

COMMON ERRORS

Identifying Prepositional Phrases and Verbs

Steps: Identifying Grammar

- 1. Identify and ignore all prepositional phrases
 - ▣ Example: One (of the students) was usually helping others (before class.)
- 2. Find the verbs.
 - ▣ Look for action verbs, linking verbs and helping verbs.
 - ▣ Example: One (of the students) was usually helping others (before class.)
- 3. Identify the subject. Who + verb? What + verb?
 - ▣ Example: One (of the students) was usually helping others (before class.)

Prepositional phrases

- Always begin with a preposition
- Always end with a noun or pronoun
- Never include the subject or verb of a sentence
- Find prepositions; ask “Preposition + what?
Preposition + Who?”
- Examples:
 - ▣ I am learning (about Paloma Picasso.)
 - ▣ Jeremiah is running (in the competition.)

Infinitive Verbs:

- To + verb
 - ▣ Not a prepositional phrase
 - ▣ Not part of the verb of a sentence
- Examples
 - ▣ I love to read (in the park.)
 - ▣ I hope to camp (over the weekend.)

Words ending in -ing

- Do not act as a verb in a sentence unless they are used with a form of “to be” (am, is, are, was, were..)
- Examples:
 - Jackie loves reading (before class.)
 - Jackie was reading (before class.)
 - Reading is fun!
 - I do not like my reading homework.