

Common mistakes

Too and too much

Before adjectives without nouns and before adverbs we use too, not too much.

You are too kind to me. (NOT You are too much kind to me.)

He arrived too late. (NOT He arrived too much late.)

Too much is used before a noun.

There is too much noise. (NOT There is too noise.)

You have bought too much meat. (NOT You have bought too meat.)

At what time or what time

Prepositions are usually dropped before common expressions of time.

I am busy. Can you come another time? (More natural than 'Can you come at another time?')

What time does the train arrive? (More natural than 'At what time does the train arrive?')

I won't lose this time.

Surely and certainly

Surely does not usually mean the same as certainly. Compare:

You are certainly not going out in that old coat. (= I am certain that you are not going out in that old coat.)

Surely, you are not going out in that old coat? (= I will be surprised if you go out in that old coat.)

Such and so

Such is used before a noun with or without an adjective.

She is such a beautiful woman.

She is such a lady.

So is used before an adjective without a noun or an adverb.

Common mistakes

She is so beautiful. (NOT She is such beautiful.)