

Grammar and the Price of Real Estate: No Typo Here

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There were reports that a **mock examination paper** for testing the school teachers teaching English was full of grammatical mistakes itself, and comments made by the relevant authorities were that these mistakes were either “typo” errors or “acceptable” ones (despite being grammatically wrong) citing that languages evolve.

It is NOT the aim of this article to discuss the pros and cons or even the basis for the mock examination, and certainly the author is no expert in languages. However, it is felt that **grammar contributes to overall (communicational, managerial, operational etc) “efficiency”**. Here’s an example: let us say Person A is going to pay some money to Person B. We can say “A will pay B \$X”. Alternatively, we can also say “B will be paid \$X by A”. However, if someone says “A will paid B \$X”, there is no way to be sure who is the payer and who is the payee. At the very least, someone will need to ask a couple of questions to find out the actual situation and in the worst scenario, A and B may even end up in a legal dispute. All these mean having to spend time and effort which could have otherwise been spent on more productive activities IF people had communicated properly and correctly in the first place.

The author is not trying to defend certain English Language customs yet **grammar helps people to “decipher” and “digest” messages and meanings more easily, more precisely and without (much) doubt most of the time** (skeptics may compare current novels with plays written by Shakespeare. The author has a high opinion of his works yet it is not easy reading at all). Before another set of language structure and usage is accepted or formed, the current one is probably a necessary evil. Furthermore, the author’s own experience in learning the language was that once its grammar was “learned”, the rest would become very easy. Also, as people think using languages, having a good command of a (any) language (including knowing its proper structure and having a competent level of vocabulary) can enhance (at least not prevent) **better analytical abilities and presentational skills**. Using only “awesome” to describe all things that are “beautiful”, “excellent”, “elegant”, “good”, “stylish” or the like leads to over-simplification and narrow mental horizons.

As grammar affects efficiency, which in turn affects our “competitiveness”, which in turn affects our earning abilities, which in turn affects our economy, which in turn affects our asset prices including those of real estate, grammar affects real estate prices albeit indirectly. While its impact may be small on its own, **an economy which has all the resources to master a language well yet fails to do so requires deeper thoughts and analyses**. Accepting language mistakes simply because too many people have made them is NOT a good solution. Correcting the mistakes is.