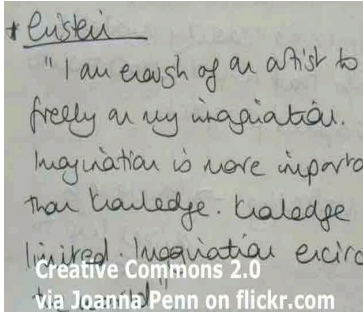


## No loss of marks for spelling mistakes at UK university

14th April, 2021



A university in England has said students will not lose marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar mistakes. Hull University said that requiring English with no mistakes is "elitist". It said such a requirement could be

seen as "homogenous, North European, white, male, and elite". Officials at the university said insisting on a high proficiency in written English discriminated against ethnic minorities and students who went to schools where average grades were low. The university said it wants to make writing and tests "more inclusive". It wants teachers to be more flexible when they mark and grade students' writing. It hopes to reduce the number of poorer students who drop out from university.

The university said many students suffer at school and in life because their written English contains mistakes. This includes students with dyslexia. This is a learning disorder that affects language. People with dyslexia have difficulty in relating to letters and words. This means it is harder for dyslexics to produce writing free of mistakes. Dyslexia affects areas of the brain that process language. The university also said that requiring well-written English could discourage students for whom English is a second language from going to university. Teachers at another university have been told it is fairer to judge students on their ideas and knowledge of a subject and not their spelling and grammar.

Sources: [dailymail.co.uk](http://dailymail.co.uk) / [msn.com](http://msn.com) / [thetimes.co.uk](http://thetimes.co.uk)

## Writing

It is highly important not to make mistakes when writing. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

university / spelling / punctuation / grammar / elitist / proficiency / tests / grade / low suffer / mistakes / dyslexia / language / brain / second language / judge / knowledge

## True / False

- a) A UK university suggested that making spelling mistakes is OK. T / F
- b) The university said expecting well-written writing is elitist. T / F
- c) The university said ethnic minorities always do very well in spelling. T / F
- d) The university wants teachers to be inflexible when grading writing. T / F
- e) The university said people suffer in life because of writing mistakes. T / F
- f) People with dyslexia find it more difficult to relate to letters and words. T / F
- g) There is an increase in overseas students attending UK universities. T / F
- h) A university said correct spelling is more important than students' ideas. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. <b>marks</b>       | a. condition     |
| 2. <b>requiring</b>   | b. accommodating |
| 3. <b>proficiency</b> | c. put off       |
| 4. <b>flexible</b>    | d. asking for    |
| 5. <b>reduce</b>      | e. parts         |
| 6. <b>disorder</b>    | f. understanding |
| 7. <b>areas</b>       | g. points        |
| 8. <b>discourage</b>  | h. evaluate      |
| 9. <b>judge</b>       | i. skill         |
| 10. <b>knowledge</b>  | j. cut           |

## Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What are your biggest problems with English spelling?
- c) What advice do you have for people learning English grammar?
- d) How should schools help people with dyslexia?
- e) What are the big differences between your language and English?
- f) What do you think of the university's new policy?
- g) Is it better to judge essays on the content or the spelling and grammar?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the university?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Officials                             | a. a second language     |
| 2. discriminated against ethnic          | b. out from university   |
| 3. It wants teachers to be more flexible | c. disorder              |
| 4. It hopes to reduce                    | d. minorities            |
| 5. poorer students who drop              | e. when they mark        |
| 6. many students suffer                  | f. of mistakes           |
| 7. This is a learning                    | g. on their ideas        |
| 8. produce writing free                  | h. the number            |
| 9. students for whom English is          | i. at school and in life |
| 10. it is fairer to judge students       | j. at the university     |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of English spelling?
- What advice do you have about English spelling?
- How important is it to spell English words correctly?
- What do you think of English grammar?
- What are the most difficult parts of English grammar?
- Does insisting on well-written English discriminate against people?
- What do you think of writing, spelling and grammar tests?
- How important is it to write well in English?

## Spelling

- lose marks for spelling, ptuicotnnau and grammar
- qinuirgre English with no mistakes
- white, male, and eliet
- insisting on a high feiocicyprn
- make writing and tests more vucniesil
- It wants teachers to be more eeilbfx
- many students usferf at school
- This ncldesui students with dyslexia
- have difficulty in liatergn to letters and words
- areas of the brain that srpseco language
- dgeosrauc students
- judge students on their ideas and odngeeklw

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. i	4. b	5. j
6. a	7. e	8. c	9. h	10. f

## Role Play

### Role A – Spelling

You think spelling is the most difficult thing about English to learn. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as difficult. Also, tell the others which is the easiest of these (and why): grammar, punctuation or vocabulary.

### Role B – Grammar

You think grammar is the most difficult thing about English to learn. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as difficult. Also, tell the others which is the easiest of these (and why): spelling, punctuation or vocabulary.

### Role C – Punctuation

You think punctuation is the most difficult thing about English to learn. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as difficult. Also, tell the others which is the easiest of these (and why): grammar, spelling or vocabulary.

### Role D – Vocabulary

You think vocabulary is the most difficult thing about English to learn. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as difficult. Also, tell the others which is the easiest of these (and why): grammar, punctuation or spelling.

## Speaking – English

Rank these with your partner. Put the most difficult things to learn about English at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| • Punctuation   | • Spelling  |
| • Pronunciation | • Grammar   |
| • Vocabulary    | • Listening |
| • Politeness    | • Writing   |

### Answers – True False

a T	b T	c F	d F	e T	f T	g F	h F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.