

## The Top Ten Mistakes in Writing by Turkish Learners

- Mistake 1. Direct translation from Turkish to English.
  - × My parents want to study hard **from me**.
  - ✓ My parents want me to study hard.
- Mistake 2. “For” is used as a purpose with a verb.
  - × I went to the canteen **for** drinking coffee.
  - ✓ I went to the canteen to drink coffee.
  - ✓ I went to the canteen for a coffee.
- Mistake 3. “After” and “after that”.
  - × I finished my homework. **After** I went out to play football.
  - ✓ I finished my homework. After that, I went out to play football.
  - ✓ After I finished my homework, I went out to play football.
- Mistake 4. Forgetting apostrophies with possessives.
  - × my mother job is...
  - ✓ my mother’s job is...
- Mistake 5. Forgetting apostrophies with plural –s.
  - × the students books
  - ✓ the students’ books
- Mistake 6. Confusing possessive pronoun “it” and “ it is”.
  - × It’s tail is long.
  - ✓ Its tail is long.
  - ✓ It is a cat. It’s a cat.
- Mistake 7. Use of informal structure for formal writing.
  - × Having a healthy diet, sleeping well...**etc.** enable us to live longer.
  - ✓ Having a healthy diet, sleeping well and doing sports enable us to live longer.
- Mistake 8. Incorrect punctuation with connectors.
  - × I went to see the doctor. **B**ecause I had a backache.
  - × I went to see the doctor, **b**ecause I had a backache.
  - × I went to see the doctor because, I had a backache.
  - ✓ I went to see the doctor because I had a backache.

- ✓ Because I had a backache, I went to see the doctor.
- Mistake 9. “More” is used with an already comparative adjective.
  - × He is **more** taller than you.
  - ✓ He is taller than you.
  - ✓ He is much taller than you.
- Mistake 10. Comma is used in place of “and”.
  - × When people have money, they feel happy, relaxed.
  - ✓ When people have money, they feel happy and relaxed.
- × The pegs are small buttons, they control the tension of the strings.
- ✓ The pegs are small buttons and they control the tension of the strings.