

Language Transfer Chart

Language Feature	Possible Resulting Error(s) in English	Correct American Language Usage	Language(s) in which Error Usually Occurs*
Adjective/Adverb	Adjectives and adverbs not distinguishable in form/use from each other or other parts of speech	This is a social important theory. / You should not be afraid of the exam. / She very likes study.	Chinese, Farsi, German, Greek, Japanese, Korean, M/I, Thai, Turkish
	Adjective used without noun if understood	Of many concerns, the essential is to study well.	French, German, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish
Articles	No articles	I finished exam. See the following examples also.	Arabic, Asian, Chinese, Farsi, Korean, M/I, Polish, Russian, Thai, Turkish
	Definite article used for general reference	The education is important.	French, German, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish
	No article before subject complement	She is professor. / His old car was BMW.	French, German, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, Turkish
	Definite article used with locations, colors, meals, proper nouns (Arabic: cities, towns, and months)	I'm going to the school. / When did you eat the dinner? / I will be in the New York in the April.	Arabic, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese
Nouns	No count/noncount distinction	See the following examples.	Chinese, Japanese, Korean
	Different assignment of count/non-count	I asked her for an advice about the furnitures.	Asian, French, German, Greek, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish
	Singular form instead of plural	I read about the Middle Age. / The police is calling.	Asian, French, German, Greek, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish
	No plural; plural form limited in use	She gave me three dollar.	Korean, M/I, Thai; Chinese, Japanese
Pronouns	No gender distinction	I saw John, but she didn't see me.	Asian, Chinese, Japanese, M/I, Thai, Turkish
	Subject personal pronouns optional	Is very important. / I needed a pen so bought one.	Chinese, Greek, Portuguese, Spanish, Thai, Turkish
	No human/nonhuman distinction between relative pronouns who and which	That's the student to which I spoke.	Arabic, Farsi, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, M/I, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Thai, Turkish
	Redundant personal pronoun use.	That's the student who I spoke to him. / John he studies here. / My classes are difficult. Many of my classes are...	Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, Hebrew, Korean, M/I
Verbals	No inflection	He study English. See the following examples also.	Chinese, Thai, Vietnamese
	Be considered optional or doesn't exist	They good students.	Arabic, Japanese, Korean, M/I, Polish, Russian, Turkish
	No do auxiliary; no auxiliary verbs	When you finished the project? I not finished yet.	Arabic, Asian, Farsi, French, German, Greek, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish; Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Thai
	No (present) progressive; limited use	I study now for the exam.	Arabic, Farsi, French, German, Greek, Polish, Portuguese, Russian; Italian, Spanish

Developed by nationally recognized ESL expert Don Weasenforth, the Language Transfer Chart maps specific errors transferred into English from a range of languages and indicates the grammatical source of these errors. The complete chart, broken down into 19 languages, is one of the instructor resources available with Susan Fawcett's *Evergreen: A Guide to Writing with Readings*, Ninth Edition.

Verbals Continued	Language Feature	Possible Resulting Error(s) in English	Correct American Language Usage	Language(s) in which Error Usually Occurs*
	Simple present/past used in place of present perfect	I live her since last year. / I lived here since last year.	I have lived here since last year.	Asian, Farsi, French, German, Greek, Italian, M/I, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Turkish; Past: Polish, Russian, Farsi
	Present progressive used in place of present perfect	I am studying English for two years.	I have studied English for two years.	Arabic, Asian
	Simple present used in place of future	I go back to my country after graduation.	I will go back to my country after graduation.	Arabic, Farsi, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Turkish
	Future used in adverb “time” clauses	I will study after I will eat dinner.	I will study after I eat dinner.	French, German, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish
	No “one step back” for indirect speech	He told me that he finishes his project.	He told me that he (had) finished his project.	Arabic, Asian, Chinese, Farsi, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Russian, Turkish
	Fixed-for verbs (modals) inflected; different structure used	He cans speak English. / I can that I study with you.	He can speak English. / I can study with you.	French, German, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, M/I, Spanish; Arabic
	No gerunds or limited use	I enjoy to learn. / I enjoy to learning. / I enjoy that I learn.	I enjoy learning.	Arabic, Asian, Chinese, Farsi, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, M/I, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish
	“Say” verbs take two objects; transitivity assigned differently	He explained me the professor’s lecture. / I needed paper, so I bought. / It was happened last year.	He explained the professor’s lecture (to me). / I needed paper, so I bought some. / It happened last year.	French, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish; Chinese
Word Order	Adverbs separate verb and object	He speaks very well English.	He speaks English very well.	French, German, Greek, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish
	Adverbs separate subject and predicate	I yesterday saw them in class.	I saw them in class yesterday.	Farsi, Korean
	Adverbs and object complement before object	He took to the school his friend.	He took his friend to the school.	Spanish
	Conjunctions used in pairs	Because I studied, so I passed the test.	Because I studied, I passed the test.	Chinese, Farsi, Thai, Vietnamese
Vocabulary	No phrasal verbs	Look up it on the Web. / I always look my notes.	Look it up on the Web. / I always look at my notes.	Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, French, Greek, Korean, Polish, Russian
	Different multipurpose verbs (be, do/make, have, take)	I am agree with you. / Let’s take a drink.	I agree with you. / Let’s get a drink.	French, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, Turkish (no be or have)
	It/There is expressed differently (often with have)	It are three students. / There have three students.	There are three students in class.	Arabic, German, Greek, Korean, M/I, Polish, Russian, Turkish
Rhetoric	Prefer complex construction, abstraction, and formality / Avoid complex structures/development; prefer brevity			French, Japanese / Asian, M/I; Korean
	Appears wordy and redundant			Japanese, M/I

* Asian (South Asian) = Hindi, Urdu, Nepali; M/I = Malay/Indonesian