The Top Ten Mistakes in Writing by Turkish Learners

- **Mistake 1.** Direct translation from Turkish to English.
  - × My parents want to study hard from me.
  - ✓ My parents want me to study hard.

- **Mistake 2.** “For” is used as a purpose with a verb.
  - × I went to the canteen for drinking coffee.
  - ✓ I went to the canteen to drink coffee.
  - ✓ I went to the canteen for a coffee.

- **Mistake 3.** “After” and “after that”.
  - × I finished my homework. After I went out to play football.
  - ✓ I finished my homework. After that, I went out to play football.
  - ✓ After I finished my homework, I went out to play football.

- **Mistake 4.** Forgetting apostrophies with possessives.
  - × my mother job is...
  - ✓ my mother’s job is...

- **Mistake 5.** Forgetting apostrophies with plural –s.
  - × the students books
  - ✓ the students’ books

- **Mistake 6.** Confusing possessive pronoun “it” and “it is”.
  - × It’s tail is long.
  - ✓ Its tail is long.
  - ✓ It is a cat. It’s a cat.

- **Mistake 7.** Use of informal structure for formal writing.
  - × Having a healthy diet, sleeping well...etc. enable us to live longer.
  - ✓ Having a healthy diet, sleeping well and doing sports enable us to live longer.

- **Mistake 8.** Incorrect punctuation with connectors.
  - × I went to see the doctor. Because I had a backache.
  - × I went to see the doctor, because I had a backache.
  - × I went to see the doctor because I had a backache.
  - ✓ I went to see the doctor because I had a backache.
✓ Because I had a backache, I went to see the doctor.

- **Mistake 9.** “More” is used with an already comparative adjective.
  - × He is *more* taller than you.
  - ✓ He is taller than you.
  - ✓ He is much taller than you.

- **Mistake 10.** Comma is used in place of “and”.
  - × When people have money, they feel happy, relaxed.
  - ✓ When people have money, they feel happy and relaxed.

  - × The pegs are small buttons, they control the tension of the strings.
  - ✓ The pegs are small buttons and they control the tension of the strings.