

Prescriptive

The sentences below each contain a prescriptive grammatical error even though many speakers of General American Dialect (GAD) English accept them and even say them.

What is “wrong” with these sentences?

1. What did you put the present in?
2. She’s smarter than him.
3. To boldly go where no one has gone before!
4. He walks too slow.
5. Hopefully, the weather will turn sunny soon.
6. I found out something which will disturb you greatly.
7. Who did you see?
8. I can’t hardly sleep.
9. 10 items or less
10. My view of grammar is different than yours
11. I will not enjoy it
12. If I was a linguist, the I wouldn’t have to study prescriptive rules
13. The homework wasn’t done completely.
14. All of the linguists at the conference congratulated each other.
15. Me and John are going to the movies later.
16. I want to learn a new language like French.