These are the errors that appear year after year in examiner reports. Knowing *what not to write* is just as important as knowing what to write. ★ marks Higher Tier only. Every mistake here has cost students marks in real exams.

Genetics and Evolution

■ **Students often write:**	*"Dominant means it appears in every generation."*
✓ **Correct answer:**	Dominant means expressed when only ONE copy is present. A dominant allele can skip generations if the person carrying it never passes it on. A recessive allele always requires two copies to be expressed.
■ **Examiner insight:**	Dominant = expressed with one copy. Not necessarily in every generation.

■ **Students often write:**	*"Organisms evolve to suit their environment."*
✓ **Correct answer:**	Organisms do not deliberately evolve. Random mutations create variation. Natural selection acts on that variation — organisms with advantageous traits survive better and reproduce more. The environment does not direct evolution; it selects from existing variation.
■ **Examiner insight:**	"Evolve to suit" implies intention. Use: "random mutations → natural selection → frequency of advantageous alleles increases." Precision matters.