

Common Errors in English

Usage of farther vs. further

Both farther and further mean “more distant”. However, they are not always interchangeable.

farther, pronounced as **far**-thur, is used to refer to physical distances

further, pronounced as **fur**-thur, is used to refer figurative distances

Both words are appropriate when describing distance, but there's a catch. **Farther** describes a defined distance, while **further** covers an undefined distance.

Examples:

- 1). Scientists need to research further to investigate the issue.
- 2). Her boat drifted farther south than she intended.

Usage of that vs. which

Both ‘that’ and ‘which’ are used in ways to provide additional information. In the usage of ‘**that**’, the additional information that follows works in a way to further restrictively define the preceding noun. Whereas, in the usage of ‘**which**’, the information following the word ‘which’ is additional and optional in a way that it is not restricting the preceding noun in the sentence.

Example 1: Cricket bats that are used in T20 form of the game are lighter and sleeker.

We are not talking about any cricket bats here, we're specifically talking about cricket bats that are used in the T20 form of the game.

Example 2: Sleeker cricket bats, which are used in the T20 form of the game, are easier to handle for batsmen with a wide swing.

Here, we're only talking about ‘sleeker cricket bats’ not about ‘sleeker cricket bats used in the T20 form of the game’.

Usage of like vs. such as

Often when you're writing you may be confused about whether to use 'like' or 'such as'. When we're using 'like', we're creating a frame of reference. We don't necessarily mean that exact specific thing that we mentioned something like them.

Example 1: He visited many exotic places like Grace Bay and Ofu.

This sentence doesn't necessarily mean that the person visited Grace Bay and Ofu; it means that he could've visited exotic places X and Y which are like Grace Bay and Ofu.

Example 2: He visited many exotic places such as Grace Bay and Ofu.

This means that the person visited many exotic places and two of the places that he visited are Grace Bay and Ofu. This means he definitely visited these two places.

"Such as" is used to talk about specific examples.

Also, 'Like' is used to make comparisons that are not inclusive.

Example 1: I want to idle my time today doing something lighter like *reading a book* or *ambling around the park*.

Example 2: I want to idle my time today doing something lighter such as reading a book or ambling around the park.

In the first sentence, the author need not mean to do one of the two activities but he or she wants to do activities like them. In the second sentence, the author actually wants to do one of the two activities.

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