

10 FRENCH TRANSLATION MISTAKES...

Here are the answers and some grammar information to explain why:

1. He ~~proposed to me to~~ **suggested (that)** I book a taxi from the airport.

The verb **suggest** (without 'to') is used much more naturally in English and is usually followed by a subject pronoun or verb-ing (suggest **doing** something). to **propose to** someone is what a person does when he/she asks someone to marry them!

2. I'm ~~agree with you~~, she is a very sympathetic **nice** woman.

Agree is a verb, not an adjective, therefore is not used with the verb 'be'. We can describe someone as 'sympathetic' but as a translation it actually means **nice** in English!

3. We will stay here ~~during~~ **for** the next two weeks.

When we describe a defined length of time we use **for** + time period. **During** is used to describe what will happen at an unspecified point **in** that period of time. For example: He will visit London **during** his holiday.

4. Can you tell ~~to me~~ how ~~works~~ this machine **works**?

Tell is a verb that is NOT followed by 'to' (also, explain/inform). When we make a sentence with an *indirect question* ("Can you tell me..") the topic of the sentence is made with a **statement form**.

5. We discussed ~~about to~~ **doing** some new projects next year.

We don't use 'about' after the verb **discuss** or 'to'. However, we do use the 'gerund' or **verb-ing form**.

6. I **am going in to** Marseille tomorrow.

When we are talking about a future event we use a future form – in this case '(be) going to', as it is a planned event. When we use the verb **go** + a place we use **to**, to indicate a movement from one place to another.

7. He is a friend of ~~me~~ **mine**.

Mine is the possessive object pronoun. We could also say 'He is **my** friend'.

8. I ~~don't see~~ **haven't seen** them for many years.

We use the **present perfect simple** to talk about the length of time that an action, or state, exists from the past *up to* the present time.

9. My decision to take the job depends ~~of~~ **on** the salary.

Ah, we all love verb + prepositions! Other **on** examples are: rely **on**, lean **on**...

10. When it ~~will be~~ **is** ready, I will send the report.

Very similar to the first conditional (if) – we use the **present form** in the first clause.