

Common errors in speaking and writing



What is wrong with this sentence?

He should of been more careful when he was handling the spider, as he could of hurt it.



What is wrong with this sentence?

He should **of** been more careful when he was handling the spider, as he could **of** hurt it.

What should it say?

He should **have** been
more careful when he
was handling the spider,
as he could **have** hurt it.

Could of and **should of** DO
NOT EXIST!

Do not use them!

Use **could have** and
should have.



What is wrong with these sentence?

I ain't done nothing wrong.

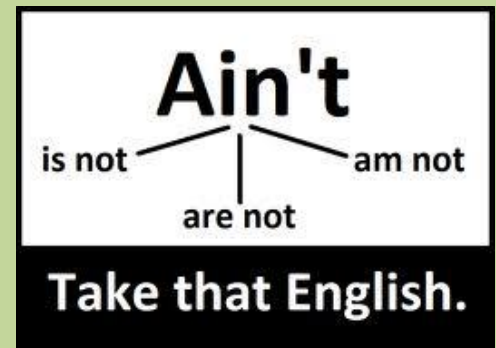
I don't know nothing about computers.

Look carefully at what they are actually saying. Two negatives make a positive!

I ain't done nothing wrong.

I don't know nothing about computers.

What should they say?



Look carefully at what they are
actually saying

*I **haven't** done **anything** wrong.*

*I don't know **anything** about
computers.*

OR

I know nothing about computers.

What is wrong with these sentence?

They was going to own up eventually.

He were not really concentrating.

What is wrong with these sentence?

They **was** going to own up eventually.

I **were** not really concentrating.

This is called subject verb agreement.

More than one subject
(they) = **were or are**

One subject (he) = **was, am
or is**

So...

They **were** going to own up eventually.

I **was** not really concentrating.

What verb could you use?

The football team _____ losing by two goals.

I _____ not really in the mood for a run.

The cats _____ play fighting.

The girls' team _____ bound to win the competition.

What verb could you use if these sentences are all in past tense?

The football team **was** losing by two goals. (1 subject)

I **was** not really in the mood for a run. (1 subject)

The cats **were** play fighting. (More than 1 subject)

The girls' team **was** bound to win the competition. (1 subject)

Can you now change the sentences to present tense, simply by changing the verb in red?

The football team **was** losing by two goals. (1 subject)

I **was** not really in the mood for a run. (1 subject)

The cats **were** play fighting. (More than 1 subject)

The girls' team **was** bound to win the competition. (1 subject)

Answers...

The football team **is** losing by two goals. (1 subject)

I **am** not really in the mood for a run. (1 subject)

The cats **are** play fighting. (More than 1 subject)

The girls' team **is** bound to win the competition. (1 subject)