

JESI, 2009: Prepositions – “Between you and I” (Just Say “No!”)

This common error infects the language of even the most careful of speakers at times. Most students, except non-native speakers, have few problems with the idiomatic use of prepositions.

Most problems occur when there is a compound object in the prepositional phrase, like “between you and I.” A useful method for teaching is to ask students to combine the two objects into one pronoun, in this case we or us. Does it make sense to say “just between we”? No. How about “just between us”? Here you see the light bulbs flash over their heads.

A useful handout on prepositions follows

<http://www.chompchomp.com/terms/preposition.htm>