



Comparison among languages

A brief guide for teachers of EAL learners

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Language	Language features	Typical errors
Arabic	<p>Arabic is written from right to left on the line.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arabic has 29 letters - with 3 letter sounds, which do not exist in English. • Arabic does not distinguish between vowels and consonants; the use of a small sign on the top or under the letter indicates the pronunciation. • There are no capital letters in Arabic. • Punctuation is similar to English except for comas, which sit on the line instead of under the line. • Some letters change shape depending on whether they are at the start, in the middle or at the end of the word. • Arabic uses suffixes but no prefixes <p>The basic word order in a sentence is: subject-verb-object (SVO) The second- and third-person pronoun is different for masculine and feminine gender. Ten different person pronouns exist in Arabic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra letters in a word are added to the singular form to make plurals or to indicate masculine or feminine gender. <p>Adjectives follow the noun. Verbs inflection signals gender. Arabic uses either masculine or feminine gender for all known nouns.</p>	<p>Typical Errors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorrect use of auxiliary verbs: "I am gone for visiting the city" (instead of "I am going to the city"). • Incorrect use of personal pronouns/genders. "Him went home." • Difficulties in placement of noun-adjective: "My friend the bossy one" (instead of "My bossy friend"). • Inappropriate use of no, not, none, much, many etc. • Inappropriate word order when using auxiliary verbs, adjectives. • Capital letters appear in the middle of the sentence and full stops are frequently omitted. • difficulties with writing (where to start)
Bengali and Sylheti	<p>The basic word order in a sentence is subject-object-verb (SOV) compared with the English order of SVO.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no definite (the) or indefinite (a) article before the noun. • Post positions are used instead of prepositions. • The third person pronoun is the same for masculine and feminine gender. Verb inflection usually signals gender. 	<p>Putting verbs at the end of sentences: "He crayons not giving"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaving out articles before a noun: "She give me sweet" • Using prepositions after a noun or inserting them where unnecessary:

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A second form of the second person pronoun is used with elders/strangers as a mark of respect. • Bengali uses gender for neutral/natural nouns e.g. sun (masculine); moon, river (feminine). • The verb component of a sentence can consist of one, two or three parts. The first part of the verb is in root form with inflection to indicate tense. • Adverbs usually precede the noun. <p>Bengali writing hangs on the line while English writing sits on the line. Bengali script does not distinguish between capital and lower-case letters.</p>	<p>"I told to my mum"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confusing placement of plurals, especially noun-adjective concord: "bigs dogs" • Incorrect use of third person pronouns, particularly overuse of: "he", "him" • Inappropriate use of 'no'; 'not': "He no play with me", "I not got my pencil" • Omitting auxiliary verb: "My dad going Bangladesh", "He reading" • Placing adverbs or adverbial phrases inappropriately: "He too much cursing" • Wrong use (or lack) of preposition: "He hit me in my arm"
Bulgarian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bulgarian has a Cyrillic alphabet. There are 30 letters, 12 of which have the same shape as some Latin letters • Bulgarian is transparent with clear rules for punctuation and spelling • Nouns are divided into masculine, feminine and neuter. There are two sub divisions of masculine and feminine nouns into personal nouns and non- personals nouns. • Articles are added to nouns and adjectives depending on their role in the sentence (definite for subjects and indefinite for objects) • The articles are added as an indivisible ending on the noun or adjective, the form changes depending on the gender, the number and the conjugation • Bulgarian has 9 tenses. The system is completely different to English. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applying wrong gender: "In the room there is a table. She is new." • Omitting the subject: "Mary is 12. Goes to school every day." • Flexible sentence structure: "She is coming tomorrow morning" "Tomorrow morning she is coming" "Is coming tomorrow morning (she)." "Morning tomorrow she is coming" • inappropriate use of much/ many/ some

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Bulgarian verbs have different forms depending on the subject. It is possible to omit the subject in the sentence. • The sentence structure in Bulgarian is flexible: S-V-O, O-S-V, V-O-S are all possible. •Questions are formed by adding an initial question word or by changing intonation. • Negatives are formed by putting 'no' in front of the verb. •Auxiliary verbs do not exist. •Double negative is common in Bulgarian. 	
Cantonese and Mandarin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chinese can be written in vertical (traditional) or horizontal form. • Chinese script does not distinguish between upper- and lower-case letters. • Punctuation is similar apart from full stops and speech marks. • The basic word order in a sentence is not fixed e.g. for Subject(S), Verb(V) and Object(O): - possibility of S-O-V , S-V-O or O-S-V. • Post positions are used instead of prepositions. • There is no definite or indefinite article before the noun. • The third person pronoun is the same for masculine and feminine. • There are different ways to represent time although there are no tenses. Time or adverbs are used to indicate the past, present or future. • In writing a story, phrases are used once at the beginning of a story to represent that it happened in the past. The whole passage or story is then written in the present tense. • The verb component of a sentence can consist of one, two or three parts. 	<p>Leaving out articles before a noun, e.g., "...he give me book...".</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using personal pronouns instead of personal adjectives, e.g., "...he family comes to England...", instead of "...his family comes to England...". • Omitting the auxiliary verb, e.g., "...she go to shop...", instead of "...she goes shopping..." or "...he read book now...". instead of "...he is reading a book...". • Inappropriate word order, e.g., "...he in hall has lunch...", instead of "...he has his lunch in the hall...". • Inappropriate use of no, e.g., "...he no come to school...".
Greek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Greek has five vowel phonemes and 24 consonant phonemes. •The modern Greek alphabet has 24 letters. 	She fell down of her bed

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- Nouns are marked for gender, number, and case.
- There are two numbers: singular and plural.
- There are three genders: masculine, feminine, and neuter.
- There are five cases: nominative, genitive (which also has a dative function), accusative, and vocative.
- There are three declensions
- Adjectives agree with the nouns they modify in gender, number, and case.
- There are two articles: definite and indefinite that agree with the noun they modify. Both are inflected for gender and case. The definite article is also marked for number.
- Subject personal pronouns are normally not expressed.
- Verbs agree with their subjects in person and number.
- There are three persons: 1st, 2nd, 3rd
- three numbers: singular, dual, plural
- two conjugations
- four moods: indicative, imperative, subjunctive, and optative
- two voices: active, medio-passive (combination of middle and passive voice)
- two aspects: imperfective, and perfective which are distinguished by separate verb stems.
- Greek has two tenses: non-past and past.
- Aspect + tense combinations produce the following forms: imperfective non-past, imperfective past, perfective non-past, perfective past.
- Present/non-past forms can be combined with the Future particle θα (similar to English want to) to create imperfective and perfective future.
- The predominant word order in Greek is Subject-Verb-Object.

Yesterday in the night I saw a nice dream.
Eventually the dog it managed to rich the park
She is thinking to go to University.
I had breakfast. After I went for jogging.
He did not happy when he herd the news.
A day I went a run
This windows are not cleans.
I am old enough to drive a car she said me.
They asked each to the other for favours
She has many works to complete.
She is the best friend of hers.
She likes not to travel with a plane.
Before a week I won her at tennis.
When I will return at home I will go to the bed.

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Hungarian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The Hungarian sound system is rich in both vowels and consonants. Hungarian has 14-15 vowels •Hungarian is written with the Latin alphabet. In addition to the standard letters of the Latin alphabet, Hungarian uses several additional letters. •Hungarian nouns consist of a stem + number suffix + possessor suffix + case suffix. •There are two numbers: singular and plural. •Gender is not marked. •There are seven non-local cases and ten local cases. •Hungarian verbs consist of a stem + tense/mood suffix + person/number suffix. •There are two tenses: present and past. •There are three moods: indicative, conditional and subjunctive. •The person/number suffix represents the person/number of the subject and the person of the object. •The normal word order in Hungarian is Subject-Verb-Object. At the same time, word order is determined by topic and comment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nouns after numbers in Hungarian are always kept in singular. • In case of negation, the verb has to come right after the word nem (=no), so the verb comes before the subject. • Use of verbs with inappropriate prepositional phrases "I remember to him," • Failure to capitalize proper nouns "I have english class on monday" • Omission of the word is "My name Gabor" • Use of third-person pronouns in the wrong gender "My mother bought himself a purse". • Failure to use the imperfect tense, which does not exist in Hungarian "I slept when she arrived" • Overuse of the definite article the "the patience is a virtue"
Japanese	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses Chinese characters and other Japanese alphabets (for example, Kana). • Usual pattern is S-O-V, with the verb at the end of a clause, but subject and object do not need to be expressed. • A subordinating conjunction occurs after the dependent clause. • Has postpositions (after the noun), not prepositions. • No plural forms. • No distinction between countable and uncountable nouns. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information that in English would form an adjective clause or phrase precedes the noun it modifies, with no relative pronoun: 'He gave me a too difficult for me book'. • Many nouns can function as adjectives and adverbs; this leads to confusion

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verb forms and tenses contain only one word. • Verbs do not change for person or number. Japanese writers have difficulties with agreement with third person singular subject. • No equivalent of auxiliary <i>do</i>. • Different limits on what can be used in the passive voice: 'They were stolen their luggage'. • Complex adjective phrases can precede a noun: 'The responsible for the changes committee'. 	<p>between <i>danger</i> and <i>dangerous</i>, <i>safe</i>, <i>safety</i>, and <i>safely</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possessive pronouns can be omitted: 'He hurt shoulder'. • A verb can stand alone, with subject and object understood: 'Kaimasita:' (I) bought (it). • No system for referring to number or to countability: 'Computer is expensive'. • Expressions with <i>easy</i> and <i>difficult</i> are used as subject complement to refer to a person: *I am easy to fix a car'.
Latvian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are two grammatical genders in Latvian (masculine and feminine) and two numbers, singular and plural. • Nouns, adjectives, and declinable • participles decline into seven cases. • There are six declensions for nouns. • Verbs are conjugated for person, tense, mood and voice. • The modern standard Latvian alphabet uses 22 unmodified letters of the Latin alphabet (all except <u>Q</u>, <u>W</u>, <u>X</u> and <u>Y</u>). It adds a further eleven letters by modification. • There is no differentiation between singular and plural of the 3rd person. • The future is practically always formed regularly. • Adjectives agree with the nouns they modify in gender, number, and case. • Adjectives have indefinite and definite endings, e.g., vecu māju 'an old house' and veco māju 'the old house'. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Latvian, you is capitalised as a polite way of addressing people. • how long time? / too long time / so long time. <p>The word time isn't needed in any of those.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • confusing say/ tell <p>He told that" or "Can you say me when you are free?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using transitive verbs as intransitive ones. <p><i>He told that he will be late.</i> <i>I want to inform about the meeting.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making uncountable nouns countable <p><i>They gave me two advices...</i></p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Latvian verbs agree with their subjects in person and number. •There are three simple tenses: present, imperfect (or preterite) and future, three compound tenses: present perfect, past perfect, future perfect. •There are five moods: indicative, imperative, conditional, subjunctive, debitive (expressing necessity to do something) and two voices: active, passive. •The neutral word order in Latvian is Subject-Verb-Object. However, other orders are possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conditional forms <p><i>In case if you have any questions...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Commas <p>Latvian puts commas before the equivalent of if/who/where/that/when.</p>
Lithuanian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The Lithuanian vowel system is characterized by vowel length which makes a difference in word meaning. In addition, Lithuanian has the diphthongs /ai, ei, ui, oi, au, eu, ie, uo/. •Lithuanian has 23 consonant phonemes. •Nouns are marked for gender, number and case that are fused into one ending. •There are two genders: masculine and feminine, with a few neuter nouns. •There are three numbers: singular, dual, and plural. •Nouns have seven cases: nominative, genitive, dative, accusative, instrumental, locative, vocative. •There are five declensions. •There are no articles. •Adjectives can be definite or indefinite. •They agree in case, gender and number with the nouns they modify. •Qualitative adjectives have basic, comparative and superlative forms. •Adjectives have three declensions. •There are personal, possessive, demonstrative, reflexive, reciprocal, interrogative-relative, indefinite, and negative pronouns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Omission of the definite article <p>"I think that some people learnt _ text used in _ presentations by heart;"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Omission of the indefinite article <p>"The best tip to _ person who is going to talk."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •verb forms <p>"there wasn't (weren't) presentations that [...]"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •tense agreement <p>"Some students were using difficult words or sometimes I thought that they do (did) not know what they are (were) talking about"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •omission of pronouns <p>"I know how difficult _ is to stand up in front of the audience and try not to mess up."</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Personal pronouns distinguish gender in the third person singular and plural. •Lithuanian verbs consist of a stem plus suffixes. •Verbs have three conjugations three persons three tenses: present, past, and future several aspectual forms: perfective, imperfective, progressive, iterative, and inceptive four moods: indicative, imperative, conditional, subjunctive active and passive participles that can be formed from all tenses several forms of the gerund •Pronouns are usually dropped since the verb form carries information about the person and number. One set of verb endings is used when the subjects of the main and subordinate clauses refer to the same person, and another set when they refer to different people. •The neutral word order in Lithuanian sentences is Subject-Verb-Object. However, other word orders are possible since cases indicate the function of words in the sentence. Changes in word order indicate shifts in emphasis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Incorrect use of quantifiers “many (much) information” or “not too much (many) [slides].”
Nepali	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Nepali has 36 consonants and 13 vowel sounds. It has a phonetic script where the letter sound is also its name. There is no upper and lower case. There is no equivalent sound for short 'a' or V. • The basic word order in a sentence is subject-object-verb (SOV) compared with the English order of SVO. • Post positions are used instead of prepositions. • There is no definite or indefinite article before the noun. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Putting verbs at the end of sentences: "He crayons not giving" • Leaving out articles before a noun: "She give me sweet" • Using prepositions after a noun or inserting them where unnecessary: "I told to my mum"

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A second form of the second person pronoun is used with elders/strangers as a mark of respect. • Nouns are either masculine or feminine. • The verb component of a sentence can consist of one, two or three parts. The first part of the verb is in root form with inflection to indicate tense. • Adverbs usually precede the noun. • Modal verbs do not exist. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confusing placement of plurals, especially noun-adjective concord: "big dogs" • Incorrect use of third person pronouns, particularly overuse of: "he", "him" • Inappropriate use of 'no'; 'not': "He no play with me", "I not got my pencil" • Omitting auxiliary verb: "My dad going Nepal", "He reading" • Placing adverbs or adverbial phrases inappropriately: "He too much cursing" • Wrong use (or lack) of preposition: "He hit me in the arm." • Students may overlook word endings
Polish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the Polish alphabet there are 32 letters, 9 vowels and 23 consonants: • Letters q, v, x are not normally used in Polish. • Polish and English sound systems are different. The vowels are similar but not the same. The pronunciation of the vowels a, e, i, o, and u are similar to that of Spanish and Italian. • The basic word order is the same as English - subject + verb + object. • If the sentence contains a pronoun as a subject, it usually is omitted • Nouns can be either masculine, feminine or neuter. • There are no articles: a, an, the • Decline for case, number and gender. • Adjectives stand before the noun if they refer to an incidental feature of the noun. In case they refer to an intrinsic feature they follow the noun. Possessives, demonstratives, etc. always precede the noun. 	<p>Polish learner might say "I very like strawberries" or "Do you know where is the train station?",</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is frequent to use multiple negation in Polish : "Nobody doesn't understand nothing" • It is common for a learner to over rely on one grammatical tense: "Were you ever in Japan?" • mistakes involving articles are common: He is the doctor (a is required instead of <i>the</i>) / * He lives in the Warsaw (no article required) / * A film I saw

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbs have personal and impersonal forms. • There are 3 tenses- past, present and future. • Polish has a complex system of conjugation. Personal forms conjugate for person, number, tense, voice and mood. • Direct speech is indicated by using dashes. They are only required in the beginning and when the narrator adds a comment: -Gdzie jest ona - zapytata Ala - Nie ma jej tutaj. • There are no weak vowels in Polish 	<p>yesterday was awesome (<i>the</i> instead of <i>a</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • difficulties using of <i>make</i> and <i>do</i>. Learners tend to rely on the use of <i>make</i>, particularly when it comes to undefined activities with the use of <i>something</i>. • Pairs such as <i>clock</i> and <i>watch</i> and <i>house</i> and <i>home</i>, are commonly associated with only one Polish equivalent.
Portuguese	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portuguese nouns are either masculine or feminine. Masculine nouns usually end in -o, -e, or a consonant, feminine nouns usually end in -a. There are some exceptions. • There are no case markings. • There are two numbers: singular and plural. Plural is formed by adding -s. • Adjectives and pronouns agree with the nouns they modify in gender and number. • Definite and indefinite articles agree with nouns in gender and number. • Prepositions contract with articles, e.g., de + o = do, de + a = da. • Verbs agree with their subjects in person (1st, 2nd, 3rd) and number (singular, plural). • Pronoun subjects are normally dropped since the verb endings carry information about person and number, e.g., canto 'I sing'. • There are three regular conjugations that can be identified by the infinitive ending, for instance, cantar 'to sing', comer 'to eat', rir 'to laugh'. There are also many irregular verbs. 	<p>The pronunciation of the vowel "e" in Portuguese sounds like the vowel "a" in English;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vowel "i" sounds like the vowel "e" in English <p>Misplacement of adjectives; these are usually put after the noun: 'trousers black';</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of plural in adjectives: "two yellows shirts"; • Use of third person pronouns (he/she) when referring to a neutral one (it): "the table is big" = "she is big"; • Incorrect use of possessive: "He went to the hospital to see her mother";

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are three tenses (present, past, future). Compound tenses are formed with the auxiliary verbs 'to be' or 'to have'. • There are four moods: indicative, conditional, subjunctive, imperative. • The most common order in Portuguese is Subject- Verb-Object. • Adjectives follow the nouns they modify. • Modern Portuguese has two orthographic standards: one for Portugal, and one for Brazil. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Omission of auxiliary verbs in interrogative and negative sentences: "You speak English?" or "I not speak English" • Misspelling or mispronunciation of words because of confusing vowels sounds. • Confusing why and because as one word used for both. • Using verb 'to have' to talk about age "She has 20 years"
Romanian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The normal word order in Romanian sentences is Subject-Verb-Object although variations are possible. • Adjectives normally follow the nouns they modify, 'a good student'. • Inanimate nouns have three grammatical genders: masculine, feminine, and neuter. • The grammatical gender of animate nouns coincides with assigned gender/ sex. • There are two numbers: singular and plural. • Romanian has five cases. • The indefinite article is placed before the noun while the definite article attaches to the end of a noun. • Adjectives agree with the nouns they modify in gender, number, and case. They follow the same declensional patterns as the nouns. • Romanian distinguishes the informal and formal second person pronouns, when addressing people. 	<p>"I got good notes at school." "I do not have the person's contacts." "Did I participate to the hour?" "Carmen is the Director of the school." "How is it called" "I am going in America." "I am going in French and Bulgaria." "There are many fishes in my fridge". "I have 17 years old". "I do not want to learn him". "Have you saw?" "Usually I am park with them". Three childs. "We send you to the jail."</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Romanian verbs agree with their subjects in person (1st, 2nd, 3rd) and number (singular, plural). Personal subject pronouns are usually dropped, e.g., fac '(I) do.' •There are three simple tenses: present, past, future. Compound tenses are formed with auxiliary verbs. •There are five moods: indicative, conditional, subjunctive, presumptive, imperative. •There are three voices: active, passive, and reflexive. 	
Russian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses the Cyrillic alphabet with many letters deceptively similar to letters used in the Latin alphabet. • Commas set off a dependent clause. • Word order not necessarily Subject-Verb-Object but can be Object-Verb-Subject: 'Good grades received every student in the class'. • Long descriptive elements precede a noun: 'A nine-meter high impressive monument to Lenin'. • Russian has no equivalent of the English <i>there is / there are</i> structure. • Some countable nouns are uncountable in English: • No distinction between <i>this/these</i> and <i>those/these</i>. • Be as a linking verb can be omitted, especially in present tense. • No forms equivalent to the English perfect or progressive tense aspects: 'He admitted that he lost'. • No auxiliary verbs, such as <i>do, will, have</i>. • No inflections for third person singular. • Passive voice not equivalent to English. • Russian has no articles. • Comparisons are not a direct translation. 	<p>Examples of direct translation from Russian to English:</p> <p>"She is more tall than he."</p> <p>"My father live there."</p> <p>"His hairs long."</p> <p>"I very like her. "India more religious than America."</p> <p>"When she left"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sequence of tenses not observed: "He told me that he wants to emigrate" • Unlike Russian, English does not use the reflexive pronoun <i>myself</i> (себе) after the verb to <i>feel</i>. - " <i>I feel myself fine today.</i>" • Russian speakers frequently confuse or omit prepositions. • <i>How</i> and <i>what</i> are often confused by Russian speakers- direct translation of phrases like "Как это называется?" from Russian to English

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russian speakers often confuse nouns that are countable in Russian but not in English. • Russian speakers often use the pronouns <i>he</i> or <i>she</i> when they should use <i>it</i>.
Slovak and Czech	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slovak is a highly inflected synthetic language with a grammar that is very similar to that of other Slavic languages. • The modern Slovak alphabet consists of 46 letters/ Czech of 42. Long vowels are represented by an acute accent in writing. • Slovak nouns are marked for gender, number, and case. The three categories are fused into one ending, as is the case in all Slavic languages. • There are three genders: masculine, feminine, and neuter. • There are two numbers: singular, and plural. • There are seven cases. • Masculine nouns have animate endings in the Dative, Accusative, and Locative singular, and Nominative plural and Accusative plural. • Adjectives agree with the nouns they modify in gender, number, and case. • Pronouns use endings from noun and adjective declensions • Slovak distinguishes between the 2nd person singular informal <i>ty</i> and formal <i>vy</i>. • Cardinal numerals are inflected for case and are marked for gender. Ordinal numerals are declined like adjectives. • Slovak verbs have three persons: first, second, third. • There are two tenses: past, and non-past. Present and future tenses have the same endings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “people are using the present continuous too often.” “I take care about my sick grandmother.” “I told I will be back in five minutes.” “I studied the University of Economics.” “I learned him English.” “One of my colleague is from Canada.” Pronunciation of hard /g/ (e.g. go) and soft /dʒ/ (e.g. age): “There is comfortable.” “I live in the Prague in Czech Republic.” “He is 22 years.” “There was no way how to escape.”

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are two aspects: imperfective and perfective. • Slovak has three moods: indicative, imperative, conditional. • There are two voices: active and passive. • Verbs of motion constitute a special subcategory of verbs. • The neutral word order in Slovak is Subject-Verb-Object. , other orders are also possible since inflectional endings take care of clearly marking grammatical relations and roles in the sentence. Word order is principally determined by topic (what the sentence is about, or old information) and focus (new information) 	
Thai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The Thai script, is known as the Sukhothai. •Thai is a tonal language in which otherwise identical words can be distinguished by five-tone. •Thai is an analytic language which means that it does not use inflections to represent grammatical relations, such as case, gender, number or tense. •Nouns are not marked for number, gender, or case. •Thai uses a system of classifiers that follow the numeral and precede the noun. There are separate classifiers for different classes of people, objects of different shapes and functions, clothes, foods, and animals, e.g., tua for animals, khone for people, ahn for objects in general. •Possession is expressed by juxtaposition of the object possessed next to the possessor, or by a particle. •Thai has a complex system of pronouns. The choice of pronouns in any given situation is determined by the sex, age, social position and the attitude of the speaker towards the addressee. Different pronouns are used in different situations. 	<p>Omission of prepositions e.g."...I go school..."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Omission of plural 's' e.g. "...I saw lots of bird..." (Quantitative adjectives/nouns used instead) • No verb tenses e.g. "...I play football yesterday..." (Adverbs of time indicate tense) • Adjectives come after the noun e.g. "...cat black..." • Auxiliary verb is omitted e.g. "...I not like that cake..." • Omission of definite/indefinite article e.g. "...she give me sweet..." <p>Script features and differences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thai writing runs from left to right. • No equivalent of capital letters.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbs are not inflected for person, number, tense, aspect, or mood. These functions are determined by context or by adverbs and expressions of time. • Thai has three broad classes of particles that occur at the end of sentences - politeness, mood and question. • In Standard Thai, however, Subject-Verb-Object word order is considered to be the norm. • Word order in colloquial Thai varies depending on what is known and what is new information in the sentence which results in flexible word order. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No spaces between words in sentences. • No full stops are used; a new sentence is denoted by a gap.
Ukrainian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ukrainian is a richly inflected language with grammar that is very similar to that of other Slavic languages. • The neutral word order in Ukrainian is Subject-Verb-Object. However, other orders are possible since inflectional endings take care of clearly marking grammatical relations and roles in the sentence • Ukrainian is written with an adapted version of the Cyrillic alphabet (33 letters represent 38 phonemes) • Nouns are marked for gender, number, and case. • Verbs agree with their subjects in person and number in the non-past, and in gender and number in the past. • Ukrainian nouns have gender: masculine, feminine, neuter; number: singular and plural; case: nominative, genitive, dative, accusative, instrumental, locative, vocative, animate and inanimate masculine nouns have different endings in the accusative case. • adjectives are marked for gender and case only in the singular; in the plural they are marked only for case. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Omitting the infinitive 'to' <i>'I want learn.'</i> instead of 'I want to learn.' • Omitting the articles <i>I am good person.</i> • Omitting verb 'to be' <i>I boy.</i> • Incorrect use of prepositions <i>I called to John.</i> • Using only future tense in conditional sentences <i>If I will see him tonight, I will tell him all about it.</i> • Confusing 'how' and 'what' in questions <i>How do you think?</i>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Ukrainian verbs have three persons: first, second, third; four conjugations; two tenses: past, non-past. two aspects: imperfective and perfective; three moods: indicative, imperative, conditional; two voices: active, passive •There are no indefinite or definite articles. • Personal pronouns can be dropped because the verb ending makes the person clear. • Verb 'to be' hardly ever features in sentences 	
Urdu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Perso-Arabic script is written from right to left and is composed of 28 basic letters. • Urdū is sometimes also written in the Roman script. • Hindi/Urdū have 11 oral vowel phonemes. Vowels can be oral or nasal. Nasalization makes a difference in word meaning, e.g., ak 'a plant,' āk 'draw.' • Urdū is a highly inflected language, it uses prefixes and suffixes to form words and to express grammatical relations. It uses postpositions to express various case relationships. • Urdū nouns have a number: singular and plural; gender: masculine and feminine; case: direct, oblique, and vocative; There are four declensional paradigms for masculine and four for feminine nouns. •Adjectives agree with the nouns they modify in number, case, and case. They have fewer case forms than nouns. Pronouns have more case forms than nouns; 3rd-person pronouns are the same as proximate and remote demonstratives yeh 'this and veh 'that.' 	<p>Urdu speakers may face difficulties in pronouncing the following sounds as there are no or no close matches in their sound system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • th may be pronounced d. • r may sound like an Italian or American r. • w may be pronounced like v. • the words bard, bed or bade may be said instead of bad. • words like sorry and saw may get the same vowel sound as laugh. • diphthongs in words like coat may sound the same as the monophthong in court. • Urdu learners tend to put a short vowel sound in between certain consonant clusters as they are unfamiliar. • omission of articles is a common error for learners.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a 2nd-person honorific pronoun ap which is used with both singular/plural and male/female addressees. • Urdu verbs occur in the following forms: root, imperfect stem, perfect stem, and infinitive. The stems agree with nouns in gender and number. • Urdu verbs have a _: person: 1st, 2nd, 2nd honorific, 3rd; number: singular and plural; tense: present, past, future; tense distinction of present vs. past is expressed by the auxiliary verb 'to be.' aspect: imperfective and perfective; mood: indicative, imperative, optative. • Second-person personal pronouns are marked for three levels of politeness. Verbs in the 2nd person are also marked for politeness. • Word order is typically Subject-Object-Verb. Modifiers precede the nouns they modify. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • learners may not distinguish between a female and a male pronoun. • May use the past instead of the present perfect: They went to school just now instead of They have just gone to school. Urdu speakers also have to learn how to use tenses in reported speech. They may say She said she will call instead of She said she would call.
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Acknowledgments:

Dyslexia and Additional Academic Language Learning. Module 5. Comparison among languages. By Claudia Cappa, Jill Fernando and Sara Giulivi as part of an EU project, Dyslang 2012

Learner English. A teacher's guide to interference and other problems. By Michael Swan and Bernard Smith, Cambridge University Press 2012

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Further reading:

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<https://www.mustgo.com/worldlanguages/>

<https://www.omniglot.com/index.htm>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/guide/>

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