mistake

1 Verb + mistake

Use the correct form of these verbs:

correct *learn* *make*
point out *realise* *repeat*

1. Making mistakes is an important part of learning a language. If you don't make mistakes, you don't ..... from them.
2. I think if you can admit that you've ..... a mistake, it is a sign of strength, not weakness.
3. When I got home, I found out that I had been calling my girlfriend's father by the wrong name. I felt such a fool when I ..... my mistake.
4. Like many people, I find it difficult to avoid ..... past mistakes. Why do we make the same mistakes over and over again?
5. Read through your work carefully and ..... any mistakes that you find.
6. If you ..... some people's mistakes to them, they get very defensive. I don't know why!

2 Common adjective collocations

Complete the sentences below with the following:

costly *dreadful* *fatal* *occasional*
genuine *stupid* *common* *understandable*

1. The most ..... mistake people make is to water their plants too much.
2. It was a perfectly ..... mistake to make. I assumed Jane and Morgan were married, too!
3. The skaters made the ..... mistake of assuming that the ice was thick enough to take their weight. Unfortunately, there was a thaw on. The ice gave way and they drowned.
4. I should have scored 100% in the examination, but I made one ..... mistake.
5. I can accept that anybody makes the ..... mistake. We all do, but if it becomes a habit then you're in trouble.
6. Going to the football match when he should have been at work proved to be a very ..... mistake for Jeff. He was sacked.
7. When he removed the wrong kidney from the patient, the surgeon made a ..... mistake.
8. I'm sorry, sir, but a ..... mistake has been made. We will do our best to find you a double room immediately.

3 Verb + for + mistake

Use these verbs to complete the expressions:

apologise *check* *refuse* *take*

a. ..... *to accept responsibility for*
b. ..... *the blame for*
c. ..... *profusely for*
d. ..... *over your work for*

Now use these complete expressions below, using the correct form of the verbs:

1. He thought I was the secretary and not the manager because I was a woman, but he .... his mistake when I introduced myself. You should have seen his face!
2. Nobody should have to ..... other people's mistakes.
3. It's always a good idea to ..... mistakes before you hand it in.
4. Five hundred pounds has gone missing from my bank account, but the bank ..... the mistake.

"Now Gran, how many times do I have to tell you that the most common mistake people make is to water too much!"



Notes

1. Note these expressions:
   Marrying you was the biggest mistake of my life!
   His work is always full of spelling mistakes.
2. Note the useful expression 'It's a mistake to think that ...':
   It's a mistake to think that violence will solve this issue.
3. 'By mistake' means *accidentally:*
   Someone must have left the window open by mistake.
4. Note these expressions with 'make a mistake'.
   I made the mistake of inviting him to the party.
   I won't make the same mistake again!
   Don't worry. It's an easy mistake to make.
   If you make a mistake, just cross it out.

LIVEWORKSHEETS