Common Differences

**Difference between about and on**

Use about to talk about ordinary, general kinds of communication.

Use on to talk about something more serious or academic.

Compare:

- We had a conversation about money. (A conversation is a kind of ordinary communication. Therefore we use about in this case.)
- She gave a lecture on economics. (A lecture is more academic in nature. Therefore we use on this case.)
- Have you got any books on quantum physics?
- Yesterday, I read an interesting book about dogs.

**Difference between above and over**

Use above when one thing is not directly over another. Above is also used in measurements of temperature and height.

- There is a nice home above the river.
- The temperature is four degrees above zero.

Use over when one thing covers and / or touches another. Over is also used to talk about ages and speeds.

- Why are you wearing that torn coat over your shirt?
- She must be over forty.

**Accept and agree**

Before an infinitive, use ‘agree’, not ‘accept’.

- She agreed to come. (NOT She accepted to come.)

You cannot put a that-clause immediately after agree or disagree. For example, you cannot write ‘I agree that smoking should be banned.’ Instead, you have to write ‘I agree with the view / opinion / argument that smoking should be banned’.

More examples are given below.

- I disagree with your opinion that cars should not be allowed in city centres.
- Do you agree with the statement that education should be free for all?