

Fake English rules /bogus grammar rules

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Анотація: стаття присвячена з'ясуванню неоднозначних правил у англійській мові.

Ключові слова: дієслово, іменник, множина, мова, правила.

Abstract: the article is devoted to clarifying ambiguous rules in the English language.

Keywords: verb, noun, plural, language, rules.

Introduction

Language is created so that people can communicate and understand each other. In order for the interaction to be most effective, the first speakers had to agree on the rules of the language, otherwise everyone would speak their own. Over time, the number of these rules increased, overgrown with additional nuances and exceptions, and then turned into thick textbooks on the English language, which today fill the shelves of bookstores and libraries. When learning English, remember that rules are there to be broken. A living colloquial language has a lot of nuances and exceptions, which can be learned only by immersing yourself in the atmosphere of English-speaking society.

Basics results

1. A sentence should never end with a preposition. This rule no longer exists. Both in formal and informal speech.

Can you guess who this bogus rule was invented by? We travel back to the 17th century to find the probable chief culprit: English writer John Dryden. He didn't like 'stranded' prepositions in English because they didn't match latin grammar rules. Well, they wouldn't — English is a germanic language and latin isn't.

Various grammarians then formalized this newly made-up rule by putting it into print. Dryden had no problem with sentences ending on a verb though. Quite how this works with phrasal verbs when the second part is a preposition, he never explained. I suppose we should be thankful he didn't get round to banning phrasal verbs too, they don't have them in Latin either.

2. Data. Datum - singular

The word data is a plural noun so write "data are". Datum is the singular.

It's like agenda, a Latin plural that is now almost universally used as a singular. Data takes a singular verb (like agenda), though strictly a plural;

No one ever uses "agendum" or "datum".

There is controversy over this word. It is Latin. The data was/were analyzed.

Technically, "data" is a plural noun—it is the plural form of the noun "datum." However, it is used with both singular and plural verbs. When it is used with a singular verb it is being treated as a noncount noun, like "information." Some people consider the use with singular verbs to be incorrect or informal, but it is entirely standard.

3. Gender neutral pronoun.

Pronouns can be first person singular (I, me) or plural (we, us); second person singular or plural (you); and third person singular (e.g. she/her, he/him, they/they) or plural (they/them). Genitive pronouns specifically indicate someone's gender: he/him/his or she/her/hers.

Previously, there was no pronoun to describe a person. I had to write he or she, him or her.

Now, we can use "they".

We are talking about one person whose gender we do not know. In the semantic space, this word refers to one person, but in grammatical space, we refer to this word as Plural. *What kind of tea do they like?*

4. How are you?

Well - adverb Good - adjective I - subject

Am - predicate

To be is a link verb

I'm doing well.

I'm tired/bored/happy.

Is saying *"I'm good"* improper grammar? My parents say *"I'm well"* is proper. Is this true?

Yes, it is proper. You can say *"I am good"* or *"I am well,"* but they mean different things. If you say *"I am..."* you need to follow it with a noun or an adjective, not an adverb. "good" is an adjective. *"well"* is usually an adverb, as in *"she dances well"* , but in this context, it is an adjective with the specific meaning of *"not sick"*. So you can say, *"I had the flu last week, but I am well now."*

If you say *"I am good"*, you are saying *"I have no problems"*, or *"I am happy with things"*, or something similar-more possible interpretations than *"I am well"*.

5. I or me

Would you like to go out with Charlie and i? Me! Me - object pronoun

I - subject pronoun

Use the pronoun "I" when the person speaking is doing the action, either alone or with someone else. Use the pronoun "me" when the person speaking is receiving the action of the verb in some way, either directly or indirectly.

I – if I take action.

Did you like the idea that he and I gave you?

Me – if I get my side of the action.

We like the idea that you and he gave charlie and me.

The following sentences show when you should use the subject pronoun "I". In each sentence, "I" is the subject of the verb.

- My friend and I went to the party.
- Before we left, sarah and I said goodbye to the host.

The following sentences show when you should use the object pronoun "me". In each sentence, "me" is the object of the verb.

- Julie accidentally hit me with her bag as she walked by.
- Henry told tran and me to wait for him.
- He was bullying me and my friend.

The following sentences show more cases when you should use the object pronoun "me". In each sentence, "me" is the object of a preposition.

- Kevin smiled at me.
- Cheryl and her kids gave the card to me in person.
- The bird flew over ben and me before landing in the tree.
- The new student decided to sit with me and kim at lunch.

It is very common for native speakers to use "me" in subject position and "I" in object position. This is fine in casual speech but should be avoided in formal writing. The following examples are some ways people might use "me" and "I" in speech.

Me and Anne went to the corner store for drinks.

The teacher gave the books to Jenn and I to hand out to everyone else. Me and my mom are going to see that new movie tonight.

The president of the college called robert and I to thank us.

6. Fewer vs less

You know this one. Fewer should be used with countable nouns and less with singular or uncountable nouns such as sugar, rice, water etc. Units of time, money, and distance are treated as uncountable nouns for this rule.

Fewer pens (countable) and less money (uncountable).

This 'rule' contradicts both historical and everyday English. Written evidence, going back to the 9th century, shows the rule was never used formally.

Should you follow the fewer/less fake rule? It's probably the better option in your formal writing from a clarity and style perspective. Otherwise chill, the less rules the better.

Conclusion

The English language, like any other language, evolves over time, and this can lead to changes in grammar rules. Some words and constructions may retain their old form, despite the change in the language as a whole. In general, exceptions to the rules of the English language exist due to historical, linguistic and cultural factors, and this makes the language more lively and interesting.

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