

Pro Forma 1. Learner's writing: Analysis of grammatical and vocabulary (lexical) errors

Line no.	Error (include sentence or part of sentence, with error highlighted)	Correction	Analysis	Possible cause of error	Categ
2	My family is a small family, only my father...	My family is a small family, with only my father...	Omitted a preposition.	The use of English prepositions is highly idiomatic and difficult for learners. ¹	H
4	...which is 500 kilometers away Tianjin.	...which is 500 kilometers away from Tianjin.	Left out preposition.	The use of English prepositions is highly idiomatic and difficult for learners. Errors are common. ¹	H
4	In 1980s ...	In the 1980s...	Left out article.	There are no articles in Chinese, so it is very common for students to omit them. ¹	F
4	...it is hard to travel...	...it was hard to travel...	Used present simple instead of past simple to talk about a state in the past.	Chinese expresses the concept of time very differently than English. It doesn't conjugate the verb to express time relations. ¹	D
6	...the first time I met my Grandma is...	...the first time I met my Grandma was...	Used present simple instead of past simple to talk about the past.	Chinese expresses the concept of time very differently than English. It doesn't conjugate the verb to express time relations. ¹	D
7	She is a smart and brave woman, raised up ...	She is a smart and brave woman who was...	Needs a relative pronoun to link first and second clauses.	English relative structures are difficult for Chinese learners, who often avoid using them. ¹	W
7	...raised up...	...raised....	Added a preposition to a verb that doesn't need one.	Phrasal and prepositional verbs have no equivalent in Chinese and are very difficult to handle. ¹	H
7	...by her ownself...	...by herself....	Mixed up "on her own" and "by herself" and created a phrase that is not real.	English uses pronouns much more than Chinese. ¹	V
8	...they have to go...	...they had to go...	Used simple present instead of simple past to talk about habit in the past.	Chinese expresses the concept of time very differently than English. It	C

				doesn't conjugate the verb to express time relations. ¹	
8	...go for work...	...go to work...	Used incorrect preposition.	The use of English prepositions is highly idiomatic and difficult for learners. Errors are common. ¹	H
9	... in restaurant...	...in a restaurant...	Left out article.	There are no articles in Chinese, so it is very common for students to omit them. ¹	F
9	Because they work in restaurant, always ...	Because they worked in a restaurant, they always...	Left out pronoun.	English uses pronouns much more than Chinese, which tends to drop them when they may be understood. ¹	V
10	...a lot of time with myself...	...a lot of time by myself.	Used incorrect preposition.	The use of English prepositions is highly idiomatic and difficult for learners. ¹¹	H
10	...saw many movies...	...watched many movies	Vocabulary		S
11	... too much football s , tennis, ping pong...	... too much football, tennis, ping pong...	Added an "s" on a noun that does not need to be plural.	Plurality is rarely expressed in Chinese, so Chinese students might misuse it. ¹	K
13	...run slow , can't jump high...	...run slowly, can't jump high....	Incorrect use of adjective instead of adverb	Parts of speech in Chinese are not always formally distinguished. Chinese learners may fail to distinguish related words in terms of their parts of speech. ¹	A/J
15	Go swimming is my favourite thing...	...Going swimming is my favorite thing....	Used a bare infinitive instead of a gerund as the subject of a sentence.	It is particularly difficult for Chinese to differentiate between the use of an infinitive (with or without to) and a participle. ¹	Y
17	It feel so good...	It feels so good...	Used the verb form for first person singular when she should have used verb form for second person	Chinese is a non-inflected language. English	G

			singular.	inflection seems generally confusing, particularly in subject-verb agreement. ¹	
17	...in swimming pool or sea.	...in a swimming pool or the sea.	Omitted articles for swimming pool and sea.	There are no articles in Chinese, so it is very common for students to omit them. ¹	F
19	I tried to ride a wave. a little clumsy but get one successfully....	I tried to ride a wave. I was a little clumsy but I got one successfully...	Omitted a subject and verb.	Adjectives and verbs are frequently identical in Chinese. The verb 'to be' tends to be dropped when followed by adjectives. ¹	Q
21	We were so exciting.	We were so excited.	Used -ing present participle rather than -ed past participle for an adjective describing the subject's feeling.	It is very difficult for Chinese students to differentiate between the use of a present or past participle. ¹	J
22	My husband name is...	My husband's name is...	Omitted possessive form.	Chinese and English form possessives differently.	Z
23	He has bright eyes with kindness....	He has bright eyes that are full of kindness,...	Used preposition instead of a relative clause to describe the eyes.	English relative structures are difficult for Chinese learners, who often avoid using them. ¹	W
23	... which I can look at all day.	... which I could look at all day.	Used "can" instead of "could" for a hypothetical situation.	Chinese are likely to replace English subjunctives and 'unreal' pasts by ordinary present tenses or modals. ¹	T
24	I love to hug and kiss him from the morning to the night.	I love to hug and kiss him from morning to night.	Used articles that aren't needed.	There are no articles in Chinese, so it is very common for students to insert unnecessary ones. ¹	F
32	...many users really like our product...	...many users really like our products...	Omitted plural.	Plurality is rarely expressed in Chinese, so -s tends to be dropped in English. ¹	K
33	I can travel with husband...	I can travel with my husband...	Omitted possessive pronoun.	Pronouns tend to be dropped in Chinese. ¹	V

¹ Learner English, Cambridge, 2001. Swan & Smith.

A	Adverb error
B	Verb error
C	Verb tense error-didn't use present simple
D	Verb tense error-didn't use past simple
E	Verb patterns error (verb + verb)
F	Article error
G	Verb form error
H	Preposition error
I	Parts of speech error
J	Adjective error
K	Plurals error
L	Question formation
M	Omission of 'be' verb
N	Didn't use present continuous
O	Didn't use present perfect
P	Conjunctions
Q	Omission of the verb
R	Used incorrect verb for meaning of sentence
S	Vocab error
T	Error with hypotheticals
U	Word order
V	Pronoun Errors
W	Relative Structures error
X	Didn't use will future
Y	Infinitive/participle/gerund error
Z	Possessives error