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Test Your Grammar Skills

Mistakes that English Native Speakers Make 3

Believe it or not, English native speakers sometimes make mistakes when using their own language! To find them, simply read a daily newspaper regularly or check out some of the leaflets at an English Tourist Information Centre or library! Identify one mistake in each sentence below and write the letter of the category that it belongs to out of the following:

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| A. apostrophes | B. articles | C. capital letters |
| D. clumsy style | E. commas | F. extra or missing words |
| G. spelling mistakes | | |

1. Packaging design is sooooooo important! An eye-catching design can make all the difference to the number of products sold.
2. Can you book the room a few days' before you plan to come?
3. Special offer – get up to 12 months half price line rental on all camera phones.
4. Kojak's hair Salon – open Monday to Saturday. Late opening on Wednesdays.
5. So many poeple enjoy the peaceful scenery at Sandcastle Gardens.
6. For more details about any of our products, please contact laura on 01332 442 5900.
7. If you would like to hire a tennis court please a member of staff.
8. Its sale time at Harrington's Department Store!
9. Computer printer cartridges will be on offer throughout the month on of June.
10. Do your children spend every weekend pouring over their school books?
11. All of the people on the committee will have to come of attend the annual meeting.
12. I haven't seen my family since last Christmas's Eve.
13. I need at least two days notice if you want to come with me to Birmingham.
14. The office of Allen's Solicitors has recently been refurbished, so there shouldn't be anymore building work in the foreseeable future.
15. We would like to welcome you to our latest catalogue0.
16. What are your New Years resolutions?
17. The plane left on schedule but, unbelievably we were still late arriving in Singapore.
- 18.** We are now booking for new year's eve.
19. Our company is offering an new opportunity for school leavers.
- 20.** I'm really looking forward next month to getting a new karaoke machine.

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How the sentences **should** read:

1. Packaging design is **so** important! An eye-catching design can make all the difference to the number of products sold. (D)
2. Can you book the room a few **days** before you plan to come? (A)
3. Special offer – get up to 12 **months'** half price line rental on all camera phones. (A)
4. Kojak's **Hair** Salon – open Monday to Saturday. Late opening on Wednesdays. (C)
5. So many **people** enjoy the peaceful scenery at Sandcastle Gardens. (G)
6. For more details about any of our products, please contact **Laura** on 01332 442 5900. (C)
7. If you would like to hire a tennis court please **[missing word, e.g. ask]** a member of staff.
8. **It's** sale time at Harrington's Department Store! (A)
9. Computer printer cartridges will be on offer throughout the month **[extra word: on]** of June. (F)
10. Do your children spend every weekend **poring** over their school books? (G)
11. All of the people on the committee will have to **[extra words: come, of]** attend the annual meeting. (F)
12. I haven't seen my family since last **Christmas** Eve. (A) & (G)
13. I need at least two **days'** notice if you want to come with me to Birmingham. (A)
14. The office of Allen's Solicitors has recently been refurbished, so there shouldn't be **any more** building work in the foreseeable future. (G)
15. We would like to welcome you to our latest **catalogue**. (G)
16. What are your New **Year's** resolutions? (A)
17. The plane left on schedule but, **unbelievably**, we were still late arriving in Singapore. (E)
18. We are now booking for **New Year's Eve**. (C)
19. Our company is offering **a** new opportunity for school leavers. (B)

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20. I'm really looking forward to getting a new karaoke machine **next month**. (D)