

## PET COMMON WRITING MISTAKES 1

### And, But, or Or?

Intermediate learners often confuse **and**, **but** and **or**.

**1) Instructions:** Complete the sentences below by writing and, but or or in each gap.

Example: The hotel staff were very friendly ...and... welcoming

1. My hotel room was clean ..... uncomfortable.
2. I haven't been to China ..... Japan.
3. I have been to Thailand, ..... I haven't been to the Philippines.
4. When I visited India, I went to Mumbai, Delhi ... Bangalore.
5. I don't know why Sayed hasn't come to class; he may be ill, ..... he may be too busy.

**2) Instructions.** Each of the sentences in Exercise 1 is an example for one of the uses of and, but and or given below. Write the number of the sentence from Exercise 1 in the gap by each of the uses

Example: Use and to join two similar adjectives together when they don't come before a noun. (Sentence ...Example ...)

1. Use and to join the final thing on a list to the rest of the list. (Sentence ...)
2. Use but to join two ideas, opinions or facts which are different in a sentence. (Sentence ...)
3. Use but to join two adjectives which seem to have different or opposite meanings. (Sentence ...)
4. Use or to connect different possibilities, or the last thing in a list of possibilities. (Sentence ...)
5. Use or after a negative verb to mean not one thing and also not another. (Sentence ...)

**3) Instructions** Each of the sentences below contains a mistake made by intermediate students in Cambridge exams. Find and correct the mistakes.

Example: Don't tell my father, mother and sister that I have written to you.

1. The beginning of the summer was very hot but sunny and I believed it would go on forever.
2. It was boring because there was nothing to see and do.
3. It wasn't a valuable or important book and it was my Dad's favourite.
4. The film is a thriller but it's very exciting.
5. There are lots of cheap restaurants or snack bars where you can have lunch

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## ANSWERS

1.
  - 1 but
  - 2 or
  - 3 but
  - 4 and
  - 5 or
2.
  - 1 4
  - 2 3
  - 3 1
  - 4 5
  - 5 2
3.
  - 1 hot but sunny hot and sunny
  - 2 and or
  - 3 and but
  - 4 but and
  - 5 or and