

## ENGLISH GRAMMAR DEBUNKED

*by:*

**Divine Grace G. Dela Rosa**

*Teacher III, Lamao National High School*

Often, English is described as a crazy language for although there are rules guiding the learners, there are always exceptions which can only be learned through familiarization of the language. For this reason, the author sought to expose some misconceptions about grammar and hopefully give light to it.

Never end a sentence with a preposition

Ending a sentence with a preposition is perfectly acceptable. This misconception originates from an attempt to align English grammar with Latin since the latter does not allow for sentences to end with prepositions.

Never split infinitives

Words in between to and the verb in an infinitive is acceptable especially when we place a word in between will give more clarity and emphasis.

Do not begin a sentence with a conjunction

One way to improve the flow and readability of texts is to begin sentences with conjunctions like and, but and because. It is also used to give emphasis and stylistic purpose to the article.

Passive voice should be avoided

In news articles and other forms of writing, the passive voice is often avoided. But when the action or the receiver of the is more important than the doer of the action, the passive voice should be used. It should be used carefully but not eliminated entirely.

### Less versus fewer

The difference between "less" and "fewer" is commonly misunderstood. Traditionally, "fewer" is used with countable nouns, while "less" applies to uncountable nouns. However, in everyday speech, "less" is frequently used with countable nouns, particularly when talking about money, time, and distance. While it's generally best to follow the traditional rule, using "less" in these specific contexts is widely accepted and understood.

### "They" cannot be used as singular pronouns

The use of "they" as a singular pronoun to refer to a person whose gender is unknown or to encompass all genders is widely accepted. This practice promotes inclusivity and has been recognized by leading dictionaries and style guides.

### "Who" vs. "Whom"

The use of "whom" in English has been on the decline, and many people find it confusing. "Who" is typically used as the subject of a clause, while "whom" is used as the object. In everyday speech and writing, it's increasingly common to use "who" in place of "whom," and the distinction is becoming less strict.

### Contractions are not acceptable in Formal Writing

Contractions are generally acceptable in various types of formal writing, including academic and professional contexts, unless explicitly restricted by a style guide or instructor.

## “Ain’t” Isn’t a Word

"Ain't" is a recognized contraction used in various dialects and informal contexts. While it may be deemed nonstandard in formal writing, it is widely understood and commonly used in spoken English.

### *References:*

Admin. (2025, January 23). Debunking Common English Grammar Rules | OxBridge edu. Oxbridgeedu. <https://oxbridgeedu.com/grammar-myths-and-misconceptions-debunking-common-english-grammar-rules/>

Admin, & Admin. (2024a, July 2). English Grammar Myths Debunked: Addressing and clarifying common misconceptions - English Made Simple. English Made Simple - Learn more about the English language. <https://englishmadesimple.org/english-grammar-myths-debunked-addressing-and-clarifying-common-misconceptions/>

Aog. (2024, November 3). Grammar myths debunked. The Art of Grammar. <https://artofgrammar.com/grammar-myths-debunked/>