

Prepositions are small words but they are important ones. Some common mistakes in the use of prepositions are given here.

Incorrect: Who is the girl you were speaking with?

Correct: Who is the girl you were speaking to?

Incorrect: This is the house I was born on.

Correct: This is the house I was born in.

Incorrect: What are you looking in?

Correct: What are you looking at?

To look at something is to gaze in a specified direction.

Incorrect: The manager has promised to look at the matter.

Correct: The manager has promised to look into the matter.

To look into something is to investigate it.

Incorrect: It has been raining from Monday.

Correct: It has been raining since Monday.

Use from to show the starting point only when the end point is also mentioned. In other cases, use since.

Incorrect: I have been waiting from two hours.

Correct: I have been waiting for two hours.

Use for to indicate duration.

Incorrect: I will be attending the classes regularly since Monday.

Correct: I will be attending the classes regularly from Monday.

Incorrect: Divide the food between the children.

Correct: Divide the food among the children.

Between is used when only two parties are involved. Among is used when more than two parties are involved.

Incorrect: We went to school by foot.

Correct: We went to school on foot.

Use 'on' with foot.

Incorrect: He doesn't know how to ride on a bicycle.

Correct: He doesn't know how to ride a bicycle.