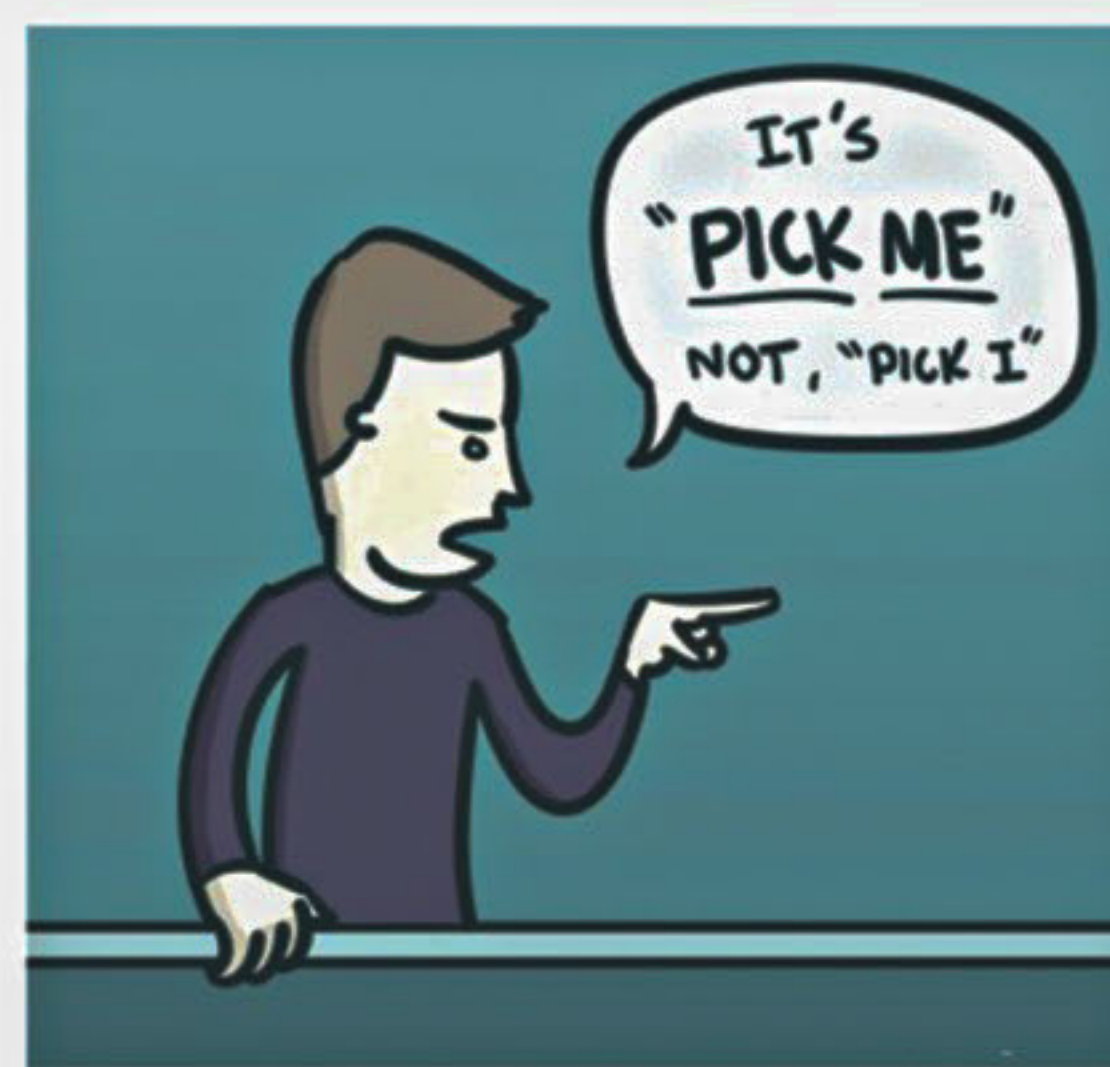
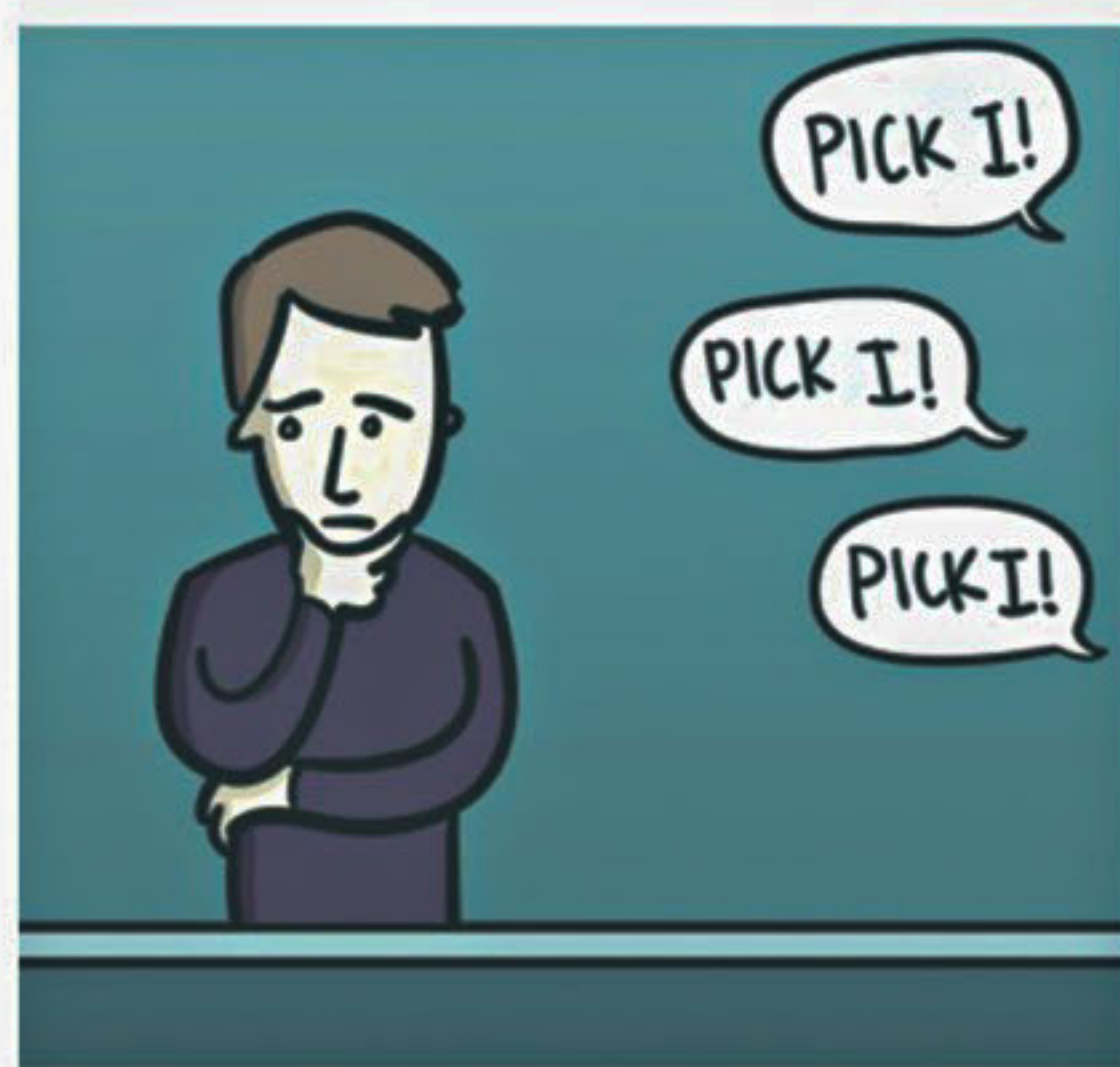


# A Day in the Life of a Grammar Nazi

SALMA MOHAMMAD ALI

I stop on the sidewalk and look up at the billboard, it reads: "Special Discount on watermelon's, Buy too and get one free!" My heart stops, surely the biggest super-market in the country wouldn't make such ghastly typos? I force myself to look away and come face to face with a street sign "Drive slow. School A head" A head? This is about as much as I can take. I clench my fists, ready to punch the thin sheet of metal with all my might but hit something soft and warm instead. A pillow? I open my eyes and discover I'm in bed. Just another nightmare, I sigh in relief.

Brushing it off, I spend the next few minutes making breakfast and rushing because being late for work means an unbearable lecture from my boss - *Your late will not be tolerated!* If only I could explain how difficult it is to refrain from correcting him, "Don't you mean *lateness*, Sir?" I'm ready to dig into my breakfast when I realise posting a quick photo on Instagram shouldn't take more than a minute, so I take out my phone and start thinking of an appropriate caption. "#Breakfast food is my favourite." I start gobbling down the food but stop halfway. The caption is bothering me. Would "breakfast foods are my favourite" sound better? This is a tough one, so I ask myself the one question I live by - is it grammatically correct? I rush back to the post, hoping no one has tried to correct it by



now, and start editing the caption. But I'm not entirely sure and since it is better to say nothing than to say something grammatically incorrect, I delete the post completely.

I am half an hour late to work thanks

to the breakfast episode, but luckily my boss hasn't noticed. I get straight to work by aimlessly scrolling through my Facebook newsfeed. I come across some cute shoes that I'm tempted to order online, but as I take a closer look I notice

the comments - *Pricplz, How much this?* There's around twenty of them and a rough calculation tells me I'll need five minutes to correct all of them to "Could you please tell me the price?" with an asterisk. Five minutes later, I find myself feeling much better.

Next, I come across my friend's status, "Finally watched *The Revenant*. Hated it. Leo didn't deserve that Oscar." My eyes widen in horror, I knew she had stupid opinions but this was just untrue! I comment saying that she has poor taste and that Leo is the best actor ever. She responds with an elaborate reply about how "the best actor ever" is subjective. I don't really know how to argue with this. Taking a second look, I notice she wrote "Everyone is entitled to THERE own opinion." A smug look takes over my face and I prepare a 200 word comment about how wrong her opinion is because her grammar is "pathetic".

Content with myself for winning this argument logically, I go over to the page Grammarly to update myself on common grammar mistakes people make nowadays. The world is full of misplaced apostrophes, incorrect tenses, and dangling modifiers and someone has to correct them!

*Salma Mohammad Ali fears she is becoming a crazy cat lady and uses writing as a means to grasp on to sanity. Send her your views/hate/love at fb.com/salma.ali209*

# LONG DISTANCE MOVIE NIGHT PLATFORMS

NOOHA SABANTA MAULA

Long distance relationships involve micromanaging so here's a simple list of things that can make spending some quality time together easier, be it with your bae or your BFFs.

## Gaze- Long Distance Movie Night

Gaze allows the simplest luxury but it's also the easiest to use. You simply have to log in to their site, send a link to your movie date and you'll instantly form a two-way connection between your PCs. The platform comes with video chat and instant messaging. Videos can be streamed from YouTube or you can play your own files. For the latter, however, you both have to have the same file. Once the video/file is playing, functions such as pause, play, fast forward and rewind are enabled on both ends, reducing the hassle of having to synchronize. The site has a small video tutorial to walk you through the process and no log in is required!

Available at: <https://lets gaze.com>

## Rabbit

Rabbit claims to help you share your world, and it gets pretty close to keeping that promise. The platform allows



multiple people to log into the same "room" to chat, watch videos, shop, use social media accounts, study and basically do things online together by sharing the screen on their website/app. You can either create an account or use a guest account for 24 hours. Their Launchpad allows you to access different platforms under categories such as gaming, social, TV and movies, popular websites, etc. Control over these can also be switched

between people in the "room" using the Remote Control feature.

Available on Apple Store and for PC at: <https://www.rabb.it/>

## Syncplay

Syncplay is an application that you can download onto your PC and use to create a personal "room" that can only be accessed by people you provide your Syncplay server address to. You can also add a password for added protection.

Syncplay, however, does not stream from online sources and only plays local files, which need to be the same. The benefit here is that you can play your file using players like VLC but functions such as pause and play work on all PCs using the room. It also shows you when other users are ready/not ready to view. There are no options for texting or video chatting but the fact that there is no buffering time is a redeeming quality.

You can download it from:

<http://syncplay.pl/>

## Watch2Gether

Watch2Gether lets multiple users watch stream videos from platforms like YouTube, Vimeo and Amazon by copy-pasting the URL and playing it. There's an option for chatting and you can also use your webcam. However, you cannot play any local files and not all sites may be supported.

Available at:

<https://www.watch2gether.com>

*Nooha Sabanta Maula is an Anthropology major whose anthropologising has made her confused about life. Send her your thoughts to noohamaula@gmail.com*