

## PRESCRIPTIVE VS. DESCRIPTIVE

Decide whether the following statements are **prescribing** or **describing** the phenomenon in question. Keep in mind that descriptive statements may be false. Follow the example.

Example: The past tense of “dream” is “dreamt,” not “dreamed.”

*Prescribing*

1. People shouldn't play their music loudly in public.
2. It is incorrect to split infinitives.
3. Sentences in English should not end with prepositions.
4. *Ain't* is poor grammar in English.
5. It's wrong to say *gonna*. The correct form is *going to*.
6. English tends to have no grammatical gender agreement.
7. Spanish doesn't use -'s to mark possession.
8. Tigers shouldn't eat people.
9. Languages with complicated morphology are more sophisticated.
10. Some languages have more fixed word order than others.

11. Most politicians are liars.
12. It is incorrect to pronounce the [ɹ] in *riddle* as [ u ].
13. The auxiliary *be* can mark habitual aspect in English, as in: *she be workin on Fridays*.
14. Neutrons have no electrical charge.
15. It's wrong to start a sentence with *me*, as in: *Me and my boyfriend went to visit my grandma*.
16. People should pronounce the full *-ing* ending on words like *studying*.
17. The word *mad* is often used incorrectly by young people to mean *very* or *many*.
18. *Who do you wonder whether went to the store?* is an ungrammatical sentence of English.
19. Spanish in the United States is being corrupted since speakers borrow so many words from English.
20. Some languages have more vowel sounds than others.

## Part 2

**Kinds of Words: Complete the “Test yourself - Getting Started” exercises in Altenberg & Vago**

Lessons 1-3, 5-10, 12-15, 21-24 (*all subsections*)

