**Revision – Common Grammatical Mistakes**

**Exercise 1) The following sentences contain five common grammar mistakes that you should avoid. First match the kind of problem with the sentence, then make appropriate changes to the sentence.**

*misplaced modifier, run-on sentence, dangling modifier, subject-verb agreement, unclear pronouns,*

1. My car hit a plant, but thankfully it wasn’t damaged.
2. Please join us for a discussion of human trafficking at Conestoga College.
3. My parents were expecting their third child at the age of eight.
4. The high cost and low revenue of the project was said to be the reason for its cancellation.
5. People think social media has more cons than pros I think it really depends on the usage.

**Passive voice**

We use the passive voice when:

* We do not know, who is the “doer” of the action, the readers do not care, or we do not wish them to know.
* We want to move a long and complex “chunk” of information to the end of the sentence, which can change the word order of the sentence to make it more readable.
* We want to focus the attention of the readers outside of the sentence’s subject.

However, overusing the passive voice is a common mistake of Czech and Slovak writers in Academic English!

Noun + verb in passive form + infinitive (*agree, assume, believe, claim, feel, know, …*)

* Tourism **is expected to become** a major part of the country’s economy.

*There* + verb in passive form + infinitive

* There **are reported to have been** a record number of accidents on the roads this year.

It + verb in passive form + *that* clause (*accept, agree, argue, assume, estimate, presume, report, suggest, …*)

* **It is thought that** the new railway will provide employment opportunities for local people.

The verbs *believe, expect, know, report, say, think, suppose, understand* are often used in the  
present simple passive followed by an infinitive.  
*He is said to live here* (←It is said that he lives here. – the subject of the second sentence replaces “it” from the first sentence and the rest is connected in the form of infinitive).  
*The new library is supposed to open next week*.

**Exercise 2) In the text about a public health pioneer, match the beginning of each sentence with the correct ending.**

1. The observation that infections were being transmitted between patients
2. The physician who first deduced the link
3. He is now known to be
4. Dr Semmelweis was working in the obstetric at Vienna General Hospital,
5. He discovered that the number of cases of this so-called childbed fever
6. The scientific papers that he wrote about this
7. His ideas
8. Some doctors
9. Still only in his 40s, Semmelweis experienced a mental breakdown, and
10. Later, when Louis Pasteur explained his germ theory, Semmelweis

**a.** could be dramatically reduced by the use of hand disinfection.

**b.** were turned down by many publishers.

**c.** were offended at the implication that they were unclean.

**d.** was shunned by his colleagues and his findings were ignored.

**e.** was committed to an asylum for the mentally ill, where he died two weeks later.

**f.** were rejected by his medical peers.

**g** was hailed as the ´saviour of mothers’.

**h.** by the doctor who was treating them was a radical one for the mid-nineteenth century.

**i**. one of the most visionary scientists of his age.

**j.** where many women died of infection within days of giving birth.

**Exercise 4) Revise the following passage to improve the flow of information by putting the new information (in bold) last in each sentence.**

**Two aims—the recovery of the American economy and the modernization of America into a military power—were** in the president’s mind when he assumed his office. **The drop in unemployment figures and inflation, and the increase in the GNP testifies to** his success in the first**. But our increased involvement in international conflict without any clear set of political goals** indicates less success with the second. **Nevertheless, increases in the military budget and a good deal of saber rattling** pleased the American voter.