ITL 312K / ITL 312L / ITL 612 - COMMON MISTAKES Checklist

anche (too, also). This word goes immediately in front of the item you are adding to an explicit or implicit list. A subject pronoun cannot be omitted. If you are using **anche** at the beginning of a sentence, followed by a comma, to mean "furthermore," use **inoltre** instead.

> **Vado anche a Firenze.** Florence is another place I am going to.
> **Anch'io vado a Firenze.** I'm another person who is going to Florence.

ascoltare. This verb takes a direct object in Italian, even though in English you might say "listen **to**." (Direct object means no preposition in front of the object.)

cercare. This verb takes a direct object in Italian, even though in English you might say "look **for**." Think "seek." (Direct object means no preposition in front of the object.)

chiedere. This verb takes as a direct object the thing that you ask **for**. The thing you ask for is the **direct** object of the verb. The person from whom you hope to receive the thing that you ask for is the **indirect** object of this verb.
A direct object never has a preposition in front of it.
An indirect object always has a preposition in front of it.

> **Chiederò i soldi a papà. = I will ask Dad for the money.**

Thus **chiedere una domanda** is nonsense unless you are asking somebody for a question.
To ask a person a question = **fare una domanda a una persona.**

cosa. This noun is feminine, and its plural is regular.

gente. This noun is feminine. This noun is singular. Rinse and repeat. If you need to use a plural form, use **persone**.
If you are talking about people in the political or ethnic sense, the word is **il popolo**.

guardare. This verb takes a direct object, even when it would be translated in English as "to look **at**." (Direct object means no preposition in front of the object.)

guidare. This verb refers only to the act of driving and does not express going from one place to another. Italian generally does not insist on identifying the means of transportation the way English does. Just use **andare**. If necessary, **andare in macchina**.
NB: **Abbiamo guidato a Dallas** means that we drove while we were in Dallas, not that we went to Dallas by car.
The only direct object that this verb should have is a vehicle, probably **la macchina**.
If you're talking about taking someone somewhere, use **portare**.

ora. As an adverb, this means "now." As a noun it means either "hour" or "time" where "time" means the time of day. (the o'clock)

pagare. This verb takes a direct object in Italian, even though in English you might say "pay **for**." (Direct object means no preposition in front of the object.)

perché. Italian sentences don't start with this word unless they are the answer to a **perché? (why?)** question.
When it means because, it is followed by the indicative.
When it means "so that," it is followed by the subjunctive in the subordinate clause.
But if when it means "so that" and the subject of the subordinate clause is the same as the subject in the main clause, use **per + infinitive** instead.
There is no "perché di" in Italian. To render English "because of" use **a causa di** or **grazie a** (if the effect is a positive one).

persona. This noun is feminine. It has no masculine form. It does have a regular plural, whereas **gente** is always singular. All adjectives modifying this noun must be in the feminine form, regardless of the sex of the person(s).
If you are talking about people in the political or ethnic sense, the word is **il popolo**.

portare. Means either to bring or to take, where to take means to take from one place to another. If you mean to seize, to grab, to take possession of, you want **prendere**.

prendere. Means to take when to take means to seize, to grab, to pick up, to take possession of. It never means to take from one place to another. That's **portare**.
WATCH OUT! This verb, like almost every verb in **-ere**, has an irregular past participle.

qualche. Means "some" and it is **invariable**, i.e., it does not have other forms; it's always just **qualche**. The noun that follows it is **always singular**.
          Qualche libro = Some books.
If you need to use plural forms, use **alcuni** (masculine plural) or **alcune** (feminine plural).

tempo. This noun refers to time as in the Einstein dimension kind of time. Time is fleeting. Time flies. Time is the enemy. No time to waste. Free time. But time in Italian is never long or short; there is either a lot of it or a little of it.
In Italian you do not have a good time or a bad time. Le persone o si divertono o non si divertono. There is no such thing as "avere un buon tempo."
It does not mean a specific occasion or a number of times. That's **volta**.
It does not mean the time of day. That's **ora.**
It can also mean "weather."

volta. This noun means time where time is a specific instance or occasion, or when you are talking about a number of times.
The expression **una volta** can mean "once," "at one time" or "once upon a time."

ITL 312K / ITL 312L / ITL 612 - Checklist for the Punti chiave

This list is obviously not exhaustive; it contains some of the most important items that you definitely need to check for before turning in a draft.

Punto chiave D - Descrivere | pagine verdi 191-201

Have you used the correct form of the definite article?
In viaggio, pp 198-199

Have you joined the definite article correctly to the preposition that follows it, where that preposition requires it?
In viaggio, p 199

Does every adjective you have used agree in number and gender with the noun it modifies?

Punto chiave C - Confrontare | pagine verdi 201-205

In comparisons of inequality, have you used the correct terms?
di vs **che**

In comparisons of equality have you used the correct terms?
così, come | tanto, quanto
and where required, made the forms agree?

Punto chiave R - Raccomandare e esprimere opinioni | pagine verdi 205-215

In subordinate clauses dependent on verbs in the **WHEIRDO** category (p 209) have you used the subjunctive when the subjects of the two clauses are different?

Have you used the infinitive when the two subjects are the same?

When the subjunctive is appropriate, have you used the correct tense?
See **Sequence of tenses**, p 211

Punto chiave P - Parlare del passato | pagine verdi 216-228

Have you chosen correctly between the **passato prossimo** and the **imperfetto**?

When using the **passato prossimo** have you used the correct auxiliary?

When using the **passato prossimo** is there correct agreement of the past participle? p 228.

Punto chiave G - Parlare dei gusti | pagine verdi 228-235

Have you made the thing liked the **subject** of the verb **piacere**?

Have you made the person who likes it the **indirect object** of the verb **piacere**?

Are you using the correct pronoun in the proper place?

Punto chiave I - Fare ipotesi | pagine verdi 235-239

When "if" in your hypothesis can mean "whenever", have you used **indicative** forms in both of the clauses? (ipotesi del primo tipo)

When the hypothesis is highly unlikely or contrary to fact, have you used a **conditional** in the result clause and an **imperfect** or **pluperfect subjunctive** in the if-clause? (ipotesi del secondo e del terzo tipo)

Punto chiave F - Parlare del futuro | pagine verdi 239-347

In sentences with two clauses in which both actions are future actions, have you used a future tense for both?
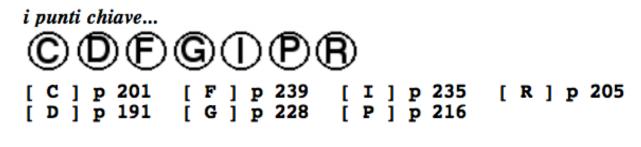
When one of those actions must precede the other, have you used the **futuro anteriore** for that verb?

And it goes without saying...

...that you have checked **every** verb to make sure that you have conjugated it correctly in the tense you have chosen.

ITL 312K / ITL 312L / ITL 612 / Error Abbreviations
N.B.: page numbers refer to *In viaggio*

i punti chiave...

Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓕ Ⓖ Ⓘ Ⓟ Ⓡ

```
[ C ] p 201    [ F ] p 239    [ I ] p 235    [ R ] p 205
[ D ] p 191    [ G ] p 228    [ P ] p 216
```

```
AA      Adjective agreement (accordo dell'aggettivo)
ADJ     Adjective (aggettivo)
ADV     Adverb (avverbio)
ARP     Articulated preposition (preposizione articolata) p 199
ART     Article (articolo)

AUX     Auxiliary verb (verbo ausiliare)

DEF A   Definite article (articolo determinativo) pp 198-199
DIP     Disjunctive pronoun (pronome tonico)
DO      Direct object (complemento diretto)
DOP     Direct object pronoun (pronome di complemento diretto)

EL      Elision

G       Gender

IMP     Imperative (imperativo)
IND A   Indefinite article (articolo indeterminativo)
INF     Infinitive (infinito)
IO      Indirect object (complemento indiretto)
IOP     Indirect object pronoun (pronome di complemento indiretto)

MD      Mood (indicative / subjunctive) / Modo (indicativo / congiuntivo)

NUM     Number (singular / plural) / Numero (singolare / plurale)
NN      Need (i.e., you need) / qui occorre
NSC     No Such Construction

PAR     Partitive (partitivo)
POSS    Possessive (possessivo)
PP      Past participle (participio)
PPA     Past participle agreement (accordo del participio) p 228
PREP    Preposition (preposizione)

PRON    Pronoun (pronome)

REL P   Relative pronoun (pronome relativo) p 261

SP      Spelling
SUP     Subject pronoun (pronome soggetto)
```

```
SVA     Subject-Verb agreement (accordo soggetto-verbo)

T       Tense (tempo verbale)

VF      Verb form (forma del verbo)
VP      See page (vedi pagina)

WO      Word order
WW      Wrong word (parola sbagliata)

( )     with no other comment, means contents may be omitted
?       Unintelligible or illegible
*       Look for a note at bottom of page or at end
```

Creating diacriticals...

on the Mac

      the acute accent (perché)
          hold down the option key as you type the letter e
          you will not yet see a result
          now type the letter above which you wish to place the accent
          the accented letter should now appear

      the grave accent (città, può, giù)
          hold down the option key as you type the grave accent on the top left of the
          keyboard (this key also shows the tilde ~)
          you will not yet see a result
          now type the letter above which you wish to place the accent
          the accented letter should now appear

on the PC

      the acute accent (perché)
          hold down the Ctrl key as you type the apostrophe
          you will not yet see a result
          now type the letter above which you wish to place the accent
          the accented letter should now appear

      the grave accent (città, può, giù)
          hold down the Ctrl key as you type grave accent on the top left of the keyboard
          you will not yet see a result
          now type the letter above which you wish to place the accent
          the accented letter should now appear

ITL 312K / ITL 312L / ITL 612 / i connettivi

(+ cong.) = the subjunctive *(il congiuntivo)* must be used in the clause introduced by this connector

affinché (+ cong.).
so that.
N.B.: if the verb in this clause has the same subject as the verb in the main clause you will use the preposition *per* (instead of *affinché*) followed by the infinitive

anche se
although; even though. N.B.: followed by a verb in the subjunctive only as part of the "if-clause" in a *periodo ipotetico*

benché (+ cong.)
although; even though

d'altra parte
on the other hand. N.B. *parte* is a feminine singular noun. This expression is invariable.

dato che
since (cause, not time); given that

WHAT DO WE MEAN WHEN WE SAY "since (cause, not time)"?

> WE MEAN... that "since" has the effect of indicating a reason why.
> Since nobody came to her last party, she isn't giving one this year.
> She isn't giving a party this year BECAUSE nobody came to the last one she gave.
>
> When you mean "since" to indicate how much time has passed since a particular moment, you use **da** or **da quando**:
> Abito ad Austin **da**l 1988. = I have lived in Austin **since** 1988.
> Non la vedo **da** lunedì. = I haven't seen her **since** Monday.
> **Da quando** siamo arrivati a Roma abbiamo visitato centinaia di chiese. = **Since** we arrived in Rome we have visited hundreds of churches.

giacché
since (cause, not time)

in modo che (+ cong.)
so that; in such a way that

inoltre
furthermore; moreover; what's more. N.B. Begin statements with this word rather than *anche* followed by a comma.

invece (di)
instead (of); rather (when it means "instead")

non solo... ma anche...
not only... but also...

nonostante (+ a noun -or- + a clause with the verb in the subjunctive)
in spite of; notwithstanding
>> *Nonostante il cattivo tempo siamo andati al mare.*
>> *Nonostante facesse cattivo tempo siamo andati al mare.*

nonostante ciò
nevertheless; in spite of that; lit. "that notwithstanding"
>> *Faceva cattivo tempo; nonostante ciò, siamo andati al mare.*

per quanto (+ cong.)
although; even though

perché
because. N.B.: statements do not begin with "perché" unless they are responses to a "perché" (why) question

perché (+ cong.)
so that. N.B.: if the verb in this clause has the same subject as the verb in the main clause you will use the preposition *per* (instead of *perché*) followed by the infinitive

perciò
therefore; because of that; for that reason

pertanto
therefore; for that reason

poiché
since (cause, not time)

purché (+ cong.)
provided that; on condition that; as long as

purtroppo
unfortunately. N.B. Please don't use other words that you may find. Use *purtroppo* for "unfortunately."

quindi
therefore; because of that

senz'altro
certainly; surely; as a matter of course

siccome
since (cause, not time)

tuttavia
even so; yet (not time)
>> *Qui furono combattute tante feroci battaglie, tuttavia c'è un'aria di pace.* = Many fierce
>>> battles were fought here, yet there is an atmosphere of peace.

visto che
since (cause, not time); cf "seeing as how..."