



COMMON MISTAKES IN WRITING vol.2
Learn from other students' mistakes to avoid making them yourself.

DEFINITE

"Definite" refers to something that is clear, certain, or unmistakable.

- She has very definite opinions.
- He'd shown definite signs of resigning himself to the situation.
- There's been a definite improvement in your English since you came here.
- They have very definite ideas on how to bring up children.

fixed or final

- We need a definite answer by tomorrow.
- No definite conclusions can be drawn from this study.
- The date for the meeting is now definite: 5 March .

to be clear, and specific about something.

definite about

- She's not definite about retiring from the game.
- "Are you sure I'm invited too?" "Yes, Dan was very definite about it on the phone."

DEFINITIVE

"Definitive" means conclusive or authoritative, and often implies that something is final or settled.

- There are no definitive solutions to this problem.
- The scientist's research provided a definitive answer to the question.
- The police have no definitive proof of her guilt.
- The definitive version of the text is ready to be published.

most complete or comprehensive of its kind:

- He's written the definitive guide to Thailand.
- The book is considered the definitive work on the subject.
- This new edition of the dictionary is the definitive guide to the English language.

DEFINITELY

without any doubt:

- Have you definitely decided to go to Costa Rica?
- He definitely said he'd be here.
- "Are you going to have children?" "Oh, definitely (= without any doubt)."
- "She's not coming?" "No, definitely not."

DEFINITIVELY

in a way that is not able to be changed or improved:

- The link between lung cancer and air pollution has not been definitively proved.
- The company's CEO stated definitively that there would be no lay-offs in the near future.