

Writing Practice - Correcting Mistakes

Teacher's Worksheet

Big Old Mansion

Everyone avoided the big old mansion. **It was believed¹** to have spirits and a lot of people said they had heard screams inside it. Well, I have **never²** been a person that believed in ghosts but it's a very interesting topic to me and I have started to interview some people to discover the truth or something that could change my mind.

First, I interviewed my neighbors and I found Mr. Paul, a kind senior who **was born³** and **grew up⁴** in that area. He told me that the last owner and his whole family was murdered in that house and that their spirits **still live there⁵**.

Afterwards, I talked with another interesting person, **Mrs.⁶** Melissa. She said that the current owners "The Charlies" **made⁷** up a story that the house is haunted because they want to keep⁸ people far away from the house.

In my opinion both stories are not real because I have never heard or seen anything **strange⁹** there, but you never know. It's the 21st century, you don't believe in ghosts, **do¹⁰** you?

Mistakes:

1. **It was believed** (passive verb) – This is the passive form of "People believe". When we don't know or don't care about the subject of the sentence, we use the passive voice. In this case, past simple passive.
2. **I have never** (adv.) – We only use "ever" with questions, for example: "Have you ever..."
3. **Was born** (v) – In this case, we always use the passive form for someone who is born, for example: "I was born in December"
4. **Grew up** (phr. v.) – This is a phrasal verb and without the "up" has a different meaning. Grow, by itself refers only to height.
5. **Still live there** (adv.) – We use "still" in affirmative sentences and "yet" in negative and interrogative sentences.
 - o I haven't finished my homework **yet**.
 - o Have you fixed the car **yet**?
 - o I am **still** working on it.
6. **Mrs. Melissa** (n) – We use "Mr." for men. "Ms." for unmarried women and "Mrs." for married women.
7. **Made** (v) – This verb refers to actions in the past and so should be in the past form.
8. **Keep** (v) – This verb is "Keep" in the present and "Kept" in the past.

9. **Strange** (adj.) – Stranger is a mistake because there is no comparison on the sentence.

10. **Do you** (Question tag) – When you use a question tag you must follow the auxiliary verb used in the first half of the sentence:

- I haven't seen it, have you?
- I can't do it, can you?
- I don't believe in ghosts, do you?