Common Errors with Prepositions

Incorrect: He is ill since last week.
Correct: He has been ill **since last week**.
Incorrect: He has been working since two hours.
Correct: He has been working **for two hours**.
Incorrect: I have not played cricket since a long time.
Correct: I have not played cricket **for a long time**.

**Explanation**

When reckoning from a particular date we use ‘**since**’. Examples are **since last Friday, since May, since morning, since July 8th**. But note that we always use ‘**for**’ for a period. Examples are: **for a week, for a long time, for two hours etc.**

Incorrect: This paper is inferior than that.
Correct: This paper is **inferior to** that.
Incorrect: He is junior than me.
Correct: He is **junior to** me.
Incorrect: He is superior than you in strength.
Correct: He is **superior to** you in strength.

**Explanations**

The comparatives **senior, junior, superior, inferior** etc., are followed by **to**, and not **than**.

Incorrect: He rides in a cycle.
Correct: He rides **on a cycle**.
Incorrect: He rides on a car.
Correct: He rides **in a car**.
Incorrect: He sat in a table.
Correct: He sat **on a table**.
Incorrect: The cat is in the roof.
Correct: The cat is **on the roof**.

**Explanation**

Use ‘**on**’ when the meaning is clearly ‘on top of’. For example, **on a horse, on a bicycle, on a table, on the roof** etc. Use **in** when ‘on top of’ is not appropriate. For example, **in a car, in an airplane** etc.

Incorrect: There was a match between team A against team B.
Correct: There was a match **between** team A and **team B**.
Incorrect: The meeting will be held between 4 pm to 6 pm.
Correct: The meeting will be held **between 4 pm and 6 pm**.
**Explanation**

**Between** is followed by **and**, not **to** or **against**.

Incorrect: The First World War was fought during 1914 – 18.  
Correct: The First World War was fought **between 1914 and 1918**.

Incorrect: There was a fight with John and Peter.  
Correct: There was a fight **between John and Peter**.

Incorrect: England grew prosperous between Queen Victoria’s reign.  
Correct: England grew prosperous **during Queen Victoria's reign**.

**Explanation**

Two events or people should be mentioned if you want to use **between**.