <u>plot</u> .	False friends: "Argument" means "PELEA" in Spanish. "Plot" means "TRAMA,

			ARGUMENTO”.
103	He has a few <u>of</u> dollars in the bank.	He has a few dollars in the bank.	The plural countable determiner “a few” is always followed by the plural noun. You don’t have to put anything in the middle.
104	He gave me <u>other</u> three books yesterday.	He gave me <u>another</u> three books yesterday.	In English we use “another” to mean “one additional”. You can also have numerals after “another”. We use “(the) other” to refer to “a different one from the same set”.
105	If he <u>would</u> had seen you, he <u>had</u> said “hello”.	If he <u>had seen</u> you, he <u>would have said</u> “hello”	In the Third Conditional, you use the Past Perfect in the “If...” clause and the Perfect Conditional in the other.
106	She <u>never</u> had done that before.	She had <u>never</u> done that before.	“Never” is placed between the auxiliary “Have” and the main verb (Past participle) when used with perfect tenses.
107	She arrived <u>to</u> the airport.	She arrived <u>at</u> the airport.	The verb “Arrive” takes the preposition “At” with places, and “In” with countries and cities.
108	She <u>hadn’t never</u> been there before.	She <u>had never</u> been there before.	You can’t have two negatives in the same sentence. “Never” can only be used with the verb in the affirmative.
109	They were kind <u>with</u> me.	They were kind <u>to</u> me.	The adjective “Kind” takes the preposition “To”.
110	Let’s have <u>other</u> cup of tea.	Let’s have <u>another</u> cup of tea.	Another: One more
111	That depends <u>of</u> you.	That depends <u>on</u> you.	The verb “Depend” takes the preposition “On”.
112	I’m going to give up <u>to</u> <u>smoke</u> next week, I promise.	I’m going to give up <u>smoking</u> next week, I promise.	The gerund is used after the verb “Give up”.
113	I’m ___ big fan of Elvis Presley	I’m <u>a</u> big fan of Elvis Presley.	When the attribute is used to identify the subject as a member of a specific group, you use the indefinite article (A / An), as in “Peter is a doctor”.
114	You must <u>to</u> tell me your secret.	You <u>must tell</u> me your secret.	Modal verbs use the bare infinitive (Infinitive without “To”).
115	He’s very good <u>in</u> Maths	He’s very good <u>at</u> Maths.	The adjective “Good” takes the preposition “At” when you intend to say “bueno EN



			algo”.
116	She worked <u>like</u> an “Au pair”.	She worked <u>as</u> an “Au pair”	You use the preposition “As” with the verb “Work” to specify the job someone is doing.
117	I didn’t understand <u>that</u> you were saying.	I didn’t understand <u>what</u> you were saying.	“What” means “lo que” when you use it to join two sentences.
118	He wants <u>that you go</u> to Barcelona.	He wants <u>you to go</u> to Barcelona.	The verb “Want” only takes subordinate clauses in the infinitive. You use an object pronoun an then “To + infinitive”.
119	They had loved <u>themselves</u> for many years before they got married.	They had loved <u>each other</u> for many years before they got married.	“Each Other” is Reciprocal, whereas “Themselves” is Reflexive.
120	We sat there <u>during</u> three hours.	We sat there <u>for</u> three hours.	In English we use “For” to state the duration of an action.
121	I’m not <u>enough old</u> to vote.	I’m not <u>old enough</u> to vote.	When we use “Enough” with adjectives, we use the adjective before ENOUGH.
122	They <u>made</u> me a big favour.	They <u>did</u> me a big favour.	“Do a favour” is a fixed phrase. You cannot say “Make a favour”.
123	He can’t do <u>nothing</u> else.	He can’t do <u>anything</u> else.	In English you can’t have two negatives in the same sentence. You can’t use “Nothing” in a negative sentence.
124	I looked at <u>me</u> in the mirror.	I looked at <u>myself</u> in the mirror.	You use a reflexive pronoun in English when the subject and the object is the same.
125	He gave me a bottle and then he asked for <u>other</u> .	He gave me a bottle and then he asked me for <u>another</u> .	Another: One more.
126	I couldn’t see <u>that</u> he was doing.	I couldn’t see <u>what</u> he was doing.	“What” means “lo que” when you use it to join two sentences.
127	He <u>said</u> me to close the window.	He <u>told</u> me to close the window.	You use the verb “Tell” to report commands.
128	He asked her how old <u>was she</u> .	He asked her how old <u>she was</u> .	You don’t use the interrogative order when a question is reported (that is, not asked directly).
129	They asked me <u>that I sat</u> down.	They asked me <u>to sit down</u> .	To report an order, you use a “To + infinitive” subordinate clause.
130	I think it <u>can</u> be hot	I think it <u>may</u> be hot	You don’t use “Can” for

	tomorrow.	tomorrow.	future predictions.
<b>131</b>	You'll like it! You <u>will can</u> do all the things you like there.	You'll like it! You <u>will be able to</u> do all the things you like there.	You can't use two modal verbs in the same sentence. Normally you change one of them for an equivalent verb or expression.
<b>132</b>	There was a lot of <u>shout</u> and <u>sing</u> .	There was a lot of <u>shouting</u> and <u>singing</u> .	The verbs here are working as nouns, so they have to be in the -ing form.
<b>133</b>	I <u>like go</u> to the dentist twice a year.	I <u>like to go</u> to the dentist twice a year.	You use "Like + to + INF." when you want to say the way you prefer to do things (not that you like them very much).
<b>134</b>	He did <u>that</u> we told him.	He did <u>what</u> we told him.	"What" means "lo que" when you use it to join two sentences.
<b>135</b>	He's reading the same book <u>that</u> me.	He's reading the same book <u>as</u> me.	You use "The same...as..." in English to compare two things.
<b>136</b>	People have been visiting Santiago <u>during</u> centuries.	People have been visiting Santiago <u>for</u> centuries.	In English we use "For" to state the duration of an action.
<b>137</b>	I'm going to tell him before I <u>will</u> leave next week.	I'm going to tell him before I <u>leave</u> next week.	In subordinate clauses introduced by BEFORE you do not use the future.

1° ESO: study examples 1 – 21

2° ESO: study examples 1 – 45

3° ESO: study examples 1 – 73

4° ESO: study examples 1 – 92

Bachillerato: study examples 1 - 137