

Since many languages have different word orders than that of English, you should be particularly careful about word order problems in speaking and writing.

To understand word order, you need to understand subject-verb inversions (i.e., prepositional phrases of location, adverbs of negation and time, and adverb clauses when "if" has been omitted). Go back to [Editing Practice: Subject-Verb Inversions](#) to review these.

Additionally, there are some common word order problems of English with which you should be familiar. The self-study quiz questions in this lesson will focus on the below types of errors:

Word Order Problems		
Example	Error	Correction
noun + adjective	children happy	happy children
noun + possessive	motorcycle Larry's	Larry's motorcycle
main verb + auxiliary	going was	was going
adjective + adverb	a hot extremely day	an extremely hot day
participle + adverb	cooked freshly pie	freshly cooked pie
adverb, adjective, participle, or quantifier + almost	totally almost late almost finished almost all almost	almost totally almost late almost finished almost all
verb + subject in an indirect question or other -wh clause	Someone asked, "Where the library is?"	Someone asked, "Where is the library?"
enough + adjective	enough good	good enough
too + much + adjective	The research paper is too much important to neglect.	The research paper is much too important to neglect.