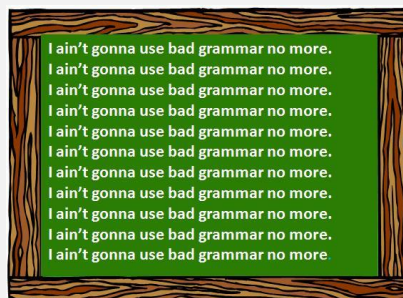


# Bad Grammar



Native speakers of English don't always stick to all grammar rules in their speech or writing. There are common instances in which even natives tend to be sloppy. **They frequently deviate from prescriptive grammar rules**, often due to **dialectal influences, informal speech patterns**, or simply **linguistic evolution**. This variety in usage reflects the **fluid nature of language**, where **norms evolve** based on **region, social group, and the passage of time**.

Here are some common **bad grammar instances** among native English speakers.

## 1. Adjective vs. Adverb Confusion

- **Example:** *He sings good* (instead of *He sings well*).
- **Why?** Many native speakers substitute *good* for *well*, especially in casual speech. This is likely due to analogy with adjectives used as complements (e.g., *He is good*).

## 2. Double Negatives

- **Example:** *I don't know nothing* (instead of *I don't know anything*).
- **Why?** In some dialects (e.g., African American Vernacular English, Southern English), double negatives are a standard grammatical feature that reinforce negation rather than cancel it out, as in standard English.

## 3. Subject-Verb Agreement Errors

- **Example:** *There's two things I need to tell you* (instead of *There are two things*).
- **Why?** Contractions like *there's* (there is) tend to be used even when the subject is plural, likely because *there's* is easier to say than *there are*.

## 4. Who vs. Whom Confusion

- **Example:** *Who are you talking to?* (instead of *Whom are you talking to?*).
- **Why?** *Whom* is disappearing from informal English, as *who* is now commonly used in both subject and object positions.

## 5. Overuse of "Me" Instead of "I" (or Vice Versa)

- **Example:** *Me and him went to the store* (instead of *He and I went to the store*).
- **Why?** In casual speech, *me and him* feels more natural due to word order preferences and a shift away from strict prescriptive grammar rules.

## 6. Lack of Past Tense in Conditional Statements

- **Example:** *If I was you, I'd take the job* (instead of *If I were you...*).
- **Why?** The subjunctive (*were*) is fading in everyday speech, and *was* is increasingly used instead.

## 7. Using "Ain't" Instead of "Isn't/Am Not/Are Not"

- **Example:** *He ain't coming today* (instead of *He isn't coming today*).
- **Why?** *Ain't* is a longstanding dialectal form that persists in informal speech despite being considered nonstandard.

## 8. Preposition Stranding

- **Example:** *Where are you at?* (instead of *Where are you?*).
- **Why?** Some dialects naturally add prepositions like *at* or *to* even when unnecessary.

## 9. Double Comparatives and Superlatives

- **Example:** *This is the most easiest way* (instead of *the easiest way*).
- **Why?** In spoken English, redundancy sometimes reinforces emphasis.

## 10. Singular "They" with a Known Antecedent

- **Example:** *Everyone brought their book* (instead of *Everyone brought his or her book*).
- **Why?** *They* as a singular pronoun is now widely accepted, even in formal contexts, as a gender-neutral alternative.

## 11. Omission of "To Be" in Certain Constructions

- **Example:** *This needs fixed* (instead of *This needs to be fixed*).
- **Why?** Common in some American dialects (e.g., Appalachian and Pittsburgh English), this structure likely stems from older English forms where "needs" functioned differently.

## 12. Overuse of "Like" as a Filler

- **Example:** *I was, like, so tired that I, like, couldn't even keep my eyes open.*
- **Why?** "Like" is often used to soften statements, add hesitation, or indicate reported speech in informal conversation.

## 13. Overgeneralization of "Done" in Place of "Did"

- **Example:** *I done told you!* (instead of *I already told you!*).
- **Why?** Found in Southern and rural American English, this pattern follows nonstandard past-tense forms.

#### 14. Using "Them" Instead of "Those"

- **Example:** *I like them shoes* (instead of *I like those shoes*).
- **Why?** This structure is common in many English dialects and likely a result of speech simplification.

#### 15. Confusing "Less" and "Fewer"

- **Example:** *There are less people here than yesterday* (instead of *There are fewer people...*).
- **Why?** "Less" is often used with countable nouns, even though traditional grammar dictates "fewer" for countables.

#### 16. Dropping the "-ly" in Adverbs

- **Example:** *She talks real slow* (instead of *really slowly*).
- **Why?** In informal speech, adjectives are often used where adverbs should be.

#### 17. Nonstandard Past Tense Forms

- **Example:** *I seen him at the store* (instead of *I saw him at the store*).
- **Why?** "Seen" as a simple past form is common in some dialects, especially in parts of the U.S. and the UK.

#### 18. Double "Is" in Sentences

- **Example:** *The problem is is that we don't have enough time.*
- **Why?** Likely a result of spoken redundancy, this often happens when a clause starts with "The thing is..."

#### 19. Using "Because" as a Preposition

- **Example:** *I stayed home because weather* (instead of *because of the weather*).
- **Why?** An internet-born trend (*because X*), this structure is now widely recognized in informal and meme culture.

#### 20. Using "Might Could" for Possibility

- **Example:** *I might could help you later* (instead of *I might be able to help you later*).
- **Why?** Found in Southern U.S. English, "might could" expresses a nuanced level of possibility.

#### 21. Unusual Use of "Of"

- **Example:** *I should of called you* (instead of *I should have called you*).
- **Why?** This comes from the mishearing of "should've" as "should of" in speech.

#### 22. Overuse of "Literally"

- **Example:** *I literally died when I saw that.*
- **Why?** "Literally" is often used for exaggeration rather than its literal meaning.

### 23. Dropping "Have" in Past Perfect Structures

- **Example:** *I wish I went to the party* (instead of *I wish I had gone...*).
- **Why?** The past perfect (*had gone*) is often replaced with the simple past in casual speech.

### 24. Using "A Whole Nother"

- **Example:** *That's a whole nother issue.*
- **Why?** "Nother" is a split form of "another," influenced by the way people insert "whole" for emphasis.

### 25. Subject Pronoun Instead of Object Pronoun After "Than"

- **Example:** *She's taller than me* (instead of *She's taller than I [am]*).
- **Why?** The "correct" form (*than I am*) feels overly formal in speech, so most speakers opt for *than me*.

### 26. Singular "Was" in Plural Contexts

- **Example:** *We was just leaving.*
- **Why?** Common in various dialects, especially in nonstandard English varieties.

### 27. Overuse of "Y'all" or "You Guys"

- **Example:** *Y'all is crazy!* (instead of *Y'all are crazy!*).
- **Why?** "Y'all" (Southern U.S.) and "you guys" (North American English) function as second-person plural pronouns, but some speakers use them even in singular contexts.

### 28. Overuse of "Gonna" and "Wanna"

- **Example:** *I'm gonna go now* (instead of *I'm going to go now*).
- **Why?** Contractions like *gonna* and *wanna* are so common in spoken English that many people forget they are informal.

### 29. Replacing "Went" with "Gone"

- **Example:** *He gone to the store* (instead of *He went to the store*).
- **Why?** Found in some dialects, this may be due to influence from past participle structures.

### 30. The "Try and" Construction

- **Example:** *I'll try and call you later* (instead of *I'll try to call you later*).
- **Why?** "Try and" is idiomatic and often sounds more natural in spoken English than "try to."

### 31. Misuse of "Who" and "That"

- **Example:** *She's the girl that won the contest* (instead of *She's the girl who won the contest*).
- **Why?** While "who" is traditionally used for people and "that" for objects, many native speakers use "that" interchangeably.

### 32. Redundant "Of" in Constructions

- **Example:** *Where did you get it off of?* (instead of *Where did you get it from?*).
- **Why?** Many speakers add an unnecessary "of" in phrases like *off of* instead of just *off*.

### 33. Using "These Ones" Instead of "These"

- **Example:** *I like these ones best* (instead of *I like these best*).
- **Why?** The word "ones" is redundant, but many native speakers still use it.

### 34. Using "Would Of" Instead of "Would Have"

- **Example:** *I would of gone if I knew* (instead of *I would have gone...*).
- **Why?** This comes from the misinterpretation of *would've* in speech.

### 35. Using "Anyways" Instead of "Anyway"

- **Example:** *Anyways, let's get started.*
- **Why?** "Anyways" is considered nonstandard, but it persists in casual speech.

### 36. Using "This Here" and "That There"

- **Example:** *This here book is mine* (instead of *This book is mine*).
- **Why?** This double demonstrative is common in informal speech, particularly in regional dialects.

### 37. Using "Hissel" and "Theirselves"

- **Example:** *He did it all by hisself* (instead of *by himself*).
- **Why?** These forms are considered nonstandard but are still used in certain dialects.

### 38. The Use of "Gots" Instead of "Has" or "Have"

- **Example:** *He gots no idea what he's doing* (instead of *He has no idea...*).
- **Why?** Found in informal or dialectal English, "gots" is a variant of "got."

### 39. Using "Axe" Instead of "Ask"

- **Example:** *Let me axe you something* (instead of *Let me ask you something*).
- **Why?** This pronunciation has historical roots in Old English and persists in some dialects.

#### 40. Overuse of "Then" Instead of "Than"

- **Example:** *She's taller then me* (instead of *She's taller than me*).
- **Why?** Likely due to phonetic similarity, many people mistakenly write "then" instead of "than."

#### 41. Omitting the Article in Front of Certain Nouns

- **Example:** *I'm going to hospital* (instead of *I'm going to the hospital*).
- **Why?** This is standard in British English but sounds unnatural to many American speakers.

#### 42. Using "Be" Instead of "Is" or "Are" in Some Dialects

- **Example:** *She be working late every night* (instead of *She is working late...*).
- **Why?** In African American Vernacular English (AAVE) and some other dialects, "be" is used to indicate habitual action.

#### 43. Using "Yous" as a Plural for "You"

- **Example:** *Are yous guys coming to the party?*
- **Why?** Since "you" is both singular and plural, some speakers add "yous" (or "youse") to clarify plurality.

#### 44. Saying "I Could Care Less" Instead of "I Couldn't Care Less"

- **Example:** *I could care less about that* (instead of *I couldn't care less...*).
- **Why?** This phrase has become idiomatic, even though it logically suggests the opposite of what's intended.

#### 45. Using "So Fun" Instead of "Such Fun"

- **Example:** *That was so fun!* (instead of *That was such fun!*).
- **Why?** Traditional grammar prefers "such fun," but "so fun" has become widely accepted.

#### 46. Using "Double Is" for Emphasis

- **Example:** *The thing is, is that we're late* (instead of *The thing is that we're late*).
- **Why?** Likely a speech habit that helps speakers organize their thoughts.

#### 47. Using "Ain't Got No" for Double Negation

- **Example:** *I ain't got no money* (instead of *I don't have any money*).
- **Why?** Common in nonstandard English, especially in song lyrics and casual speech.

#### 48. Using "Of" Instead of "Have" in Comparisons

- **Example:** *He's more of a leader than I of a follower* (instead of *...than I am a follower*).
- **Why?** Likely influenced by the structure of certain possessive phrases.

#### 49. Saying "On Accident" Instead of "By Accident"

- **Example:** *I did it on accident* (instead of *I did it by accident*).
- **Why?** "By accident" is the traditional form, but "on accident" is becoming more common.

#### 50. Using "More Better" Instead of "Better"

- **Example:** *This way is more better* (instead of *This way is better*).
- **Why?** Some speakers add "more" for extra emphasis, even though "better" is already a comparative.

#### 51. Replacing "So" with "That"

- **Example:** *I didn't know it was that hard* (instead of *I didn't know it was so hard*).
- **Why?** "That" is often used for emphasis in speech.

#### 52. Using "Way" Instead of "Far" or "Much"

- **Example:** *That's way too expensive* (instead of *That's far too expensive*).
- **Why?** "Way" has become a common intensifier.

#### 53. Saying "A Couple" Instead of "A Couple Of"

- **Example:** *I need a couple minutes* (instead of *I need a couple of minutes*).
- **Why?** "Of" is often dropped in speech for efficiency.

#### 54. Using "Hella" as an Intensifier

- **Example:** *That's hella cool!*
- **Why?** A slang intensifier originating from California, now widespread in informal speech.

#### 55. Using "Could Of Sworn" Instead of "Could Have Sworn"

- **Example:** *I could of sworn I left my keys here* (instead of *I could have sworn...*).
- **Why?** Another case of mishearing contractions.

#### 56. Saying "Supposably" Instead of "Supposedly"

- **Example:** *He was supposably there* (instead of *supposedly*).
- **Why?** Some speakers mishear "supposedly" and adopt the incorrect pronunciation.

#### 57. Using "For Free" Instead of "Free"

- **Example:** *I got it for free!* (instead of *I got it free!*).
- **Why?** "For free" is more natural in speech, even though "free" alone is grammatically correct.

## 58. Using "Most Every" Instead of "Almost Every"

- **Example:** *I see her most every day* (instead of *almost every day*).
- **Why?** "Most every" is a regional variation found in some English dialects.

## 59. Overuse of "Literally" When Meaning "Figuratively"

- **Example:** *I was literally dying of laughter* (instead of *I was figuratively...*).
- **Why?** "Literally" is often used for emphasis rather than its actual meaning.

## 60. Using "Don't" Instead of "Doesn't"

- **Example:** *He don't know what he's talking about* (instead of *He doesn't know...*).
- **Why?** Common in informal and dialectal English, especially in certain U.S. regions and African American Vernacular English (AAVE).

## 61. Using "Me" Instead of "I" in Compound Subjects

- **Example:** *Me and him went to the store* (instead of *He and I went to the store*).
- **Why?** Many speakers find "me and him" more natural in speech, even though it's technically incorrect in standard English.

## 62. Saying "Where You At?" Instead of "Where Are You?"

- **Example:** *Hey, where you at?* (instead of *Where are you?*).
- **Why?** The unnecessary "at" is a common feature of informal spoken English.

## 63. Using "Went" Instead of "Gone" in the Present Perfect

- **Example:** *I should have went* (instead of *I should have gone*).
- **Why?** "Went" is mistakenly used as a past participle instead of "gone" in many dialects.

## 64. Using "Double Modals" for Extra Politeness or Uncertainty

- **Example:** *I might could help you with that* (instead of *I might be able to help...*).
- **Why?** Found in Southern American English, double modals like *might could* or *might should* soften statements.

## 65. Using "Ain't" Instead of "Isn't" or "Haven't"

- **Example:** *He ain't here yet* (instead of *He isn't here yet*).
- **Why?** "Ain't" is a long-standing informal contraction that's still widely used in many dialects.

## 66. Using "Much" Instead of "Many" in Countable Contexts

- **Example:** *I don't have much friends* (instead of *I don't have many friends*).
- **Why?** "Much" is technically for uncountable nouns, but many speakers ignore this rule.



## 67. Using "Would" in the If-Clause of Conditional Sentences

- **Example:** *If I would have known, I wouldn't have gone* (instead of *If I had known...*).
- **Why?** The correct past perfect form (*had known*) is often replaced by *would have*.

## 68. Overusing "Gotta" and "Gonna" in Speech

- **Example:** *I gotta go now* (instead of *I have to go now*).
- **Why?** These contractions are so common that many people forget they are informal.

## 69. Using "Done" as a Simple Past Verb

- **Example:** *I done told you that!* (instead of *I already told you that!*).
- **Why?** This nonstandard usage is common in Southern U.S. and Appalachian English.

## 70. Using "Try And" Instead of "Try To"

- **Example:** *I'll try and call you later* (instead of *I'll try to call you later*).
- **Why?** "Try and" is idiomatic but technically incorrect in formal writing.

## 71. Omitting "Are" in Questions

- **Example:** *You coming with us?* (instead of *Are you coming with us?*).
- **Why?** Spoken English often drops auxiliary verbs for efficiency.

## 72. Using "Alls" Instead of "All"

- **Example:** *Alls I know is that he left early* (instead of *All I know is that he left early*).
- **Why?** The extra "s" has no grammatical function but appears in certain dialects.

## 73. Saying "Real" Instead of "Really"

- **Example:** *That was real good* (instead of *That was really good*).
- **Why?** The adverbial "-ly" ending is often dropped in casual speech.

## 74. Using "Busted" Instead of "Broke"

- **Example:** *I busted my phone screen* (instead of *I broke my phone screen*).
- **Why?** "Busted" is a more dramatic, informal synonym for "broke."

## 75. Saying "No Nothing" for Emphasis

- **Example:** *I ain't got no nothing to say* (instead of *I haven't got anything to say*).
- **Why?** A case of double negation, often found in nonstandard English varieties.

## 76. Using "Need" Without "To" in Some Dialects

- **Example:** *That car needs washed* (instead of *That car needs to be washed*).
- **Why?** This is common in some U.S. regional dialects, especially in Pittsburgh English.

## 77. Using "Them" Instead of "Those"

- **Example:** *I want them shoes* (instead of *I want those shoes*).
- **Why?** "Them" is commonly used as a demonstrative in spoken English.

## 78. Using "Y'all" for Singular Reference

- **Example:** *Y'all gonna help me?* (talking to one person).
- **Why?** Even though "y'all" is supposed to be plural, some speakers use it in singular contexts.

## 79. Saying "Used To Could" for Past Ability

- **Example:** *I used to could run a mile in five minutes* (instead of *I used to be able to...*).
- **Why?** Found in some Southern U.S. English dialects, this structure combines "used to" with "could."

## 80. Using "To Where" Instead of "So That" or "Until"

- **Example:** *Turn the volume down to where I can hear you talk* (instead of *Turn the volume down so that I can hear you talk*).
- **Why?** "To where" is a colloquial way of expressing result.

## 81. Saying "Supposably" Instead of "Supposedly"

- **Example:** *He was supposably there* (instead of *supposedly*).
- **Why?** Some speakers mishear "supposedly" and adopt the incorrect pronunciation.

## 82. Using "More Better" Instead of "Better"

- **Example:** *This way is more better* (instead of *This way is better*).
- **Why?** Some speakers add "more" for extra emphasis, even though "better" is already a comparative.

## 83. Using "I Was Like" for Reporting Speech

- **Example:** *I was like, 'I don't know!'* (instead of *I said, 'I don't know!'*).
- **Why?** Common in casual speech, especially in storytelling and informal conversation.

## 84. Saying "At" Instead of "In" with Certain Locations

- **Example:** *I'll meet you at the hospital* (instead of *in the hospital* when inside the facility).
- **Why?** "At" is often used colloquially to refer to places, even if inside a location.

## 85. Using "None" as a Singular Verb

- **Example:** *None of the students was late* (instead of *None of the students were late*).
- **Why?** "None" is technically plural but is often treated as singular in informal speech.

#### 86. Using "I Seen" Instead of "I Saw"

- **Example:** *I seen her yesterday* (instead of *I saw her yesterday*).
- **Why?** The past participle *seen* is used incorrectly in place of the simple past *saw*.

#### 87. Saying "Can I Have?" Instead of "May I Have?"

- **Example:** *Can I have some more cake?* (instead of *May I have some more cake?*).
- **Why?** *Can* is technically about ability, but many use it for permission in casual speech.

#### 88. Using "Between You and I" Instead of "Between You and Me"

- **Example:** *Between you and I, this is a secret* (instead of *Between you and me*).
- **Why?** "I" is mistakenly used after a preposition instead of the object form "me."

#### 89. Saying "Could of" Instead of "Could Have"

- **Example:** *I could of done better* (instead of *I could have done better*).
- **Why?** This error comes from mishearing or mistaking *could've* as *could of*.

#### 90. Saying "Less" Instead of "Fewer" for Countable Nouns

- **Example:** *There are less people here today* (instead of *There are fewer people*).
- **Why?** "Less" is often used for both countable and uncountable nouns, despite "fewer" being the correct form for countables.

#### 91. Using "Neither" with a Plural Subject

- **Example:** *Neither of the kids were at school* (instead of *Neither of the kids was at school*).
- **Why?** "Neither" is singular, but people often use it with plural subjects, which is grammatically incorrect.

#### 92. Saying "I'm Good" Instead of "I'm Well"

- **Example:** *I'm good, thanks* (instead of *I'm well, thanks*).
- **Why?** "Good" is an adjective, and "well" is an adverb, but "I'm good" is widely accepted in conversational English.

#### 93. Saying "I Could Care Less" Instead of "I Couldn't Care Less"

- **Example:** *I could care less about that* (instead of *I couldn't care less*).
- **Why?** This makes no logical sense, but it's widely used as an idiomatic expression.

#### 94. Using "Have Got" Instead of "Have"

- **Example:** *I have got a car* (instead of *I have a car*).
- **Why?** The phrase *have got* is often used in informal speech to mean *have*, especially in British English.

### 95. Saying "Could of" Instead of "Could Have" in Questions

- **Example:** *Could of you helped me?* (instead of *Could you have helped me?*).
- **Why?** This is another form of mishearing *could've* as *could of*.

### 96. Using "Should of" Instead of "Should Have"

- **Example:** *I should of gone earlier* (instead of *I should have gone earlier*).
- **Why?** This error is a result of the contraction *should've* being mistaken for *should of*.

### 97. Using "I Would Rather You Didn't" Instead of "I Would Rather You Not"

- **Example:** *I would rather you didn't go to the party* (instead of *I would rather you not go*).
- **Why?** The phrase "rather you didn't" is nonstandard but widely used in conversational speech.

### 98. Saying "A Whole 'Nother" Instead of "Another"

- **Example:** *I need a whole 'nother one* (instead of *I need another one*).
- **Why?** "Whole 'nother" is a blend of "whole" and "another," which has become commonly accepted in informal speech.

### 99. Using "Every" with Uncountable Nouns

- **Example:** *Every information is valuable* (instead of *All information is valuable*).
- **Why?** "Every" is used for countable nouns, but it's often incorrectly used with uncountable nouns.

### 100. Saying "He Don't" Instead of "He Doesn't"

- **Example:** *He don't like broccoli* (instead of *He doesn't like broccoli*).
- **Why?** "Don't" is used for plural subjects, but many speakers use it for singular ones as well.

Source: **Chatty Gepetto**