Al-Mustaqbal Uni.

Dept. of English / 3rd year

**Lecture 4**

**Common mistakes/ Answers**

1. It is very cold there in summer.

*(In the above sentence, 'there' is an adverb (a place). An adverb cannot be the subject of a sentence.)*

2. In my opinion/ I think that is true.

3. If I am late, I'll call you. *(This is the first conditional if)*

4. I am used to waking up early on weekdays.

*(the phrasal verb be used to is followed by a gerund (verb in +ing form).*

5. She sat at the end of the table.

6. I stopped smoking cigarettes because it was unhealthy.

*(stop + gerund describes the activity you no longer do)*

7. The weather is very good. (It = the weather).

8. I need to concentrate on my homework. *(You cannot use a reflexive pronoun after concentrate)*

9. Have you ever read the book "Moby Dick?"

*(When talking about a non-specific time in the past, use the present perfect tense (have + past participle).*

10. Brian is such a stupid man. (so changes to such when it is describing a noun )

11. There are many nice beaches in Spain.

12. I said that I would come back later.

*(The object of the verb tell is a person. The object of the verb say are the words/message you say)*

13. In my city, restaurants close at 10 p.m. on weeknights.

*(Use the present simple here to describe a regular action).*

14. Let's have dinner together sometime.

15. Do you know where the nearest police station is?

16. I often make mistakes when I speak English.

*(make is an act of creation. There was no mistake until you created it (made it).*

17. I can't find anything in my neighborhood.

18. I saw that movie last Thursday.

*(last Thursday is a definite time in the past. Therefore, you should use the past simple tense.*

19. What does your new painting look like? / How does your new painting look?

20. I look forward to seeing you next month.

*(The phrasal verb look forward to is followed by a gerund (verb in ~ing form).*

21. Can I ask a question?

22. The news on TV is always sad.

23. What does this word mean?

24. The capital of the United Kingdom is London.

*(Countries that are groups of states (republics, unions, kingdoms, emirates, or states) have the definite article the before them. Secondly, never use the before a city name)*

25. Being a doctor is hard. / Being a doctor is a hard job.

*(A doctor is a person, not a job. A job is something you do .What is hard? Not the doctor (the person) -- it's the action (= being a doctor).*

26. it’s surprising that no one was hurt. / The surprising thing is that no one was hurt.

*(an adjective cannot be the subject of a sentence).*

27. I suggested buying a new car. *(We use a gerund (verb in ~ing form) after the verb suggest)*

28. My teacher is a 34-year old woman.

*(34-year old' is an adjective in this sentence which describes woman. We don't pluralize (add 's' to) adjectives.)*

29. If I were taller, I'd play basketball.

*(This is the second conditional if (a present unreal situation).*

30. That's not that bad an idea. *(ideas are countable, so you need an article (an).*

31. One of my roommates is from Brazil.

32. It depends on the country.

*(Always use the definite article (the) and then (usually) a singular noun after depends on)*

33. Even though I was tired, I went to the party.

34. I explained the problem twice to her.

*(The object of the verb explain is what you explain, not whom you explain the problem to.)*