GRAMMAR REQUIREMENTS FOR LEVEL B2
This publication has made use of the English Grammar Profile. This resource is based on extensive research using the Cambridge Learner Corpus and is part of the English Profile programme, which aims to provide evidence about language use that helps to produce better language teaching materials. See http://www.englishprofile.org/ for more information.

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ADJECTIVES

COMBINING

FORM: COMPOUND ADJECTIVES
Can use an increasing range of compound adjectives (‘up-to-date’, ‘state-of-the-art’)

Corrected Learner Examples
*The selling point is that it contains the most up-to-date and state-of-the-art know-how, for instance a water-proof keyboard, information security system, etc. A survey of our customers last year indicated that over 70% of them are content with the user-friendly designs. …getting to work (in big cities) by car is more healthy for drivers but has a long-term effect on the environment and on us, in the end, as well.*

Uncorrected Learner Examples
*The selling point is that it contains the most up-to-date and state-of-the-art know-how, for instance water-proof keyboard, information security system etc. A survey among our customers were launched last year, and the result indicated that over 70% of them are content with the user-friendly designs. In my opinion, from realistic point of view, getting to work (in big cities) by car is more healthy for drivers but has long-term effect on environment and on us, at the end, as well.*

FORM: PHRASES MODIFYING NOUNS
Can use adjective phrases to modify nouns.

Corrected Learner Examples
*Besides, we could leave one day in the morning and travel by boat to a small and exotic island full of different and exotic species of birds that we could observe and photograph. Emily Brontë succeeded in writing a romantic, psychological and tragic story, beautifully set in these mysterious moors.*

Uncorrected Learner Examples
*Besides we could leave one day in the morning and reach by boat to a small and exotic island full of different and exotic species of birds that we could observe and photograph. Emily Brönte succeeded in writing a romantic, psychological and tragical story, beautifully set in these mysterious moors.*

COMPARATIVES

FORM/USE: WITH 'A LOT'
Can use 'a lot' to modify and intensify comparative adjectives used predicatively after a verb, usually ’be’.

Corrected Learner Examples
*In addition, remember that a bike, even a good one, is a lot cheaper than a car. Don’t you think it would be a lot easier for you to finish college first?*
Uncorrected Learner Examples
In addition, remember that a bike, even a good one, is a lot cheaper than a car.
Don’t you think it will be a lot easier for you to finish first collage, and it is not long left to your final exams.

FORM/USE: WITH 'MUCH' + NOUN
Can use 'much' to modify and intensify comparative adjectives used attributively before countable and uncountable nouns.

Corrected Learner Examples
Although it is a second–hand computer which one of my colleagues sold me, it is a much better investment than the bicycle, I think.
I think the Majestic Hotel is too expensive, so what about a much cheaper hotel like the Plaza Hotel?
On the other hand, our grandparents had much fresher vegetables and meat they could trust, without BSE...

Uncorrected Learner Examples
Although it is a second–hand computer, which one of my colleagues sold me, it is a much better investment than the bicycle, I think.
I think Majestic Hotel is too expensive so what about a much cheaper hotel like Plaza Hotel?
On the other hand, our grandparents had much fresher vegetables and meat they could trust, without BSE...

FORM/USE: WITH 'SLIGHTLY'
Can use 'slightly' to modify comparative adjectives to a small degree.

Corrected Learner Examples
I bought a new one, since the price of a second–hand one was slightly cheaper.
They have their own characteristics, but the food of restaurant A is slightly better than that of B.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
I bought a new one since the price of a second–hand one was slightly cheaper than the price of a new one.
They have their own characteristic in food but the food of A restaurant is slightly better than that of B

MODIFYING
FORM: WITH 'ENOUGH' + 'TO'-INFINITIVE
Can use 'enough' after adjectives followed by 'to'-infinitive

Corrected Learner Examples
[talking about an arts festival] I was lucky enough to take part in it last November, and I enjoyed it immensely.
In my opinion young people at that age are not mature enough to decide by themselves what they want for their future.
Uncorrected Learner Examples
I was lucky enough to take part in it last November, and I enjoyed it immensely. In my opinion young people at that age are not mature enough to decide by themselves what they want for their future.

FORM: WITH 'RATHER A'
Can form adjective phrases with 'rather a' + adjective, often in formal contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples
Films tend to be rather a simple art, while books are a thing to be enjoyed in a calmer way. I must confess that I'm rather a poor player. I live rather a long way from work, about 10 km.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
Films tend to be rather a simple art, while books are a thing to be enjoyed in a calmer way. For the last ten years however, I had practically no opportunity or time to improve my ability and I must confess that I'm rather a poor player. The best means of getting to work, is by car, for me anyway I live rather a long way from work, about 10 km.

POSITION
FORM/USE: DEGREE ADJECTIVES BEFORE NOUNS
Can use a limited range of degree adjectives ('real', 'absolute', 'complete') before a noun to express intensity.

Corrected Learner Examples
When tourists arrive, there is no area to park. This is a real problem and our town is becoming very dangerous for children; every week there is an accident. Making friends is easy but to get a real, true friend is hard. Suddenly the lights went out and I found myself standing in complete darkness. After the teacher had told us to start, there was absolute silence.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
First of all, during the Summer, when tourists arrive, there is no area to park; this is a real problem and our town is becoming very dangerous for the children; every week there is an accident. Making friends is easy but to get a real, true friend, is hard. Suddenly the lights went out and I found myself standing in complete darkness. After the teacher had told us to start, there was absolute silence.

Comments
This form/use is restricted to the attributive, ie before nouns – not verbs

FORM: ATTRIBUTIVE ONLY, TIME ADJECTIVES
Can use the adjectives 'present', 'future', 'former' before a noun.
Corrected Learner Examples
I think we all are very concerned about the present situation.
We would like to hear you talk about your novels, your work in general and about your future plans.
In the big hall, in former times, lots of parties took place.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
I think we all are very concerned about the present situation.
Since we have the great honor to have you here today, we would like to hear you talking about your novels, your work in general and about your future plans.
In the big hall, in former times, lots of parties, which were very popular, took place.

Comments
This form is restricted to the attributive, ie before nouns – not verbs

SUPERLATIVES

FORM/USE: WITH 'BY FAR'
Can use the premodifier 'by far' to make a superlative adjective stronger.

Corrected Learner Examples
As you know, I've already visited almost fifty forests all over the world but I think this one is by far the most beautiful of all.
When I was a child, Christmas morning was by far the most exciting and happiest moment.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
As you know I've already visited almost fifty forests all over the world but I think this one is by far the most beautiful of all.
When I was a child, Christmas morning was by far the most exciting and happiest moment.

FORM: ELLIPSIS, WITH 'THE'
Can use '(one of) the' with an increasing range of superlative adjectives without a following noun, when the noun is understood.

Corrected Learner Examples
There have been so many embarrassing moments in my life. It's very difficult to pick the most embarrassing.
I'm not quite sure if I agree that the car is the greatest danger to human life today, but it sure is one of the greatest.
That period of my life was one of the worst.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
It's very difficult to pick the most embarrassing.
I'm not quite sure if I agree that the car is the GREATEST danger to human life today, but it sure is one of the greatest.
That period of my life was one of the worst.

FORM: WITH NOUN AND 'TO-' INFINITIVE
Can use superlative adjectives before a noun + 'to'-infinitive. ➤ clauses: comparative
Corrected Learner Examples
To be honest, I think that, to be in competition with other markets, we need to be updated and the easiest way to do it is to use computers. For those people who don't work and can't afford a car, a bicycle is perhaps the cheapest way to travel in the city.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
To be honest, I think that to be in competition with other markets we need to be fast and up dated and the easiest way to do it is to use Computers. For those people who don't work and they can't afford a car, a bicycle is cheaper and perhaps the cheapest way to travel for the city.

ADVERBS

ADVERB PHRASES – FORM

FORM: COMPARATIVE
Can modify an adverb with a comparative structure.

Corrected Learner Examples
Obviously, you can get to work by car quicker and more comfortably than by bicycle. Furthermore, you have to repair your car much more often than your bicycle – so it’s quite probable that you are going to spend plenty of time in the garage. The computer system is such a quick system that we can search and analyse information much more quickly than before. If we could get 2 million euros to invest in the new product "Stop 'n' run", profits will rise even more sharply than they did last year.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
Obviously, you can get to work by car quicker and more comfortably than by bicycle. Furthermore, you have to repair your car much more often than bicycle – so it’s quite probable, that you are going to spend plenty of time in garage. Computers’ system is such a quick system that we can search and analysis information much more quickly than before. If we could get 2 million euros to invest in the new product "Stop 'n' run", profits will rise even more sharply than they already did during the last year.

ADVERBS AND ADVERB PHRASES: TYPES AND MEANINGS

FORM: DEGREE, MODIFYING DETERMINERS
Can use degree adverbs ('almost', 'very') to modify determiners. ► determiners

Corrected Learner Examples
Today, thanks to the Internet, I can work at home almost all the time, which is far more relaxing and less boring. There are probably very few of us who have never been to a zoo.
Uncorrected Learner Examples
Today, thanks to the Internet I can work almost all the time at home, which is far more relaxing and less boring.
There are probably very few of us who have never been in a zoo.

FORM: DEGREE, MODIFYING NOUN PHRASES
Can use degree adverbs to modify noun phrases. ► noun phrases

Corrected Learner Examples
It would be quite a formal meeting.
I live rather a long way from work, about 10 km.
[talking about a dog] After all, he is almost a human.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
It would be quite a formal meeting.
I live rather a long way from work, about 10 km.
[talking about a dog] After all, he is almost a human.

FORM: DEGREE, MODIFYING PRONOUNS
Can use degree adverbs to modify pronouns. ► pronouns

Corrected Learner Examples
You can eat very well and pay almost nothing.
This is the most crowded place in my town and you can buy absolutely anything you like.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
You can eat very well and pay almost nothing.
This is the most crowded place in my town and you can buy absolutely anything you like.

ADVERBS AS MODIFIERS

USE: MANNER
Can use a wide range of manner adverbs to modify how something happens.

Corrected Learner Examples
She realises that he is a very dangerous man and that she should take his warning seriously.
Today I read the notice "Volunteers needed urgently " and I would like to be one.
As our parking space has been used illegally by the public, we will change our parking system.

USE: TIME
Can use a wide range of adverbs and adverb phrases to refer to the timing of an event.

Corrected Learner Examples
I look forward hearing from you shortly and I thank you in advance.
It sounded like a muffled laugh, and she instantly recognised it as her mother's.
It isn't the job you will do permanently.
You know it's very difficult to decide what to buy if you need both things simultaneously.
The trend that has appeared rather recently and is very common among young people nowadays is named "casual chique".
POSITION

FORM/USE: FRONT POSITION, INVERSION WITH 'NEVER'
Can use 'never' in front position followed by an inverted subject (most commonly 'I') + main verb verb, to give focus.

Corrected Learner Examples
Never have I seen such a realistic and impressive film before.
Never had I thought that my parents would do this to me.

CLAUSES

COMPARATIVES

FORM/USE: SUPERLATIVE ADJECTIVE (+ 'THAT')
Can use a superlative adjective (+ noun) (+ 'that') followed by a clause to talk about something unique.

Corrected Learner Examples
It was probably the best comedy that anyone could ever have made; however, to the ones who were in the cinema, it didn't seem like a comedy but a horror film.
In my opinion this is the worst thing that can ever happen.
That is the clearest thing I can remember.
We have developed a new micro processor which is the fastest and smallest that exists at the moment.

FORM: 'AS IF' OR 'AS THOUGH' + FINITE CLAUSE
Can use 'as if' or 'as though' + finite clause to introduce a second clause as a comparison.

Corrected Learner Examples
Her heart beat extremely fast, as if it was going to burst out of her chest.
I saw my mate crawling on the floor as if he was looking for something.
Everything was so familiar, so close, as though he had never left the place.

Comments
as if is much more frequent than as though

FORM: 'RATHER THAN' + NON–FINITE CLAUSE
Can use 'rather than' + a non–finite clause to stress one element in a comparison.

Corrected Learner Examples
If you prefer watching TV rather than reading, you have to be critical: you mustn't in any way accept everything, every image that passes in front of your eyes.
I would say that we are keen on walking in the mountains rather than going on a shopping trip to Edinburgh.
So, at night they are mostly tired and it's much easier to sit down in front of the television set rather than take a book and read it.
I would prefer to sleep in tents rather than stay in rooms.
FORM: 'THE SAME' (+ NOUN) + 'AS' + CLAUSE
Can use 'the same' (+ noun) + 'as' + clause.

Corrected Learner Examples
Maybe I'll do the same thing as you did.
She was the same as I remembered her, long-haired and green-eyed.
Some people say that friendship today is not the same as it used to be.

Comments
The clause following 'as' is often a short form.

FORM: ADJECTIVE + 'ENOUGH' + 'TO'-INFINITIVE
Can use 'enough' after adjectives followed by 'to'-infinitive.

Corrected Learner Examples
In my opinion young people at that age are not mature enough to decide by themselves what they want for their future.
I think I am responsible enough to handle this job.

FORM: COMPARATIVE ADJECTIVE + 'THAN' + NON–FINITE CLAUSE
Can use than + an increasing range of non–finite clauses (to–infinitive, reduced clause) forming the second part of a comparison after a comparative adjective

Corrected Learner Examples
It is much easier to be single than to have a partner.
Due to the provisions and considerations of the contract which was never revised, I think that arbitration is more appropriate than to file an action in court against the tenant.
It performs better than expected and attracts many new customers, especially during the week.

CONDITIONAL
FORM/USE: SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS, CONDITIONS
Can use conditional subordinate clauses with a range of conjunctions ('as long as', 'provided') + present simple or present continuous, with future reference.

Corrected Learner Examples
As long as it involves children I'd be delighted to work for you during the summer.
If you’re really eager to learn age doesn?t really matter as long as you’re willing to learn.
My client will most certainly ask for compensation covering all losses incurred, unless you manage to find out where the goods are.
Finally, I am pleased to inform you that we would like to offer a 10% discount provided you reserve office space for eighteen months.
Providing we implement the suggested actions I believe we can increase sales within the next six months, overcoming the current situation caused by the international situation.
I would suggest that you might bring a city map in case you lose your way.
Comments
While unless is a B1 lexical item in the EVP and taught at B1, its conditional use is not established until B2. Note also that unless is very error prone at B1. Note on punctuation: many grammar books stress that when the if clause precedes the main clause, it must use a comma. We cannot establish a consistent competency for this (and punctuation in general). It seems too idiosyncratic. L1 can be a skewing factor

COORDINATED

FORM/USE: 'NEITHER ... NOR', EMPHASIS
Can combine two main clauses of the same type using 'neither' in front or mid position, followed by 'nor' to introduce the second clause, for emphasis.

Corrected Learner Examples
We neither walk nor do exercises.
They neither got married nor had children.
We should neither eat too much, nor eat too.

Comments
The writer chooses this structure so as to add emphasis. The less emphatic alternative to 'We neither walk nor do exercises' is 'We don’t walk or do exercises'.

FORM/USE: 'NOT ONLY ... BUT (ALSO)', FOCUS
Can combine clauses using 'not only' in mid position of the first clause followed by ... 'but (also)' to introduce the second clause, to give focus.

Corrected Learner Examples
The atmosphere was friendly, not only because it wasn’t too crowded, but also because the waiters always help you.
I really like it, not only because it is nice and colourful but because I spent most of my childhood summers there.

IMPERATIVES

FORM/USE: 'DO NOT', EMPHASIS
Can use 'do not' for emphasis or in formal contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples
Do not forget to have a break at lunchtime and try to eat your meal whenever possible in a silent room.
Do not hesitate to contact me should you need further information.

FORM/USE: 'LET'S NOT', SUGGESTION
Can use 'let's not' + base form of a main verb to make a suggestion.

Corrected Learner Examples
Let's not lose track of each other again!
Let's not forget that zoos actually help us keep dying species alive ....
Let’s not make the situation more complicated with companies and things like that.
INTERROGATIVES

FORM: NEGATIVE INTERROGATIVE + ADVERB
Can form negative interrogative clauses with an adverb in mid position, between the subject and the main verb.

Corrected Learner Examples
Money – hasn’t it always been one of the most important problems for students?
Why don’t you ever listen to me?
Haven’t you ever heard about the photographer Donatela and the painter Christian?

PHRASES/EXCLAMATIONS

FORM/USE: NEGATIVE INTERROGATIVE
Can use the negative interrogative form of an auxiliary verb to express surprise or enthusiasm.

Corrected Learner Examples
Wouldn’t it be wonderful!
Doesn’t that sound excellent to you?!

Comments
No evidence of other auxiliary verbs in this structure. Very low frequency because of lack of spoken data.

RELATIVE

FORM/USE: DEFINING, WITH 'WHOSE'
Can use defining relative clauses with 'whose', to give more information about relationship.

Corrected Learner Examples
I visited several primary schools in Canberra and had opportunities to teach not only Australian children but also Vietnamese children whose parents immigrated to Australia.
Mary is a young lady whose parents had died and she had nobody else but an aunt to live with.

FORM/USE: SENTENCE, EVALUATIVE
Can use a relative clause to refer to a whole clause or sentence, often to express an opinion or evaluation or give a reason.

Corrected Learner Examples
It is now possible to send a letter and receive an answer within ten minutes, which is a good thing if you want to buy a house, a car etc.
In addition, zoological gardens allow us to get to know the lifestyles of some animals better, which is very important from the point of view of their protection.
I have also visited the dance shows and the art exhibitions, as well as the talks by writers, which were all really brilliant.

Comments
This is much more frequent in informal spoken language.

FORM: NON-DEFINING, WITH 'WHOSE'
Can use non-defining relative clauses with 'whose', to give additional information.
Corrected Learner Examples
And I was initially employed to be an entrance assistant, whose job was to keep the queue under control as well as keeping the area clean.
I was at the concert when I met a friend of mine whose job is to organise shows like that.

FORM: PRONOUN + PREPOSITION
Can use defining relative clauses and non-defining relative clauses ending in a preposition, with 'who/which/that' as the complement of the preposition.

Corrected Learner Examples
Thank you very much for having provided us with valuable information about your finance services, which we are greatly interested in.
I would like to do some painting, which I am quite good at.
They have three wonderful children who I love to play with.
He was involved in a case that he had nothing to do with!

SUBORDINATED

FORM/USE: ‘–ING’ CLAUSE
Can use a non-finite clause, introduced by ‘–ing’ before a main clause, to give more information.

Corrected Learner Examples
Having no choice, I sat down on a bench which was in the middle of the road to wait for the rain to stop.
Using his best smile, Paul asked her if he could sit beside her.
Having analysed the data I have concluded that CTP Translations would suit our company best.

Comments
Note negative pattern develops at C1: 'Not knowing the North of London very well it took me quite a long time to get there.' Note also the examples of the perfect form as well, here and below.

FORM/USE: CONDITIONS
Can use a finite subordinate clause, before or after a main clause, with conjunctions to introduce conditions. ➞ clauses: conditionals

Corrected Learner Examples
Unless something is done many people will die.
Getting to work by car is comfortable and faster unless you are caught in a traffic jam.
Provided the weather is fine, you could also go swimming or take a tour through our beautiful town.
I agree with you that your house will certainly be too small and I like your suggestion to book the Majestic Hotel, provided it will not be too expensive.

Comments
While 'unless' is a B1 lexical item in the EVP and taught at B1, its conditional use is not established until B2. Also note that 'unless' is very error prone at B1.
FORM/USE: NON–FINITE WITH ‘–ING’
Can use a non–finite subordinate clause with 'after' + 'having/being' + '–ed' form, before a main clause, to refer to past time.

Corrected Learner Examples
After having worked for many hours, you'll probably be tired.
After having left you, we reached Dublin and we stayed there for four days and then we made a tour of Ireland.
After being given the pass you'll be able to take as many pictures you like.

CONJUNCTIONS

COORDINATING

FORM/USE: 'BOTH ... AND' WITH PHRASES AND CLAUSES
Can use 'both ... and' to combine phrases and clauses, often for emphasis.

Corrected Learner Examples
And we have won a high reputation both at home and abroad.
A lot of people think that television can both entertain and educate.
Why not buying some extra beer and sell them on the beach? So, I could both get some enjoyment and make some money. So that was I did.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
And we have won high reputation both at home and abroad.
A lot of people think that television can both entertain and educate.
So, I could both get some enjoyment and make some money.

FORM/USE: ‘NEITHER … NOR’
Can use 'neither ... nor' to connect two words, phrases or clauses, often to give emphasis or focus.

Corrected Learner Examples
Neither you nor I would like that.
We can neither eat nor drink during the lessons.
I have neither climbed nor surfed before, so that would be very exciting for me.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
Neither you nor I would like that.
We can neither eat nor drink during the lessons.
I have neither climbed nor surfed before, so that would be very exciting for me.

SUBORDINATING

FORM: COMPLEX
Can use more complex subordinating conjunctions ('as long as, as soon as, in order that, despite the fact that, due to the fact that, as if, as though') to introduce a subordinate clause.
**Corrected Learner Examples**

As far as I am concerned, keeping animals in zoos is not cruel as long as the zoos keep to certain rules concerning the conditions the animals have to be kept in.

I decided to go to Paris as soon as I finished university.

The jazz, rock and classical concerts were really entertaining except that there were some concert halls which were too small for the audience.

So take a rest in your hotel, in order that you can be prepared for your packed schedule.

To sum up, the festival was successful, so I hope most people enjoyed the festival despite the fact that there were some problems with the poor sound system, and so on.

Due to the fact that the mass of cars pollute the cities and the environment, we are forced to give up our city habits and learn to be more sensible by using public transportation.

From the window of my room I could see her every night, as if she was the great mother of the sky.

Everything was so familiar, so close, as though he had never left the place.

**Uncorrected Learner Examples**

As far as I am concerned keeping animals in zoos is not cruel as long as the zoos keep to certain rules concerning the conditions the animals have to keep up with.

Thank you for your time, and We’re looking forward to hearing from your opinion. faithfully yours</original_answer>

IT WAS DANGEROUS, BUT I KNEW I HAD TO DO IT ...BECAUSE Since always I’d gotten the idea of travel abroad and experience others people’s life and cultures, so I decided to go to Paris as soon as I finished university.

The jazz, rock and classical concerts were really entertaining except that there were some concert halls too small for the audience: I’m sure that you can find bigger halls for next year.

So take a rest in your hotel, in order that you can be prepared for your full scheduled days.

To sum up, the festival was successful, so I hope most people enjoyed the festival despite the fact that there were some problems with the poor sound system, and so on.

Due to the fact that the mass of cars pollute the cities and the environment, we are forced to give up our city habits and learn to be more reasonable by using public transportation.

From the window of my room I could see her every night, as if she was the great mother of the sky. (588860.1: FCE: Portugal: B2 VANTAGE: 1993: Portuguese; Pass)Everything was so familiar, so close, as though he never left the place.

**FORM: SIMPLE**

Can use a wide range of simple subordinating conjunctions (’once, whereas, unless, except (that) provided (that)’), to introduce a subordinate clause.
Corrected Learner Examples

Believe me, once you have tried it, you'll never give it up.
Once you become an employee, you'll get discounts on books and CDs.
Some of us find it very useful whereas others still have difficulty in accepting technology as a valuable thing for everyone.
Getting to work by car is comfortable, and faster unless you are caught in a traffic jam.
Unless the situation improves, we will be forced to try a new supplier.
Whenever I walk down the street, I always want to go into every shop.
I can't say that I've changed much, except that now I'm blond!
It offers special services for students provided you show your student card.
Also, provided that some customers are always in the shops, the electricity is not really "wasted".

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Believe me, once you have tried it, you'll never leave it.
Once you become an employee you'll get discounts on books and CDs.
Some of us find it very useful, whereas others still have difficulty in accepting technology as a valuable thing for everyone.
Getting to work by bicycle is good solution but only in case of good weather and getting to work by car is comfortable and faster unless you are caught in a traffic jam.
Unless the situation improves we will be forced to try a new supplier.
I can't say that I changed much, except that now I'm blond!
It offers special services for student, such as a welcome drink and a cheap price for the room provided you show your student card.
Also, provided that some customers are always in the shops, the electricity is not so much "wasted".

DETERMINERS

ARTICLES

FORM/USE: 'THE MORE ... THE MORE ...'
Can use the in comparative phrases 'more', 'less', 'worse', 'better ... the more', 'less', 'worse ...'
to talk about one thing that is affected by another. ► comparative clauses

Corrected Learner Examples
[talking about how watching TV is bad for you] I mean that you can watch one or two hours a day but the more you watch, the worse you become.
The better education you have, the better opportunities you can get.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
I mean that you can see one or two hours a day but the more you see the worse you become.
The better education you have the better opportunity you can get.
POSSESSIVES

FORM: 'ITS'
Can use possessive determiner 'its' before nouns to refer to a singular inanimate subject or object.

Corrected Learner Examples
It was the biggest TV in the bazaar with its huge, black screen.
The journey was quite long but Verona is a great city, with its buildings and churches.
They've chosen my school because of its size.

Comments
Lots of error using 'his' instead of 'its' up until B2.

FORM: OF + NOUN PHRASE "S"
Can use "s" after a noun phrase with of to indicate possession.

Corrected Learner Examples
Actually, I know a great one and they can make a little discount for us because the owner is a friend of my father's.

Comments
This feature is very low frequency in the CLC.

FORM: PLURAL NOUN + 'S'
Can use 's' after plural nouns to indicate possession.

Corrected Learner Examples
I decided to spend the rest of my holiday in my parents' house, near the sea.
So, if you want to study animals' behaviour, try to do it without changing the real circumstances in which they act!

USE: GENERIC 'THEIR'
Can use 'their' before nouns to refer to a generic body or group of people expressed as a singular subject. ► generic pronouns

Corrected Learner Examples
... yet everyone has their preference for one or another.
Everyone has their own opinion.
IBM is a very important customer for us and they ordered 10,000 colour copies which show their new product.

QUANTITY

FORM: 'LITTLE/FEW'
Can use modifier + 'little' + uncountable nouns and modifier + 'few' + countable nouns, to indicate a lack of something or not as much as expected of something.► adverbs
Corrected Learner Examples
I spend very little time outside, and I know I do not have enough stamina and strength.
We are sick of working hard for so little money.
There are so few animals living on the earth today and the pandas have so few places left to
live and to eat, so we must try helping these animals.

DISCOURSE MARKERS

DISCOURSE MARKERS IN WRITING

FORM/USE: COMPARING
Can use a range of phrases as discourse markers to introduce a comparison.

Corrected Learner Examples
[talking about celebrating New Year] But some countries celebrate on other dates too, like they
have Chinese New Year according to their calendar. Likewise, in Nepal New Year is celebrated
on 1st of Baishak, which is the start of a new year according to the Nepalese calendar.
This group is expected to decrease considerably in the next fifty years. Similarly, the
population of children are likely to drop to 11.5% in 2050.
When you read a letter from someone, you can imagine and almost feel the emotions of that
someone. In the same way, when you read a book, you can feel the author's sensations, travel
to distant places or participate in adventures only possible in your imagination.

FORM/USE: ORGANISING, OPENINGS AND CLOSINGS, FORMAL
Can use a range of phrases as discourse markers to open and close texts and point to
conclusions, often in formal contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples
To begin with, I want to ensure that you are going to have a great time with us.
For a start, we have lived with books for thousands of years while television is only half a
century old.
In conclusion, if people in zoos look after the animals, it isn?t cruel to keep an animal in zoo.
To sum up, I think that whether you use a car or a bicycle depends on several aspects: where
you live, when you work, the weather, and also the kind of job you do.
In summary I would like to say that the majority of students is willing to help with cleaning,
collecting the rubbish or even giving up their cars.

FORM/USE: SUMMARISING, FORMAL
Can use a range of phrases as discourse markers to summarise.

Corrected Learner Examples
Thus, I would be very grateful if you would send me clear explanations of the following points:
firstly, I would like you to specify what ?the normal price? is, and therefore what would be the
cost of two nights.
Consequently, visiting zoos can help people learn about nature.
Hence, there is a great need to improve the situation of those animals so that their life would
not become life imprisonment.
Therefore, we are likely to enter the market as a pioneer, which will have a lot of benefits.
Comments
Even though 'in sum' and 'To sum up' have a summarising function they are very much markers of closings. 'Thus', 'Hence', etc. have more of a clausal summarising function.

FOCUS

FORM/USE: 'THE REASON (THAT)', 'THE PLACE (WHICH)' + CLAUSE, SUBJECT
Can use 'The reason (that)', 'The place (which)' + clause as subject + 'be' for focus. ► Relative clauses

Corrected Learner Examples
The reason I am writing is to suggest a few things about our holidays.
The reason that I never continued taking lessons is that my school–work became too heavy and the costs of lessons were too expensive for me as a student.
The place you need is called "Academiuta".
The place we appreciated the most was the Cap Frehel, where nature is still wild and the birds feel at home.
The place which has impressed me most of all in my life is Abastumani. (Georgia (Republic of); B2 VANTAGE; 1997; Russian; Pass).

Comments
The thing/person is structure is covered in the relative clauses profile at B1 level, (e.g. The person who sat next to me was her). By B2, a wider range of forms are used as subject.

FORM/USE: 'THE THING/ FACT/ POINT/ PROBLEM IS (THAT)'
Can use 'The thing, fact, point, problem, or reason + is (that)' for focus.

Corrected Learner Examples
The reason is I like children, I have experience of looking after disabled people and I like to do things like volunteering.
The problem is I know myself, I am always late when I have to leave my house so I need a car to go faster.
The fact is that not all animals are able to deal with this.
The fact is science needs computers to increase knowledge and businesses need them like the air we breathe.
It is true that a lot of accidents are caused by cars. The point is that the car itself does not cause the accident.
The thing is, Alison is an eleven–year–old girl who has been, together with her father, left behind by her mother when she was just three.
FUTURE

FUTURE CONTINUOUS

FORM: QUESTIONS
Can use 'yes/no' and 'wh-' question forms with 'will'.

Corrected Learner Examples
Will they be holding any activities at night?
Will I be needing any money?
What will you be doing in a few years if now you don’t even try to do anything?

Uncorrected Learner Examples
Will they be holding any activities at night?
Will I be needing any money.
What will you be doing in few years if now you don’t even try to do anything.

Comments
There is no evidence at any level to show use as politeness strategy due to the lack of spoken data.

USE: POLITENESS
Can use the future continuous with 'will' as a polite question form, in place of the present simple or future simple.

Corrected Learner Examples
Will I be needing any money?

Uncorrected Learner Examples
Will I be needing any money.

Comments
Use of this structure as a politeness strategy is very low frequency in CLC. It shows use of the structure as a pragmatic device. Examples in the CIC include ‘How long will you be staying?’ ‘Will you be needing anything else?’

FUTURE EXPRESSIONS WITH BE

FORM: 'BE ABOUT TO'
Can use the present forms of 'be' + 'about to'.

Corrected Learner Examples
You are not going to believe what I am about to tell you!
I’m in a hurry, my class is about to begin.
They are to offer the spectators a view of the variety and the beauty of the world we are surrounded by and which we are about to destroy.
Uncorrected Learner Examples
You are not going to believe what I am about to tell you!
I'm in a hurry, my class is about to begin.
They are to offer the spectators a view of the variety and the beauty of the world we are surrounded by and which we are about to destroy.

Comments
No results for negative form.

FORM: 'BE DUE TO'
Can use the present form of 'be' + 'due to'.

Corrected Learner Examples
I am afraid that July is the only appropriate month, because I am due to start work in August.
As some of the members of our team are due to be present at a sales promotion programme next Friday, the marketing meeting once scheduled for next Friday is postponed to next Saturday.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
I am afraid that July is the only appropriate month, because I am due to start work in August.
As some of the members of our team are due to be present at a sales promotion programme next Friday, the marketing meeting once scheduled for next Friday is postponed to next Saturday.

Comments
No results for negative form. Although B2 seems like a very high level for this feature, there is not enough evidence in the corpus to put it any lower.

FORM: 'BE TO'
Can use the present form of 'be' + 'to'.

Corrected Learner Examples
Dear Erica, I am sorry that I cannot attend the meeting at head office as expected, as I am to go on a business trip to New York then.
He is to come to Athens next Friday.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
Dear Erica, I am sorry that I cannot attend the meeting at head office as expected, as I am to go on a business trip to New York then.
He is to come Athens next Friday.

USE: IMMEDIATE FUTURE WITH 'BE ABOUT TO'
Can use 'be about to' to talk about the immediate future, often with 'just'.

Corrected Learner Examples
I know what you're about to answer, and moreover you might be right;
We're about to introduce a new identity card system in our company.
My company has a high reputation for manufacturing healthy foods and we are just about to launch a newly-developed healthy snack for children which requires financial backing urgently.
Uncorrected Learner Examples
I know what you're about to answer, and moreover you might be right; but I'm sure that you don't choose the right option when you work fourteen hours a day.
We're about to introduce a new identity card system in our company.
My company has a high reputation for manufacturing healthy foods and we are just about to launch a newly-developed healthy snack for children which requires financial backing urgently.

Comments
Although there is evidence of this feature at B1, most of those are Business English or occur only in data from Spanish learners.

USE: OBLIGATIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS WITH 'BE TO'
Can use 'be to' talk about future obligations and to give instructions.

Corrected Learner Examples
[talking about gorillas] We have no right to do so, because they are to be respected as much as any other living form on this planet!
They are to have their passports with them.
You're to sit in front of the TV and just watch the film.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
We have no right of doing so, because they are to be respected as much as any other living form on this planet!
They are to have their passports with them.

Comments
No examples with 'be to' for formal events and occasions, e.g. 'The President is to open the new library.'

USE: SCHEDULES
Can use 'be due to' and, more formally, 'be to' talk about things that are scheduled or expected.

Corrected Learner Examples
Our annual conference for HR managers is due to take place on 10 December 2010.
However, the demand for products is still estimated as 'normal' and is due to increase within the next 6 months.
I am sorry but we are to leave a bit earlier – at about 16.00.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
Our annual conference for HR managers is due to take place at 10 December 2010.
However, the demand for products is still estimated as ,,normal" and is due to increase within the next 6 months.
I am sorry but we are to leave a bit earlier – at about 16:00.

FUTURE IN THE PAST

USE: 'BE ABOUT TO'
Can use the simple past form of 'be' + 'about to' (often with 'just') to talk about the immediate future from a point in the past.
Corrected Learner Examples
Two days before, I told him that our father was about to buy a brand new car.
When I was about to answer the question, I realised that it was not as easy as I had thought.
Dear Helen, Believe it or not, I was just about to write you a letter when I received yours.
Just as we were about to climb through the broken window, a policeman arrived on the scene.

USE: 'BE ON THE POINT OF'
Can use the simple past form of 'be' + 'on the point of' + '-ing' to talk about things that were expected to happen soon after a point in the past.

Corrected Learner Examples
In addition, when I was on the point of leaving the office, another phone rang.
In fact he simulated his death to escape from the police, who were on the point of catching him fora penicillin racket.

Comments
This structure is very low frequency in both CLC and CEC

FUTURE PERFECT CONTINUOUS

FORM: AFFIRMATIVE
Can use the affirmative form with 'will'.

Corrected Learner Examples
This summer I will have been working for three years for my company ...

Uncorrected Learner Examples
This summer I will have been working for three years for my company and last month I was promoted to the Environment Department where I was allowed to use the "Save the Planet" project to take part into the competition.

Comments
Very low frequency item. No results for contracted forms

FORM: NEGATIVE

Comments
No results for negative form or question form, probably due to lack of data

USE: LOOKING BACK FROM A POINT IN THE FUTURE
Can use the future perfect continuous to look back to the past from a point in the future and to emphasise the duration of an activity or event.

Corrected Learner Examples
Now I am staying in Hastings in England and this month, I will have been studying English for seven months.
I think I could have a holiday just in July because I will have been working for my company for one year by the end of the June.
Uncorrected Learner Examples
Now I stay in Hastings in England and by this month, I will have been studying English for seven months.
I think, I could have an holiday just in July because I will have been working in my previous company for one year by the end of the June and I will have a one month holiday period from my company.

FUTURE PERFECT SIMPLE

FORM: AFFIRMATIVE
Can use the affirmative form with 'will'.

Corrected Learner Examples
I’m sure I will have learned today’s lesson by the next lesson.
It seems that the decorative role of clothes will have disappeared by the year 2050.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
I’m sure I will have learned today’s lesson by the next lesson.
It seems that the decorative role of clothes will have disappeared by the year of 2050.

Comments
There is no evidence in the CLC of the future perfect simple with 'shall' rather than 'will'.

FORM: NEGATIVE
Can use the negative form with 'will'.

Corrected Learner Examples
I think that the best time for me to visit Scotland would be in July, because I will not have finished my university exams by June.
[talking about a cycling trip] Once we have finished it, we won't have done more than 40 km, and there are just another 10 to get to the Lakeside Inn.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
I think that the best time for me to visit Scotland would be in July, because I will not have finished my university exams by June.
Once we have finished it we won't have done more than 40 km and there are just another 10 to get to the Lakeside Inn.

USE: EVENTS COMPLETED IN THE FUTURE
Can use the future perfect simple with 'will' to talk about something which is expected to be completed (or not completed) by a certain point in the future.

Corrected Learner Examples
There is no problem if you want to leave at 4.30 pm as the match will have finished by that time.
First of all, if you go to work by bicycle every day, at the end of the month you will have saved more money because you won't have spent it buying petrol.
Uncorrected Learner Examples
There is no problem if you want to leave at 4.30p.m. as the match will have finished by this time.
First of all, if you goes to work by bicycle every day, at the end of the month you will have saved more money because you won’t have spent it buying petrol.

PRESENT CONTINUOUS FOR FUTURE USE

USE: FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS
Can use the present continuous with a wide range of verbs to talk about future arrangements.

Corrected Learner Examples
We’re throwing a party for fun on 5th January.
She is joining the course on Friday.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
We are throwing a Party for fun on the fith of January 2004.
She is joining the course on Friday and likes it very much.

USE: QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE
Can use the present continuous with a wide range of common verbs to ask about future plans.

Corrected Learner Examples
So are you planning to visit Japan then?
When is the festival starting and when is it finishing?
What kind of seminar materials are you providing?

Uncorrected Learner Examples
So are you planning to visit Japan then!?
Can you write me when is the festival starting and when is it finishing?
What kind of seminar materials are you providing?

Comments
Note that the range of verbs increases, but only across common verbs that are associated with lower levels. There is very little lexical development going on, which could be related to task effect.

MODALITY

ADJECTIVES

FORM/USE: 'IT' + LINKING VERB + ADJECTIVES + ('THAT') CLAUSE, FOCUS
Can use 'it' + linking verb + adjective + ('that') clause as a focusing device.
Corrected Learner Examples

It is clear that we can't live without computers today.
It seems obvious that this oil comes from the gas station.
Computers became part of the human lifestyle because they help us to make our lives easier, but it is clear that we should never depend on machines to handle our lives.
Due to the introduction of a new staff appraisal form, it is crucial that you take part.
It's obvious you can't ride forty kilometres twice a day, unless you're very sporty.
It is essential that you know the advantages of our new product in order to sell this bag efficiently.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

You are bound to leave for home with plenty of good memories.
They are unlikely to arrive on Friday.
We are sure to increase our turnover and at least our profit.
Whenever money is involved, some problems are likely to happen.
She was sure to have heard a shot.
[Talking about animals in zoos] They're obliged to live in small and uncomfortable cages.

FORM/USE: ‘IT’ + LINKING VERB + ADJECTIVES + CLAUSE, HEDGING

Can use ‘it’ + linking verb + adjective + (‘that’) clause to make an assertion less direct.

Corrected Learner Examples

It does not seem possible that we can live without any private life.
It is likely that by reading books we will learn some new words and phrases so that we will be able to write better.
It is possible that only one computer will do this.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

It does not seem possible that we can live without any private life.
It is likely that by reading books we will learn some new words and phrases so that we will be able to write better.
It is possible that only one computer will do this.

FORM: ‘IT’ + LINKING VERB + ADJECTIVES + CLAUSE

Can use ‘it’ + linking verb + adjective + (‘that’) clause.

Corrected Learner Examples

It seems clear to me that swimming is good for the whole body.
It is obvious that some people prefer reading books.
It is possible that we can be educated by TV.
It seems obvious that it is not necessary.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

If you have to choose between two schools I think it's important for you to know how they are.
It's impossible for me to meet with you at six o'clock.
It is important for everyone to attend this meeting.
[Talking about not missing class] It's essential for me to go because I think I can't study physics by myself.
FORM: SUBJECT + 'BE' + ADJECTIVE + 'TO' + INFINITIVE
Can use pronoun or noun + 'be' + adjective + 'to' + (past) infinitive.

Corrected Learner Examples
They are unlikely to arrive on Friday.
We are sure to increase our turnover and at least our profit.
Whenever money is involved, some problems are likely to happen.
If you see a movie, it is likely to have been made with computers.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
It is clear that we can't live without computers today.
It seems obvious that this oil comes from the gas station.
Computers became part of the human life style because they help us to make our lives easier, but it is clear that we should never depend on machines to handle our lives.
Due to the introduction of a new staff appraisal form it is crucial that you take part.
It's obvious you can't ride twice a day forty kilometers, unless you're a great sportive.
It is essential that you know the advantages of our new product in order to sell this bag efficiently.

CAN
FORM: WITH ADVERBS
Can use 'can' with an increasing range of adverbs (including 'easily', 'hardly', 'now', 'probably', 'sometimes', 'still') in the normal mid position after the modal verb or after the subject in questions. ➤ adverbs

Corrected Learner Examples
In case you need them, I can easily provide references.
On the other hand you can hardly imagine an evening when you are sitting in your armchair, the tea is on the table and you are reading your favourite novel on a computer screen.
As you read her book, you can probably imagine what kind of personality she has got, and after finishing it, you will be more cheerful than before.

USE: GENERAL TRUTHS AND TENDENCIES
Can use 'can' to talk about general truths and tendencies.

Corrected Learner Examples
...some young people can feel bored when they have to walk a lot and look at [...] very old things.
Too much work can cause "stress" and heart problems.

USE: GUESSES AND PREDICTIONS
Can use the negative forms of 'can't' and 'cannot' to guess, predict and deduce.

Corrected Learner Examples
You look very pale and you can't be feeling well.
I think that it can't be true.
[talking about someone suspected of being a criminal] He can't be; he is too young.
It cannot be any good for these animals to be taken away from their natural surroundings.
USE: REPROACHES AND APPEALS
Can use negative forms of 'can' to make reproaches or appeals.

Corrected Learner Examples
You can’t forget your friends.
...he can’t go on behaving like this.
Please, listen, you can’t go on studying so hard.
You have to realise that you cannot work all the time: your body needs some rest.
Can't you see how exhausted you are?

COULD

FORM: PAST
Can used 'could' have + '-ed'.

Corrected Learner Examples
In fact it could have been dangerous but it became funny and also an embarrassing moment in my life!
What could have happened?
I must confess that our teacher couldn't have picked anyone better to do it.

USE: PAST POSSIBILITY
Can used affirmative 'could' have + '-ed' to talk about past possibility.

Corrected Learner Examples
Alice was disappointed that her mother could have phoned her but she did not.
I think that all these problems could have been avoided and that asking my money back is the best way of forgetting that evening.
I was grateful to them because the ticket was so expensive that I couldn't have bought it.

USE: PAST SPECULATION
Can use 'could have' + '-ed' to speculate about the past.

Corrected Learner Examples
I thought perhaps a thief could have entered my house.
? she could have ruined everything I had been preparing for almost four weeks.
If he had mugged her, who could have saved her?

USE: REGRET
Can use 'could have' + '-ed' to talk about regrets.

Corrected Learner Examples
I wish I could have stayed, especially to help the children.
[someone reflecting on their performance as part of a team at work] I could have listened more to my team members and learned from the experienced ones.

USE: REPORTED SPEECH
Can use 'could' as the past form of 'can' in reported speech.

Corrected Learner Examples
I told them I couldn't go because I didn't have money, I wasn't honest!
The woman said she could put me up if I wanted, and led me to a house nearby.
DARE

FORM: AFFIRMATIVE
Can use affirmative form dare + infinitive without to.

Corrected Learner Examples
I can cook if you dare eat it!

Comments
LOW FREQUENCY ITEM. There is very little use of 'dare' as a semi-modal in CLC even at C2 level. Most examples are dare as main verb not functioning as a modal verb. At C level there is lots of evidence of 'dare' + 'to' inf and lots of errors with 'dare' + '-ing'

FORM: NEGATIVE
Can use negative form dare not and daren't + infinitive without to.

Corrected Learner Examples
[talking about a restaurant] But many local people dare not go to Lily, because it is too expensive.

Comments
LOW FREQUENCY ITEM: There are very few examples of 'dare not' and 'daren't' in the CLC. See also comment at B2 'affirmative'.

USE: BRAVADO
Can use semi-modal 'dare' to talk about being brave enough to do something.

Corrected Learner Examples
Some people object that I have to put up with the rain and other inconveniences, but I think that they are rather jealous because they daren't give up their car.

Comments
LOW FREQUENCY ITEM: There are very few examples of 'dare not' and 'daren't' in the CLC. See also comment at B2 'affirmative'.

EXPRESSIONS WITH BE

FORM/USE: 'BE MORE/LESS LIKELY', COMPARISON
Can use 'much more/less' to modify 'likely' in a comparison.

Corrected Learner Examples
In case of an accident, one is more likely to be badly injured when riding a bicycle. Since they are more and better educated when they leave school at 18 years old, their minds are more mature and they are more sensible. They are more likely to have better jobs and a better life, and much less likely to cause problems to other people.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
In case of an accident one is more likely to be badly injured when riding a bicycle. Since they are more and better educated when they leave school at 18 yrs old, their minds are more mature, they are more likely having better jobs and better life and much less likely to cause crimes and problems to other people.
FORM/USE: IMPERATIVE
Can use the imperative form 'be sure to', to express obligation.

Corrected Learner Examples
If you cannot attend, be sure to inform me in advance.
Be sure to contact me for any further information.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
If you cannot attend, be sure to inform me in advance.
Be sure to contact me for any further information.

Comments
There are no instances of the imperative with 'certain' in the CLC. This tallies with the NS data where there is only one instance of Be certain to in the BNC written.

FORM: 'BE' + ADJECTIVE + 'THAT'
Can use 'be' + 'obvious/sure/likely/certain' followed by a 'that'-clause.

Corrected Learner Examples
It is about 1000 years old, so I am sure that you will find it fascinating to see it.
It was obvious that I would be late to work.
It is likely that by reading books we will learn some new words and phrases so that we will be able to write better.
It is certain that our state-of-the-art LCD will be well received and make great profits.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
It is about 1000 years old, so I am sure that you will find it fascinating to see it.
It was obvious that I would be late at my work.
It is likely that by reading books we will learn some new words and phrases so that we will be able to write better.
It is certain that our state-of-the-art LCD will be well received and make great profits.

Comments
Examples here are with both a human subject 'I am sure that' and 'it' + adjective, for example 'It’s obvious that', since the grammatical pattern is the same.

FORM: 'BE' EXPRESSIONS + INFINITIVE
Can use the full range of expressions with 'be' + infinitive ('be likely to', 'be due to', 'be meant to', 'be bound to', 'be sure to', 'be certain to', 'be obliged to') with present and past forms of 'be' and with modal 'will'.

Corrected Learner Examples
People who read books are likely to be more knowledgeable.
I'm bound to feel nervous.
According to our new marketing strategy, we are sure to increase our turnover and our profit.
[talking about a new job] I am due to start on Monday 4 June.
I would like to inform you that as of 1st of June all operational staff will be obliged to use identity cards.
Sleepy and unwilling to take part of the conference, I was obliged to spend the evening listening to the soft voice of a man who was famous for his boring performances.
Uncorrected Learner Examples
People who read books are likely to be more knowledgable since they get informed.
I'm bound to feel nervous.
According to our new marketing strategy we are sure to increase our turnover and at least our profit.
[talking about a new job] I am due to start on Monday 4 June.

USE: 'BE BOUND TO', CERTAINTY
Can use 'be' (+ modifier) 'bound to' to talk about something certain or inevitable.

Corrected Learner Examples
I assure you that it is bound to be popular with different clients, especially young people and white-collar workers.
It is hardly possible to catch a cold when travelling by car in rain which is almost bound to happen while riding a bicycle.
To sum up, where many people get together, problems are bound to arise.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
I assure you that it is bound to be popular with different clients, especially those young people and the white-collar.
It is hardly possible to catch a cold when travelling by car in rain which is almost bound to happen while riding a bicycle.
To sum up, where many people get together, problems are bound to arise.

Comments
Note that at B2 learners can modify these adjectives, for example, 'almost bound', 'quite certain'...

USE: 'BE DUE TO', 'BE TO', SCHEDULES
Can use 'be due to' and, more formally, 'be to' to talk about things that are scheduled or expected.

Corrected Learner Examples
I have attached the … company law directive enacted 2 years ago and which is due to be implemented by 2008.
The programme was due to start at midday.
I am sorry that I cannot attend the meeting at head office as expected, as I am to go on a business trip to New York then.
I was to take exams in two weeks and had to study hard.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
I have attached the … company law directive enacted 2 years ago and which is due to be implemented by 2008.
The programme was due to start at midday
I am sorry that I can not attend the meeting at head office as expected, as I am to go on a business trip to New York then.
I was to take exams in two weeks and had to study hard ...

Comments
The 'be to' form is very low frequency in the CLC and the NS corpus.
USE: 'BE FORCED TO', OBLIGATION
Can use 'be forced to' to talk about an unnamed obligation, where the circumstances are beyond the control of the speaker/writer.

Corrected Learner Examples
I don't like to be forced to do something that I don't want to do.
Due to decreasing sales over the last months, we are forced to cut the budget.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
I don't like to be forced to do something what I don't want to do.
Due to decreasing sales over the last months we are forced to cut the budget

USE: 'BE LIKELY TO', PROBABILITY
Can use 'be' (+modifier) 'likely to' to talk about probability.

Corrected Learner Examples
And whenever money is involved, some problems are likely to happen.
I am very likely to make mistakes which I would like to avoid.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
And whenever money is involved, some problems are likely to happen.
I am very likely to make mistakes which I would like to avoid.

USE: 'BE MEANT TO', IDEAL STATES
Can use 'be meant to' to talk about ideal states.

Corrected Learner Examples
Animals are meant to be free, and man should be very careful about interfering with nature.
Primary school is meant to be there so that you build all the basics of your education.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
Animals are meant to be free, and man should be very careful to interfer with nature.
Primary school is meant to be there so that you built all the basics of your eduction.

Comments
There are 2.6 per million occurrences of 'be meant to' in CLC but in BNC there are only 0.2 per million occurrences.

USE: 'BE OBLIGED TO', OBLIGATION
Can use 'be obliged to' to talk about an external obligation, especially in institutional contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples
The Sales Representatives are obliged to participate.
By January 2 everybody is obliged to have a parking permit when using the company car park.
They were obliged to give up their house.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
The Sales Representatives are obliged to participate.
By January 2 everybody is obliged to have a parking permit when using the company car park.
They were obliged to give up their house.
Comments
There are a lot of instances of be obliged to where the grammatical structure is correct but is being used incorrectly to talk about a self-imposed obligation, e.g. I am obliged to admit having already caught a cold. Not obliged to doesn't appear until C1, probably due to lack of opportunity of use. We are not obliged to stay in the office waiting for calls. (SfLL2; C1; Arabic)

USE: 'BE SUPPOSED TO', HEARSAY
Can use 'be supposed to' to talk about hearsay or supposition.

Corrected Learner Examples
That woman is supposed to have killed her husbands (at least two), because she wanted their money.
The lake is supposed to be very beautiful.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
That woman is supposed to have killed her husbands (at least two), because she wanted their money.
The lake is supposed to be very beautiful.

USE: 'BE SUPPOSED TO', OBLIGATION, EXPECTATION
Can use 'be supposed to' to talk about expectation or obligation.

Corrected Learner Examples
However, the show is only on the 14th of March, the same day we are supposed to go to a Science Museum.
Our travels are supposed to provide us with pleasure, knowledge and new experiences.
I have bought some disks but I don't know what I am supposed to do with them.
I was supposed to explain to them what they had to do.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
However, the show is only on the 14th of March the same day we are supposed to go to a Science Museum.
Travels are supposed to provide us with pleasure, knowledge and new experiences.
I have bought some disks but I don't know what I am supposed to do with them.
I was supposed to explain to them what they had to do.

USE: 'BE SURE/CERTAIN TO'
Can use 'be sure to', 'be certain to' to talk about certainty.

Corrected Learner Examples
A person that will act in that way is sure to be successful.
Furthermore, by bicycle, you don't spend your time in traffic-jams and you are sure to arrive at work on time.
The market for this product is not yet fully developed, but we are certain to attract more and more people, especially students.
Uncorrected Learner Examples
A person that will act in that way is sure to be successful.
Furthermore, by bicycle, you don't spend your time into traffic-jams and you are sure to arrive at work in time.
The market of this product is not yet fully developed, but we are certain to attract more and more people, especially students.

HAVE (GOT) TO

USE: SUGGESTION
Can use 'you (have) got to' to make a strong suggestion.

Corrected Learner Examples
If you think you have seen almost everything in this world, you've got to see this museum.
[talking about a famous actor] You have to see at least one of her films ... I think if you haven't seen her films, you haven't lived at all!
You have to relax. You should try to live. You don't know what's going on around you.
The main thing to remember is that there many possibilities but you have to try to find them and not just say: "I want to work and earn money".

MAY

FORM/USE: PAST AFFIRMATIVE
Can use 'may have' + '-ed' to talk about possibility in the past.

Corrected Learner Examples
I think that he may have forgiven me for that accident ... !
As you may have noticed, there has been a delay setting up the new computer system.
[talking about buying something online] Another disadvantage is that you may have received the wrong size or colour.
Now, you may have seen your beautiful blue vase is not in your room any more; I broke it ...!

FORM: WITH ADVERBS
Can use 'may' with an increasing range of adverbs (most commonly 'even', 'only', 'already', 'never', 'just', 'sometimes') in the normal mid-position after the modal verb. ➔ adverbs

Corrected Learner Examples
When you're reading books, you may even find words you don't know and if you're an interested person, you will try to find out what it means, thus improving your vocabulary.
Think of all the children living in cities, they may never get the chance to come near any animals at all.

USE: COMMAND
Can use 'may I' to make a polite request, command or suggestion in formal contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples
May I have your attention please?
May I ask you to use e-mail or postal services whenever possible?
In terms of how we are going to travel around while we are there, may I suggest that we use the two bicycles that are at the house?
USE: FOCUSING
Can use 'may' in phrases such as as 'you may know', or 'as you may have' + '-ed' to focus the reader on shared knowledge.

Corrected Learner Examples
I usually take more than one book because, as you may know, it takes many hours to get there.
As you may have heard, I am going to change to the engineering department.
As you may have understood, the best opportunity to take photos will be during the performance, but you might also find backstage photos interesting.

USE: OPINION
Can use 'may ... but' to express an unexpected point of view.

Corrected Learner Examples
This may surprise you but I've managed to lose some weight, which I'm proud of.
[talking about cleaning musical instruments] You may think that it is quite boring but it is not.

USE: POLITE REQUEST
Can use 'may I' to make a polite request for permission.

Corrected Learner Examples
Sir, may I come in?
May I ask you if your special offer will be still available in September?
May I speak to Miss Wright, please?

MUST

FORM: PAST AFFIRMATIVE
Can use 'must have' + '-ed'.

Corrected Learner Examples
When I realized that he must have forgotten, I called him up.
We had lots of fun learning how to ski. It was pretty hard at the beginning. I must have fallen about fifty times.

FORM: QUESTIONS
Can use the question form.

Corrected Learner Examples
Is it possible to use the prize next year or must I cancel my trip to India?
Finally, how much money must I bring with me?

Comments
Example no.2: note that NS would more commonly use should in this context

FORM: WITH ADVERBS
Can use 'must' with an increasing range of adverbs (including 'all', 'never', 'strongly', 'first') in the normal mid position after the modal verb. ➔ adverbs
Corrected Learner Examples
To sum up, we must all act immediately because the existence of humanity may be in danger. But there is one, just one thing we must never forget: we have to be authentic.
[talking about a guide book] In addition I must strongly recommend you add something about nightlife.

USE: CONCESSIONS
Can use the fixed expression 'I must admit' or 'you must admit' to express concession.

Corrected Learner Examples
On the other hand you must admit that not all ready-made meals taste really good and often they are not as healthy as fresh ones.
However, I must admit that I completely agree with Chris and consider the mountain road too daring to try.

USE: DEDUCTIONS AND CONCLUSIONS
Can use the perfect form of 'must' to make deductions about the past.

Corrected Learner Examples
Of course, India must have changed a lot since Jules Verne wrote his book, but I think that its charm remains.
I must have looked awful because she asked me whether I was all right.

USE: EMPHASIS
Can use the fixed expression 'I must say' to give emphasis, usually about something positive.

Corrected Learner Examples
I must say that I'm most delighted to have you here with us, Mr. Saramago, and it's with enormous pleasure that my students will hear your words.
As I like music a lot I went to as many concerts as possible, and I must say that they were superb.

USE: OBLIGATION AND NECESSITY
Can use 'must' to ask about obligation and necessity.

Corrected Learner Examples
Is it possible to use the prize next year or must I cancel my trip to India?
Finally, how much money must I bring with me?

USE: RULES
Can use the negative forms of 'must' to talk about what is not permitted.

Corrected Learner Examples
You must not hit them or punish them without good reason if you do not want them to become your worst enemy.
They must not write on the walls.
In school for example, you mustn't talk during lessons, and you have to be on time.

NEED
FORM: NEGATIVE
Can use the negative form.
Corrected Learner Examples
You needn't worry about where we can stay.
... when I send an e-mail, I need not worry about the time.
You needn't go out jogging in the evening because you have already had your exercise.

Comments
Use of 'need' as a lexical verbs appears at lower levels (see EVP), but this profile looks only at 'need' as a semi-modal. 'Needn't' and the question form are both very low frequency. There are no examples with affirmative 'need'.

USE: OBLIGATION AND NECESSITY
Can use 'needn't to' talk about a lack of obligation.

Corrected Learner Examples
I like summer so much because the weather is hot and we needn't wear a jacket.
[talking about preparing for a party] As for the music, you needn't worry about it.

ought

FORM: ELLIPSIS
Can use 'ought to' without a following verb where the previous main verb is understood. ► ellipsis

Corrected Learner Examples
Otherwise some students would not get as much specialised help as they ought to.

Comments
This is a very low frequency form in both the learner and native speaker data.

USE: DESIRED STATES
Can use 'ought to' to talk about desired states of affairs.

Corrected Learner Examples
Furthermore, we ought to take care of our health by going on trips to not unpolluted places as often as possible.
Of course not all zoos are as good as they ought to be, but today we know so much about the different animals that they don't have to get bored in the zoo and we're able to provide them with the environment they prefer.
There shouldn't be any rubbish dumps, all the rubbish ought to be recycled.

Should

FORM: 'SHOULD BE' + '-ING'
Can use 'should be' + '-ing'.

Corrected Learner Examples
Well, you should be bouncing up and down with joy (just kidding)!
These are the reasons that I believe we should be reading books instead of watching television in our free time and I believe many people believe the same thinks as I do.
FORM: ELLIPSIS
Can use 'should' and 'shouldn't' without a following verb where the previous main verb is understood.

Corrected Learner Examples
Well, have you ever checked your blood pressure? I think you should.
John spent the rest of the day thinking about what he should do. In fact, he wanted to answer and meet her again, but he knew that he shouldn't.

USE: EXPECTATIONS
Can use 'should be' + '-ing' to talk about expectations.

Corrected Learner Examples
The computer systems should be working again once you restart them.
However, I think that the situation should be improving in the next 6 months, especially during the third quarter of the year.
[talking about wedding protocol] The groom should be waiting at the entrance for the bride.

USE: OBLIGATION
Can use 'should be' + '-ing' to talk about present general obligation.

Corrected Learner Examples
Wild animals should be running free but I think that zoos today have an important role in keeping them alive.
Moreover if a car driver has drunk too many alcoholic drinks or is tired he shouldn't be driving.

USED TO

FORM: ELLIPSIS
Can use 'used to' without a following verb where the previous main verb is understood.

Corrected Learner Examples
She doesn't travel as much as she used to.
I must admit that they did sound quite a lot better than they used to.

WILL

USE: REQUESTS
Can use 'will' (particularly 'Will you please?') to make requests and commands in a wide range of contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples
Will you please send me his name, address and telephone number.
Will you please inform me about the exact payment.
Will you pay attention!

Comments
Note that for Business English candidates this use first appears at B1.
WOULD

USE: HABITUAL PAST
Can use 'would' to talk about habitual actions and events in the past.

Corrected Learner Examples
[talking about a job that the speaker did last year] In my opinion I worked very hard. I would spend a lot of hours at work.
[from a story about pirates] At night they would go to the rocky seaside and light a fire in order to deceive the boats and let them crash on the rocks.

NEGATION

NEGATION

FORM/USE: 'NEITHER ? NOR'
Can use 'neither ? nor' to connect two words, phrases or clauses, often to give emphasis or focus.

Corrected Learner Examples
Neither you nor I would like that.
We can neither eat nor drink during the lessons.
I have neither climbed nor surfed before, so that would be very exciting for me.

FORM/USE: 'NEVER', INVERTED FRONT POSITION, FOCUS
Can use 'never' in front position followed by an inverted subject (most commonly 'I') + main verb, to give focus.

Corrected Learner Examples
Never have I seen such a realistic and impressive film before.
Never had I thought that my parents would do this to me.

FORM/USE: 'NOT', EMPHASIS
Can use uncontracted 'not' for emphasis or in formal contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples
Do not take on too many assignments at a time.
I cannot agree with you Mr Brown.
Keeping them in zoos will not help them.

FORM: 'NEITHER OF', 'NONE OF' + PRONOUN
Can use negative forms 'neither of' and 'none of' + pronoun or noun phrase with the affirmative form of the verb.

Corrected Learner Examples
Neither of us is liable in this case.
Moreover, none of my friends are interested therefore there is no one I can talk to.
We even met a French group and as none of them spoke English, we stayed with them to translate what they were asked.
NOUN PHRASES

FORM: COMPLEX NOUN PHRASES WITH ADJECTIVES COMBINED WITH 'BUT'
Can form an increasing range of complex noun phrases with more than one adjective combined with 'but'.

Corrected Learner Examples
I am very lucky, because I was born in a small but beautiful city called Neuva Helvecia.
As a result, in order to find out which is the most important, you need to ask yourself a simple but tricky question that no man would like to be asked.
The smoke in the air had a strong but good smell.
I will be on business in London to sign a contract with a new but significant customer at that time.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
I am very luckily, because I was born in a small, but beautiful city called Neuva Helvecia.
As a result, inorder to find out which is the most important you need to ask yourself a simple but tricky question that no man would like to be asked.
The smoke in the air had a strong but good smell.
Dear Erica I am sorry that I can not attend the meeting at the head office since I will be on business in London to sign a contract with a new but significant customer at that time.

FORM: NOUN + 'OF' + POSSESSIVE DETERMINER + NOUN
Can form noun phrases with noun + 'of' + possessive determiner + noun + 's', particularly with 'friend' or 'friends'.

Corrected Learner Examples
Actually, I know a great one and they can make a little discount for us because the owner is a friend of my father's.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
Actually, I know a great one and they can make a little discount for us because the owner is a friend of my father's.

Comments
This is more typical in spoken language. There is only one example in the CLC of this at B2 level and one at C2 level.

FORM: POSSESSION WITH PLURAL NOUNS + '
Can form noun phrases with plural nouns + ' + noun.

Corrected Learner Examples
He had promised that he would go to his grandparents’ house this afternoon.
Our company is a digital company with 15 years' experience.
It is essential to introduce special offers to get customers’ attention.
Uncorrected Learner Examples
He had promised that he would go to his grandparents’ house this afternoon.
Our company is a digital company with 15 years’ experience.
It is essential to introduce special offers to get customers’ attention.

FORM: POSTMODIFYING WITH ADJECTIVE PHRASE
Can form complex noun phrases by using adjective phrases as postmodifiers to give more information about the noun.

Corrected Learner Examples
Besides, we could leave one day in the morning and go by boat to a small and exotic island full of different and exotic species of birds that we could observe and photograph.
Emily Brontë succeeded in writing a romantic, psychological and tragic story, beautifully set in these mysterious moors.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
Besides we could leave one day in the morning and reach by boat to a small and exotic island full of different and exotic species of birds that we could observe and photograph.
Emily Brontë succeeded in writing a romantic, psychological and tragic\[al\] story, beautifully set in these mysterious moors.

TYPES

FORM’ING’ FORMS, SUBJECT
Can use the ‘-ing’ form of verbs as nouns in subject position.

Corrected Learner Examples
Working until midnight every evening is not reasonable. Working late is not the solution and it is even dangerous.
Also, think about stress. Driving in a city is stressful.
First of all, Wicklow Mountains Centre is the perfect place for climbing. Climbing is our favourite hobby and, I think, we will have a good time.
Many people say that they just don’t have time for thinking about their health. Living in today’s world demands spending a lot of time working.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
Working until midnight every evening is not reasonable. Working late is not the solution and it is even dangerous.
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First of all, Wicklow Mountains Centre is the perfect place for climbing. Climbing is our favourite hobby and, I think, we will have a good time.
Many people say that they just don’t have time for thinking about their health. Living in today’s world demands spending a lot of time working.

UNCOUNTABLE

FORM: NO ARTICLE
Can use uncountable nouns without a definite article to refer to an abstract thing in general.
Corrected Learner Examples
Television is more attractive because it has moving images.
Music was her life, not only a hobby.
Look at it this way, the more you work in school, the more you will achieve in your job.
Education is important to prevent you from being a dog on a leash!
Language can be learned slowly and reflects the culture and tradition of the country. Language even plays an important role in the tourist industry.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
Television is more attractive because it has moving images.
Music was her life, not only a hobby.
Look at it this way, the more you work in school, the more you will achieve in your job.
Education is important to prevent you from being a dog on a leash!
Language can be learned slowly and reflects the culture and tradition of the country.
Language even plays an important role in the tourist industry.

Comments
Note the abstract use here compared to the type of examples you find at A2, e.g. 'The music is going to be loud' – which refers to a specific concrete instance. Common errors with uncountables persist at B2 and increase with lexical growth, e.g. 'informations', 'advices', 'equipments', 'transports', 'knowledges', 'works', 'spendings', 'trainings', 'homeworks', 'researches', 'furnitures', 'behaviours', 'damages'. Learner example: 'Please send me all the informations and the application.'

PASSIVES

GET AND HAVE

FORM/USE: 'GET' + OBJECT + 'TO'-INFINITIVE
Can use 'get' + object + 'to'-infinitive to talk about causing someone to do something.

Corrected Learner Examples
I would like to point at a few things about our small town, which I, as a citizen, have to explain to our friends, in order to get them to visit us more frequently.
It is a good way to get them to shop at this particular store.
I do understand that it must be difficult to get these people to go to the festival.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
I would like to point at a few things about our small town, which I, as a citizen, have to explain to our friends, in order to get them to visit us more frequently.
Nowadays there are far more means of communication which can get you to work faster and safer than earlier.
It is a good way to get them to shop at this particular store.
I do understand that it must be difficult to get these people to go to the festival.

FORM/USE: 'HAVE' + OBJ + '-ED', PROACTIVE PASSIVE
Can use have + object + -ed to talk about something where the speaker is in a pro-active or a passive role.
**Corrected Learner Examples**

*After I left you on Monday, I had my car serviced and visited Washington with its wonderful memorials.*

*It’s such a shame that I’m having my room redecorated but, in my view, the garden will be perfect.*

*My plans fell through because I had my purse stolen and I had no money to continue my journey.*

*The other reason against going to work by bike in a big city is that the risk of having your bike stolen is bigger.*

*I had just played in the best team of Sao Paulo but I had to stop because I had my leg broken in a car crash.*

**Uncorrected Learner Examples**

*After I left you on Monday I had my car serviced and visited Washington with its' wonderful memorials.*

*It's such a shame that I'm having my room redecorated but, In my view the garden will be perfect.*

**Comments**

This form is used for situations that can have either a positive or negative outcome, depending on the context and the choice of verb.

**FORM: 'GET' + REFLEXIVE PRONOUN + '-ED'**

Can use a reflexive pronoun with the 'get'-passive.

**Corrected Learner Examples**

*Although to drive a car you must be very careful because you could get yourself killed if you don't drive carefully enough.*

*Although he has a charming personality he uses it to get himself involved in illegal activities.*

**Uncorrected Learner Examples**

*Although to drive a car you me very careful because you could get yourself killed if you don’t drive carefully enough.*

*Although he has a charming personality he uses it to get himself involved in illegal activities.*

**Comments**

This form is often used to suggest that the subject shares some of the responsibility of and is more frequent in spoken use than written.

**PASSIVES: FORM**

**FORM: INFINITIVE**

Can use the passive infinitive affirmative and negative forms after an increasing range of main verbs, modal verbs, adjectives and nouns, in impersonal constructions.
Corrected Learner Examples
According to your advertisement, some training is supposed to be given.
My composition was ready to be printed and I was searching for a piece of paper?
I would prefer to sleep in a tent because I have never done it and I think it is an experience not
to be missed, a very original adventure!
The reason that I took part in your research was to help youngsters not to be addicted to
computer games?
For one, the future homes might not be built out of bricks at all!

FORM: MODAL PERFECT
Can use the present perfect simple affirmative and negative forms with modal verbs to refer to
the past.

Corrected Learner Examples
I think that all these problems could have been avoided and that asking for my money back is
the best way of forgetting that evening.
I don't remember how I lost it, it might have been stolen.
Of course, some groups were better than others but I think they all played well and have
talent: they should have been given a chance!
It should not have been used in this kind of article.

FORM: PAST CONTINUOUS AFFIRMATIVE.
Can use the past continuous passive affirmative.

Corrected Learner Examples
However, to my disappointment, the restaurant was closed because it was being redecorated.
After they explained everything to him, he then knew he was being tricked by them and that
this was supposed to be a special experience for him.
We thought that as you lived there, we could go to your house and stay there while the car was
being repaired.

Comments
Negative forms are very low frequency.

FORM: PAST PERFECT SIMPLE, AFFIRMATIVE
Can use the past perfect passive affirmative form.

Corrected Learner Examples
The car had been serviced and everything seemed to be all right.
At this moment, Lime walked in and realised he had been set up.

FORM: PAST PERFECT SIMPLE, NEGATIVE
Can use the past perfect passive negative form.

Corrected Learner Examples
[talking about a car] In fact, it hadn't been stolen, it had been taken by a man and his wife,
because their car broke down and because she was about to have her baby?
We waited for ages because we had not been informed.

FORM: PAST SIMPLE NEGATIVE
Can use past simple passive negative.
Corrected Learner Examples
What is worse, the ticket price was not reduced despite the fact that I showed my student ID.
I had to go to the hospital because my back hurt so badly, and I wasn’t allowed to work for two weeks.
I was really disappointed because a lot of things were not done.
Some say that studying animals would be impossible, if they weren’t kept in zoos?

FORM: PRESENT CONTINUOUS, AFFIRMATIVE
Can use the present continuous passive affirmative with an increasing range of verbs.

Corrected Learner Examples
This year’s topic is the online training for employees, which is being relaunched.
The global temperature is rising, the ice is melting, the sea level increases and miles and miles of coast are being submerged.
The first thing to be linked through computers was academic knowledge, then came commercial businesses, naturally, and now, people are being linked through billions of personal computers.

FORM: PRESENT CONTINUOUS, NEGATIVE
Can use the present continuous passive negative.

Corrected Learner Examples
? students are not being educated equally.
To conclude, in my opinion, it is important to keep as many languages as possible alive, so we can make sure that part of the human history is not being lost.
Firstly, the fact of different kinds of animals are in a zoo, doesn’t mean that they aren’t being treated right.

FORM: PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE, AFFIRMATIVE
Can use the present perfect passive affirmative form (often in the context of reporting).

Corrected Learner Examples
I have been asked to write a report about an accident which happened to me last Saturday.
I am writing to you to give you further information about the conference organization and about the arrangements which have been made for your group of students.

FORM: PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE, NEGATIVE
Can use the present perfect passive negative form (often in the context of reporting).

Corrected Learner Examples
?the old-fashioned house which has not been used for twenty years is not a very attractive sight from our town either.
This happened two years ago, and the necklace hasn’t been found yet?

FORM: WITH MODAL VERBS
Can use the passive with modal verbs in a range of contexts, with a variety of subjects.
Corrected Learner Examples
Architects should be hired to design parks, where people could go for a walk or have a picnic.
Although I had a marvellous time, I believe there are a few things that could be improved for next year’s festival.
As a result, today, it could be said that nearly everyone is living in a digital world which means computers are necessary and very important.

FORM: WITH VERBS TAKING TWO OBJECTS, WITH PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE
Can use the passive with a range of tenses and verbs needing two objects (e.g. give, offer, sell) with the direct object in subject position and the indirect object in a prepositional phrase.

Corrected Learner Examples
Your name was given to me by a member of yours, Allan Westwood, whom I met last week.
If more training is given to staff, they will be interested in their work and staff turnover will be reduced.
Unfortunately an interview for a job in the New Palace Hotel has been offered to me at the same time as your class.

FORM: WITH VERBS TAKING TWO OBJECTS.
Can use the passive with a wide range of verbs needing two objects, putting the indirect object in subject position.

Corrected Learner Examples
I was very happy to hear that you have been offered two jobs, one in a restaurant and one in a museum.
[talking about a music contract] She was offered a contract to record a single.
First of all, I felt happy and pleased that your firm has been given some extra money to spend on improvements to the cinema next year.

USE: SUMMARIES AND EVALUATIONS
Can use the passive with modal verbs to evaluate or summarise.

Corrected Learner Examples
In conclusion, it can be seen that the bicycle is more suitable for those who are living in a little town or in the country.
Next, I find that our streets are not very clean, another major problem, and I think something must be done about it.

USE: WITH ‘WILL’, FUTURE REFERENCE
Can use the passive with ‘will’ to talk about the future.

Corrected Learner Examples
Just to let you know you will be booked into the Palace Hotel?
Dear Mr Bixon, First of all, I am very grateful to hear that the cinema will be renovated next year.
PAST

PAST CONTINUOUS

FORM: WITH ADVERBS
Can use the past continuous with a wide range of adverbs in the normal mid position.

Corrected Learner Examples
My younger brother was constantly bothering me.
One day, as she was wistfully walking in the dusk of that day, she told herself she could either
go on living her lonely life or make a huge effort to fit in.

USE: POLITENESS
Can use the past continuous to make a request or suggestions more polite or less direct.

Corrected Learner Examples
I was wondering if I could impose on you again for my next visit.
I was thinking that you could wear your Marilyn Monroe dress as your fancy-dress costume.
I was thinking that you could come to my house and see the movie.

PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

FORM/USE: BACKGROUND INFORMATION WITH RELATIVE CLAUSE
Can use the past perfect continuous in a relative clause to give background information.

Corrected Learner Examples
And there were two men who had been chasing the murderer to find out who the man is and
rescue the girl....
The guide also tells some funny stories about an old lord, who had been living there in the
18th century.
After a few minutes the door was opened and the man who had been following me came in.

Comments
There is a big increase in this use at C2.

FORM/USE: BACKGROUND INFORMATION WITH TIME CONJUNCTION
Can use the past perfect continuous after a time conjunction to give background information.

Corrected Learner Examples
After we had been sunbathing at the beach all day long, we went every evening to a cosy
restaurant called "The Barking Cat", where we had a good meal and some wine.
After I had been waiting for an hour, I decided to go through the gate and go in on foot.

Comments
This is very low frequency in the CLC, and fairly low frequency in the CEC ? especially with the
formula After + past perfect cont + past simple

FORM: NEGATIVE
Can use the negative form.
Corrected Learner Examples
Laura realised that she had not been studying very hard lately.
I couldn't tell her about Mark because she hadn't been doing anything else but talking about him for the last three weeks.
Last week, two of your employers came to solve the problems of my central heating system as it had not been working for two days.

FORM: WITH ADVERBS
Can use the past perfect continuous with adverbs in the normal mid position.

Corrected Learner Examples
I had been working hard at my job and I had really been looking forward to this holiday.
When he died, he was a rich man, he had only been living ten months in the house he had built for fourteen years?

USE: RESULTS
Can use the past perfect continuous to talk about events which started before a time in the past and which finished, but where the effects or results were still important at a point in the past.

Corrected Learner Examples
Unfortunately it had been snowing for a long time and so I was unable to go out for a walk.
We had been working very hard all the morning so by that time, I was very tired.

PAST PERFECT SIMPLE

FORM/USE: AFTER 'BECAUSE', EXPLANATIONS
Can use the past perfect simple after 'because' to give explanatory information.

Corrected Learner Examples
He was sleeping but I realised that this was because he had lost a lot of blood.
I was driving on to my parents' house because I had arranged to have dinner with them.

FORM/USE: AFTER 'IF ONLY' AND 'WISH', IMAGINED PAST
Can use the affirmative form after 'if only', and the affirmative and negative forms after 'wish' to talk about regret.

Corrected Learner Examples
If only I had listened to my father!
If only I had met her before.
I am sure, because at the end of the concert, I said to my friend "I wish they had played a bit more".
I wish I hadn't told Pat about my plans.
I wish I hadn't done that but now I can't do anything.

FORM/USE: INVERSION WITH 'NEVER (BEFORE)'
Can invert the subject and auxiliary verb after 'never (before)' to talk about a unique event, often in formal contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples
Never had I been in such a ridiculous situation!
Never before had we seen such marvellous species of fish.
FORM/USE: INVERSION WITH 'NO SOONER ? THAN'
Can invert the subject and auxiliary verb with 'no sooner ? than' to talk about something that happened immediately before something else, often in formal contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples
? but no sooner had I gone to bed than someone broke the door down.
But, no sooner had I got there than my classmates informed me that I had done well in my physics exam.

FORM: ELLIPSIS
Can leave out the subject before the past perfect simple where it is understood from the previous clause.

Corrected Learner Examples
But now she felt stronger and had lost her fear.
Simon was a very famous writer and had written ten best-sellers.
All her friends from Chicago had come to visit her and had brought a huge chocolate cake with them.
They were cold and had gone numb.

FORM: QUESTIONS
Can use question forms.

Corrected Learner Examples
Had I made the same mistake twice?
? the question was: Why had he done that?

FORM: WITH ADVERBS
Can use the past perfect simple with a wide range of adverbs (including 'finally', 'recently', 'simply') in the normal mid-position. ► adverbs

Corrected Learner Examples
He had finally achieved his goal!
She had suddenly woken up at that noise, but now was trying to persuade herself it was just a dream.
And had all the furniture and David's personal things been stolen by thieves or had they just simply disappeared?

USE: BACKGROUND INFORMATION, RELATIVE CLAUSE
Can use the past perfect simple in relative clauses to give background information. ► relative clauses

Corrected Learner Examples
After a while Mr and Mrs Landsbury, the couple who had organised the party, got everybody's attention and [?] asked everybody to stay calm.
He went to the hotel because he wanted to find out who the person was that had sent him a mysterious letter?
[?] it was Annika who had arranged a huge party for her, and all her friends and family, at the airport.
USE: CHANGE OF SITUATION
Can use the past perfect simple to talk about situations which changed.

Corrected Learner Examples
After the show we had planned to go to the theatre restaurant. But it was closed.
We had planned to go to Switzerland, but unfortunately our car broke down.
At first she had wanted to make the first move but she wasn't quite convinced.

USE: REPORTS OF QUESTIONS
Can use the past perfect simple to report questions, where the main verb in the reporting clause is in the past simple. ► reported speech

Corrected Learner Examples
I asked him who had given him my phone number and he said it had been me.
He didn't find her, in spite of looking for her in every room of her house, so he decided to come to my house to ask me if I had seen her somewhere.
I asked her what had happened and she told me that my grandmother was very ill.

USE: REPORTS OF STATEMENTS
Can use the past perfect simple to report statements, where the main verb in the reporting clause is in the past simple. ► reported speech

Corrected Learner Examples
One morning she was listening to the radio, when suddenly the announcer said that the police had arrested a man who had stolen five expensive and unique paintings.
She tried to explain what had happened, but she couldn't.
I looked at the address and I knew what had happened to my sister's postcard.

PAST SIMPLE

FORM: NEGATIVE
Can use the negative form with a wide range of regular and irregular verbs.

Corrected Learner Examples
I didn't hesitate and went there straight away.
I'm sure it wasn't my fault as I didn't switch anything on or off at that moment.
We really enjoyed our holiday even though things did not turn out they way we planned.

FORM: QUESTIONS
Can use 'yes/no', 'wh-', tag and negative question forms with an increasing range of verbs.

Corrected Learner Examples
Are you still looking for a job or did you succeed in finding one?
When did you last see your wife and your children?
It was great to have met you, and we certainly had a terrific time together, didn't we?
Didn't you tell me that you had to go to Orleans today?
Why didn't you say something about it?

FORM: WITH SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS
Can use the past simple with a range of subordinating conjunctions, including 'as soon as', 'before', 'if', 'once', 'since', 'so', 'until', 'when', 'while'.

50
Corrected Learner Examples
? as soon as we went down to around 15 metres in depth, we saw a lot of coloured fish.
I told you about that terrible hotel I had stayed in before I came to visit you.
Once he got inside, he started searching for some clues to that horrible crime.

FORM: WITH TIME ADJUNCTS
Can use a range of time adjuncts with the past simple.

Corrected Learner Examples
I also worked as a helper on a summer camp for primary schoolchildren in Canada last summer.
I can remember one which happened to me last year, during the Christmas holiday.
He worked hard for quite a long time to earn the money he needed.

USE: POLITENESS AFTER 'IF'
Can use the past simple after 'if' as a politeness structure, especially in letters and emails.

Corrected Learner Examples
I think it would be very helpful if I told you my own case.
It would be great if you sent me a free copy of the next edition of The Student Tourist Guidebook.
I would be grateful if you gave me this job.

USE: POLITENESS: 'I WONDERED' AND 'I WANTED'
Can use the past simple with 'I wondered' and 'I wanted' as politeness structures, when making polite requests and thanking.

Corrected Learner Examples
So, I wondered if you could introduce me to somebody who knows how to use a camera, so that I will be able to record my trip for you.
I wanted to know if the rooms are single or double, if they have showers and if there is room service. ? Secondly, I also wanted to know if there is a gym in the hotel ?
First of all, I wanted to thank you for giving me the first prize in your competition.

PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

FORM: NEGATIVE
Can use the negative form.

Corrected Learner Examples
I hope that I have not been wasting your time and giving you too much trouble.
Hope you haven't been working too hard!
The heating system has not been working properly since your staff completed the work in my house.

FORM: WITH ADVERBS
Can use the present perfect continuous with adverbs in the normal mid position.
Corrected Learner Examples
I have just been reading an article in your newspaper this morning, about The Westfield Music Festival.
I've also been singing in a choir for five years, so I'm very familiar with it.
You have already been complaining about headaches and insomnia.

USE: RECENT PAST
Can use the present perfect continuous to focus on a finished activity in the recent past but where the effects or results are still important or relevant.

Corrected Learner Examples
They might be slippery when it has been snowing.

Comments
This is largely a spoken language structure when the speaker observes something and comments, based on present evidence. "Look it's been snowing. It might be slippery." This may need to go in at a lower level when spoken data is available.

PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE

FORM/USE: WITH 'STILL'
Can use the negative form of the present perfect simple with 'still' to emphasise that something that was expected to happen continues not to happen. ➤ adverbs

Corrected Learner Examples
I still haven't read the role but when I read it, I was very excited and I accepted Mr Brown's offer.
You asked me whether I bought a computer or a bicycle and I have to tell you that I still haven't decided.

FORM: QUESTIONS
Can use the question form with an increasing range of verbs.

Corrected Learner Examples
How has your family been?
But what have these animals done?
In 1970 people in the UK married in their early 20s, but nowadays they marry at the end of their 20s. But why has this changed?

PREPOSITIONS

PREPOSITIONS

FORM/USE: FORMAL
Can use less frequent simple prepositions, often in a more formal, literary or business context.
Corrected Learner Examples
Suddenly the lights went out and a kind of silent screaming was heard throughout the whole dark room.
So why don’t you act upon my advice?
I took bus number 19 from Angel tube station toward Battersea Park.
In Tottenham, transport is easy, buses are frequent, unlike other areas.
A survey was carried out amongst the students and teachers.

FORM/USE: PREPOSITION + 'WH-'WORD
Can use preposition + relative pronoun as complement, to avoid preposition stranding, often in formal contexts. ► Clauses: relative

Corrected Learner Examples
According to your advertisement in a language magazine, you have a vacancy in which I am very interested.
I hope that you can help me by answering some questions about the club of which you are the secretary.
In my opinion children need someone to whom they can talk.

FORM: COMPLEX
Can use a wide range of complex prepositions.

Corrected Learner Examples
She did not say very much except for “oh” and “yes, yes” every once in a while.
[talking about animals in zoos] And it gives them the possibility of gradually gaining knowledge about other living creatures apart from humans.
[giving suggestions on how to make the reception area of a school more attractive] It is based on my personal opinions in addition to a sample of 500 people who are students and staff at the school, and also visitors.
Now, as for the camping, I admit that I’m not a great fan of it.
I hope that, in spite of some small problems, people liked the festival and we will be able to attend it next year.

Comments
Also: ‘but for’, ‘in favour of’

PRESENT

PRESENT CONTINUOUS

FORM/USE: WITH ADVERBS OF INDEFINITE FREQUENCY
Can use the present continuous with an increasing range of adverbs of indefinite frequency, often to talk about surprising or undesirable situations or events.

Corrected Learner Examples
? scientists don’t really get together with top models ? they are constantly studying and reading books, whereas the job of a top model is actually based on physical appearance.
? you’re continuously dealing with toxic substances and flammable liquids?
There is very poor increment in adverbs in general in the data. This is one of the main areas where candidates at B1 and B2 could improve their marks.

**PRESENT SIMPLE**

**FORM: INVERSION WITH 'NOT ONLY ? BUT ALSO'**
Can use the inverted form of the past simple with auxiliary 'do', in the phrase 'not only ? but also'.

**Corrected Learner Examples**
*Not only do they save you filing time, but also they save office space.*
*Not only does it look nice but it's also full of places that we should visit, such as the enormous old castle or the extremely fascinating butterfly farm!!*

**USE: SPEECH ACT VERBS**
Can use the present simple with a wide range of speech act verbs, including '(dis)agree', 'accept', 'advise'.

**Corrected Learner Examples**
*We disagree with the new numbering system as it is too complicated.*
*I'd love to go to the concert with you so I accept your invitation.*
*I advise you to take a coat because it's winter, you know, it's a bit cold.*

**USE: STORIES AND COMMENTARIES**
Can use the present simple to summarise events or plot in a story or piece of history, often to give immediate dramatic interest.

**Corrected Learner Examples**
*The plot of the book takes place in Vienna after the Second World War.*
*The scene takes place on a train. On this train, a man is sleeping. He dreams. He dreams of one of his work colleagues who lost his job last year.*

**PRONOUNS**

**DEMONSTRATIVES**

**FORM/USE: 'THESE ONES', 'THOSE ONES' SUBSTITUTION**
Can use 'these ones', 'those ones' as a substitute for plural countable nouns that have previously been mentioned.

**Corrected Learner Examples**
*This is only the beginning; there are a lot of things that should be done, but let's just start with these ones.*
*I have got several of those ones.*
Uncorrected Learner Examples

This is only the beginning; there are a lot of things that should be done, but let's just start with these ones. Beside those ones, there's also an equal number of individuals who get crippled for life.

Comments

There are very few examples of this feature in the CLC. This normally a function of spoken language and context where a speaker points to a physically present object. It may be a can-do at a lower level in spoken data.

FORM/USE: 'THOSE', SUBSTITUTION

Can use 'those' as a substitute, followed by a relative clause or '-ed' or '-ing'.

Corrected Learner Examples

Moreover, for those who are not interested in sports and who prefer shopping, it would be a good idea to prevent cars and especially lorries from running in the center of the town. In my opinion students should be forced to study all of the subjects, not only those which are enjoyable.
[talking about buildings] Those that can be rebuilt wouldn't be demolished. The opening hours of the store came in for a lot of praise, with 87% of those surveyed ranking it as good. All those attending are requested to be on time.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Moreover, for those who are not interested in sports and who prefer shopping, it should be a good idea to prevent cars and especially lorries from running in the center of the town. The opening hours of the store came in for a lot of praise with 87% of those surveyed ranking it as good. In my opinion students should be forced to study all of the subjects, not only those which are enjoyable.
[talking about buildings] Those that can be rebuilt wouldn't be demolished. All those attending are requested to be on time.

GENERIC USE

FORM/USE: GENDER NEUTRAL

Can use 'they/them' to refer back to indefinite pronouns when we do not know the number or gender.

Corrected Learner Examples

If someone is watching a film that they don't like they can always choose another channel to watch to.
If anyone wishes to make any presentation they can contact Mr. Hari, Events Department. If a student wants to make music there is no point teaching them science, but to be a good musician I think general knowledge is important as well.

Can use 'he/she', 'he' or 'she' or 'they' to refer back to gender neutral singular nouns or indefinite pronouns when we are not sure of the gender.
Corrected Learner Examples
If a child had free time, he/she would play on his/her own and not with other children.
Furthermore, if somebody wants to be a journalist, he or she has to have an enormous knowledge of the world and people, because sometimes they must act like psychologists in order to obtain pieces of information.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
If a child had free time he/she would play on his/her own and not with other children.
Furthermore if somebody wants to be a journalist he or she has to have an enormous knowledge about the world, people, because sometimes they must act like psychologists in order to obtain a pieces of information.

USE: 'WE', 'US', GENERAL
Can use 'we' and 'us' to refer to people in general.

Corrected Learner Examples
These days the car is everywhere, we can see cars all over the world.
In this film we can see the life of a female teenager in South-Africa.
We all know that being a writer is difficult; either we know how to write or we don't.
Some of us find it very useful, whereas others still have difficulty in accepting technology as a valuable thing for everyone.
[Talking about zoos giving us a chance to see many exotic animals] Zoos give us different opportunities to do that and so to understand nature.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
In our days the car is everywhere, we can see cars all over the world.
In this film we can see the life of a female teenager in South-Africa.
We all know that being a writer is difficult; or we know how to write or we don't.
Some of us find it very useful, whereas others still have difficulty in accepting technology as a valuable thing for everyone.
[Talking about zoos giving us a chance to see many exotic animals] Zoos give us different opportunities to do that and so to understand the nature.

Comments
This is a level above EVP findings but we're not finding general consensus of this use until B2

INDEFINITE - THING, -ONE, -BODY ETC

FORM/USE: WITH RELATIVE CLAUSES, FOCUS
Can use indefinite pronouns with a relative clause to form complex noun phrases, to give focus.

Corrected Learner Examples
Something that I like very much is the idea of the classes.
Something extra, which is not really pleasant, is their behavior.
Something really good about it is that it'd give us some work experience, which we don't have right now.
Everything that I believed changed and without any help I managed to write perfectly, according to my teacher.
Everyone who can use a computer can use the new products.
Uncorrected Learner Examples
Something that I like very much is the idea of the classes.
Something extra which is not really pleasant is their behavior.
Something really good about it is that it’d give us some work experience, which we don’t have right now.
Everything that I believed changed and without any help I managed to write perfectly, according to my teacher.
Everyone who can use the computer can use the new products.

FORM: SUBJECT
Can use the full range of indefinite pronouns as subjects, with a singular verb.

Corrected Learner Examples
But, nowadays nothing is free, so you have to pay for everything.
Her parents had told her everything weeks ago; she had cried and argued, but nothing could change her parents’ opinion.
Yes it was Christmas, that’s why everybody tried to smile.
Everywhere is green and clean.
When we came back home, everywhere was very untidy.
I searched my car to see if anything was missing.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
But, nowdays nothing is free, so you have to pay for everything.
Yes it was Christmas, that’s why everybody tried to smile and behave as if nothing went wrong.
Her parents had told her everything weeks ago, she had cried and discussed, but nothing could change her parents opinion.
Everywhere is green and clean.
When we came back at home, everywhere was very untidy, on the floor laid some different things and toys.
I searched my car to see if anything was missing.

USE: VAGUE EXPRESSIONS
Can use indefinite pronouns in vague expressions to refer to things in a non-specific way.

Corrected Learner Examples
Is it worth having a nervous breakdown or anything like that?
My personal idea to help the environment is to try to plant more trees around the college, for example, in the zone behind the college or somewhere else.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
Is it worth having a nervous breakdown or anything like that?
My personal idea to help the environment is try to plant more trees on the college, for example, on the zone behind the college or somewhere else.

Comments
This is a predominantly spoken feature.
POSSESSIVE

FORM: 'HERS' AS OBJECT
Can use the possessive pronoun 'hers', with singular reference, in object positions, and complement positions after 'be' and after prepositions.

Corrected Learner Examples
At the entrance, the security guard asked for my identity card. Pat gave hers.
She didn’t remember leaving it there, it wasn't even hers, which is what frightened her the most.
But when she gave this suitcase a good look, she realised that it wasn’t hers.
She saw him on a train running parallel to hers.

FORM: 'OURS' AS OBJECT
Can use the possessive pronoun 'ours' with singular and plural reference, in object positions, and complement positions after 'be' and after prepositions.

Corrected Learner Examples
Can we rent windsurf boards or should we bring ours with us?
[talking about characters in a book] ? when we read about them we think that we are the characters and we live their stories as if they were ours.
Aldous Huxley was able to create a new world which is not so different from ours.
This road shouldn't be allowed in the middle of a small town like ours.

FORM: 'OURS' AS SUBJECT
Can use the possessive pronoun 'ours', with singular and plural reference, in subject position.

Corrected Learner Examples
Ours is the only store in this locality which opens at 7.00 am.
Ours is a retail company with 5 outlets, dealing in furnishings.
In order to persuade them, we would like to show comparisons between our products and the ones from other companies to demonstrate that ours are more effective and efficient.

FORM: 'THEIRS' AS OBJECT
Can use the possessive pronoun 'theirs', with singular and plural reference, in object positions, and complement positions after 'be' and after prepositions.

Corrected Learner Examples
I could show them the traditional things of our country and learn theirs.
She told him that this baby was theirs.
Red Stone are a very big group, you know that I'm a great fan of theirs.
I realise that it can be a very interesting experience and I can also improve my foreign language as well as theirs.

FORM: + 'OF OURS'
Can use the possessive pronoun 'ours' after noun + 'of'.
Corrected Learner Examples
Finally we went to Venice where we met some friends of ours and spent with them the rest of
the holiday.
The credit crunch is heavily affecting this region, therefore all retail sales have fallen and many
competitors of ours are decreasing their sales too.
Paul, a classmate of ours, will be the D.J. and we are thinking of listening to rock music, since
Mr. Brown likes it.

FORM: COMPARATIVE CLAUSES WITH 'OURS', 'HERS'
Can use the possessive pronouns 'hers' and 'ours' in comparative clauses.

Corrected Learner Examples
I told my mother that your Spanish omelette is better than hers.
Lots of changes which may occur during the next fifty years can make us fear that our sons'
and grandsons' lives will not be as happy as ours.

QUANTITY

FORM: SUBJECT AND OBJECT PRONOUNS, 'EACH', 'SEVERAL', 'NEITHER', 'ENOUGH'
Can use pronouns 'each', 'either', 'enough', 'neither', 'several' as subject and object pronouns.

Corrected Learner Examples
As you could guess, each has a very unique style.
I would like to enquire if there will be one group or several depending on level of students?
Considering my abilities, there are several that I think you should consider.
Comparing the two firms, both of them go some way towards fulfilling our needs, but neither
covers all.
[talking about toilets] They are very clean and there are enough so you don't have to wait.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
As you could guess, each has a very unique style.
I would like to enquire if there will be one group or several depending on level of students?
Considering my abilities, there are several that I think you should consider.
Comparing the two firms, both of them go some way fulfilling our needs, but neither covers
all.
[talking about toilets] They are very clean and there are enough so you don't have to wait.

Comments
The standalone subject and object forms of these pronouns are very low frequency both in the
learner and native speaker corpora. There are only three examples of neither as a pronoun at
this level, and all are business English examples. This may be a data issue.

FORM: WITH 'OF' + OBJECT PRONOUN
Can use a wide range of pronouns ('neither', 'either', 'none') with 'of' followed by an object
pronoun.
Corrected Learner Examples
Stella and her boyfriend, ... lived with Chuck at the same house, but neither of them knew that Chuck had passed a very complicated exam to be a spy for the United States. Neither of us could foresee any possible rise or fall in the price of wheat. How about spending the last couple of days doing some activities like skiing, horse riding and rafting. If you are interested in either of them, have a go. We didn’t know what they wanted, and none of us spoke any Italian.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
How about spending the last couple of days doing some activities like skiing, horse riding and rafting. They are great fun, especially rafting is BRILLIANT! If you are interested in either of them, have a go.

RECIProCAL

FORM/USE: ‘ONE ANOTHER’, FORMAL
Can use 'one another' as the object of a verb or complement of a preposition to talk about the mutual behaviour of two or more people, often in formal contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples
I also thought to create a studying space where students, staff and visitors can meet one another. Since we last saw one another many things have happened, but I must admit I have never enjoyed myself again the way I did when I was with you. Perhaps it will help me understand what my two dogs say to one another.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
I also thought to create a studying space where students, staff and visitors can meet one another. Since we last saw one another many things have happened, but I must admit I have never enjoyed myself again, the way I did when I was with you. Perhaps it will help me understand what my two dogs say to one another.

REFLEXIVE

FORM/USE: ‘BY’ + PLURAL
Can use plural reflexive pronouns with 'by' to mean alone, without any help.

Corrected Learner Examples
A friend of mine and I are planning to spend a short holiday by ourselves. There are many things to say, but I think that you will find these by yourselves. Then suddenly, the lights started clicking on and off, the windows opened by themselves.

Comments
NB it is likely that the fact that there is little evidence of plural reflexive pronouns at B1 may be a result of task effect or lack of opportunity of use.

FORM: ‘BY ITSELF’
Can use the reflexive pronoun 'itself' with 'by' to mean alone or without any help.
Corrected Learner Examples
If an animal is kept by itself, with no one to keep it company, it will get lonely and very sad. Suddenly, the window opened by itself and the room filled with cold air.

FORM: PLURAL, AFTER PREPOSITIONS
Can use plural reflexive pronouns after prepositions where the object of the preposition is the same as the subject of the verb.

Corrected Learner Examples
Doing sports is an excellent way to relax and it can help us to feel good about ourselves. The staff didn't have enough time for themselves.

FORM: SAME SUBJECT AND OBJECT, PLURAL
Can use plural reflexive pronouns to refer to actions where the subject and object of the verb are the same.

Corrected Learner Examples
In this way we will be able to enjoy ourselves even if this is not well-paid work. In the afternoons, you'll be able to visit the archaeological sites and in the evening you can entertain yourselves by dancing or listening to music in our city clubs. But adults often ask themselves the question – isn't it cruel to keep animals in zoos?

USE: 'IN ITSELF', INTENSIFYING
Can use the fixed expression 'in itself' as an intensifier.

Corrected Learner Examples
I would also spend much more quality time with my family as a whole, which is quite important in itself. The architecture in itself is beautiful, but the garden is very wonderful, too. To begin with, a car, in my opinion, can't be harmful in itself. The trouble is that, nowadays, very fast cars are put on the market and we never know if they are going to be driven by wise people or, instead, by crazy or dreadful drivers.

USE: 'ITSELF', FOR EMPHASIS
Can use the singular pronoun 'itself' for emphasis.

Corrected Learner Examples
In my opinion, the main characters do not have to be liked by readers but the story itself must be good and interesting to be successful. The building itself looks splendid and beautiful.

USE: 'YOURSELVES', FOR POLITENESS
Can use the plural reflexive pronoun 'yourselves' for politeness.
Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you in response to the advertisement published by yourselves in "the Traveller" regarding The Trip of a Lifetime.

The question you asked droves me back to my early life. My childhood. Like yourselves I am also living in a busy town, in a busy street. But when I was a little kid I was with my grandparents in Kandy.

Also, it is a great opportunity to improve my sailing skills as training will be provided by yourselves.

USE: PLURAL, FOR EMPHASIS

Can use plural reflexive pronouns for emphasis.

Corrected Learner Examples

The food is not very good, but sometimes we can prepare something to eat ourselves.
They patiently explained to me my job even though they were fairly busy themselves.
Cars themselves are never dangerous. It depends on us, actually.

SUBJECT/ OBJECT

FORM: (OBJECT) USING 'IT' TO INTRODUCE

Can use 'it' as an object with 'make' to introduce something the speaker or writer is going to refer to.

Corrected Learner Examples

This shyness makes it hard for me to speak in public, or even to go out with my friends as often as I should.
Other retail companies with cheaper prices and lots of discounts make it impossible for us to do business.

FORM: (SUBJECT) 'ONE'

Can use 'one' as a generic personal pronoun in the subject position to mean people in general.

Corrected Learner Examples

If one doesn't live close enough to walk to work, one can choose to get there by bicycle or by car.

FORM: (SUBJECT) ELLIPSIS

Can leave out the subject pronoun with a limited range of verbs, in informal contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples

Must rush now because I have to go out with Paul.
Sounds great.
Got to go now.
Can't wait to hear about your exam.

FORM: (SUBJECT) EMPTY 'IT'

Can use dummy 'it' with 'appears', 'feels', 'looks' and 'seems'.
Corrected Learner Examples
When you watch a film, it seems to be that you are inside it, and you are a character in it.
? your company has carried out a full investigation on the matter and it appears that the disappearance was not the result of criminal activity. (Portugal; B2 VANTAGE; 2008);
It appears that there was an error with the older computer system.

SUBSTITUTION, ONE, ONES, NONE

FORM: 'THESE ONES', 'THOSE ONES'
Can use 'these ones', 'those ones' as a substitute for plural countable nouns which have already been mentioned or are obvious from the context.

Corrected Learner Examples
This is only the beginning; there are a lot of things that should be done, but let's just start with these ones.
Beside those ones, there's also an equal number of individuals who get crippled for life.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
This is only the beginning; there are a lot of things that should be done, but let's just start with these ones.
Beside those ones, there's also an equal number of individuals who get crippled for life.

Comments
NB predominantly a spoken structure

QUESTIONS

TAGS

FORM/USE: TAGS WITH IMPERATIVES AS SOFTENERS
Can use an affirmative or negative tag after an imperative clause to soften the imperative.

Corrected Learner Examples
Think about it, will you?
Go to the Lake Frene route, will you?
Let's check together, shall we?

Uncorrected Learner Examples
Think about it, will you?
Go to the Lake Frene route, will you?
Let's check together, shall we?

Comments
The tag verb is most commonly 'will' but we can also use 'would', 'could', 'can' and 'won?t'. Learner data is limited to 'will' and 'shall' in this context but again, this is written data so this is not surprising.
WH–

FORM: NEGATIVE QUESTIONS WITH MAIN VERBS
Can use 'wh-'words + the negative form of auxiliary 'do' + subject + main verb to form 'wh-'questions.

Corrected Learner Examples
You still have this agonising headache. Why don’t you go to your doctor?
Why didn’t you check with the ticket office first before you wrote your article?
Why didn’t you say something about it?
Why haven’t you told me before?

Uncorrected Learner Examples
You still have this agonising headache. Why don’t you go to your doctor?
Why didn’t you check with the ticket office first before you wrote your article?
Why didn’t you say something about it?
Why haven’t you told me before?

Comments
Examples are restricted to ‘wh’– questions with ‘why’. Spoken data needed.

REPORTED SPEECH

REPORTED SPEECH

FORM/USE: CITATION, PRESENT SIMPLE
Can use the present simple form of the reporting verb to report information from a written source and a present tense verb in the reported clause.

Corrected Learner Examples
First of all, your advertisement says that you have got two great nights in a hotel for us.
It says you are asking for people to help in a summer camp for foreign school children.
Firstly, your advertisement tells us that hotel has two great nights in a wonderful 3-star hotel.
The guidebook says that we can get there by train from London.

FORM/USE: REPORTING VERBS, PAST CONTINUOUS
Can use the past continuous of the reporting verb to report mental processes, with a finite or non-finite 'wh-'clause in the reported clause.

Corrected Learner Examples
I was wondering why I failed.
So, he was wondering why we didn’t have our letters.
I was thinking which of the two would be more interesting, and I prefer to go to "Can Animals Speak", since I love them and I have two. So, I want to know how to communicate with them.
We were wondering what had happened for a few minutes but then we realised that there had been a power cut.
While he was thinking how to reply, Jenny took his hand and led him to the school.
Comments
The development at C levels is to do with lexical growth rather than grammatical complexity. 'Say' and 'tell' dominate reported speech use in CLC at all levels. Complementation patterns after reporting verbs are covered in Verbs

FORM/USE: TEMPORAL SHIFTS, PAST
Can report speech about events in the past with backshifts for tenses and words relating to time.

Corrected Learner Examples
She had told me the previous day that she had something important to tell me.
We met Daisy at school on the following day and we told her that the previous day we had been at her house; her grandfather had told us that unluckily she wasn't at home.
My boss had told me the previous day that an important customer was going to visit the company in the morning.
I had told my friends the day before that I expected to get an A!

FORM: DIRECT SPEECH, REPORTING CLAUSE, INVERTED SUBJECT
Can report speech directly inverting the subject and verb in the reporting clause where the subject is a proper noun or noun phrase.

Corrected Learner Examples
"I was astonished when I saw them standing there", said John.
"Who are you?" asked Peter.
"Would you mind lending me a part of your newspaper?" said a whispering voice.
What do you think about this? said the Inspector to the policeman.

Comments
This is a low frequency form in the CLC. There are examples of verb + subject ('said Maria', 'said Lisa') at B1 too but they are very task skewed.

FORM: DIRECT SPEECH, REPORTING CLAUSE, MID POSITION
Can report speech and thought directly using the reporting verb in the mid position of the reported clause.

Corrected Learner Examples
"No problem", I thought, "there is only one person".
"We have come together", this man said, "to celebrate our annual meeting and to call our master's ghost tonight!"
"No problem", I thought, "there is only one person".
"Forgive me, sweetheart", he said, "I will never leave you alone again."

Comments
There is increased accuracy of punctuation use at B2. Note that punctuation conventions vary in British English and American English.

FORM: MODIFICATION, REPORTING VERB + ADVERB
Can modify the reporting verb with an adverb.
Corrected Learner Examples
"So this is a real cow, mom?" she asked doubtfully.
"A hundred dollars for one day. Is that a deal?" her husband said forcefully.
"Come on, what's wrong?" Bella asked curiously.
"Put that light out!" I shouted calmly.

Comments
Note that when the reporting verb is modified by an adverb, it typically comes after the direct speech. This is also the case in expert speaker data in the CEC, where the reporting verb + adverb most commonly occurs in the middle or after the reported clause. It is far less common before the clause.

FORM: REPORTED REQUESTS AND COMMANDS, NEGATIVE
Can report requests and commands with 'ask' or 'tell' + direct object + 'not' + 'to-'infinitive.

Corrected Learner Examples
Meanwhile, she told me not to be scared but the place was very... old.
I told him not to climb the wall but he was so interested in doing movements that he did not listen to me.
Arriving there, my father told me not to go far and to stay near him.
I asked Pat not to tell anyone, and she promised me she wouldn't.

VERBS

LINKING

FORM: LINKING + COMPLEMENT
Can use a wide range of linking verbs with complements.

Corrected Learner Examples
There are indeed many ways of doing this and it all seems very confusing.
The food is a little bit strange but tastes good.
Now the whole house appeared very unfamiliar to me.
Alice was so unhappy that she remained silent for a long time.
I am writing to inform you that there is some incorrect information which appears in The Student Tourist Guidebook you published last year.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
There are indeed many ways of doing this and it all seems very confusing.
The food is a little bit strange but tastes good.
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I am writing to inform you that there are some incorrect information which appears in The Student Tourist Guidebook you published last year.
FORM/USE: VERBS OF SENSES + OBJECT + '-ING'
Can use some verbs connected with the senses + direct object + an '-ing' form, to give emphasis to an ongoing activity.

Corrected Learner Examples
Then I heard someone screaming, I was afraid and I said to the others: "Let's go out, something is happening".
I think we can learn nothing by seeing animals out of their habitat: we cannot see them running or eating or hunting.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
Then I heard someone screaming, I was afraid and I said to the others: "Let's go out, something is happening".
I think we can learn nothing by seeing animals out of their habitat: we cannot see them running or eating or hunting:

Comments
While the corresponding infinitive form is used by some at B2, its widespread use does not appear until C1 (e.g. 'I heard someone scream.').

FORM: 'TO'-INFINITIVE OR '-ING' FORM, MEANING
Can follow some verbs with a 'to'-infinitive or an '-ing' form, with a change in meaning.

Corrected Learner Examples
He said if you need to change the time, remember to contact him to make a new appointment.
I know it is difficult to get by with such a low salary but I am sure you have not stopped to think twice about your life.
I remember feeling very unhappy and confused all day long.
After I had a baby, I needed to stop working.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
He said if you need to change the time, remember to contact him to make a new appointment.
I remember feeling very unhappy, confused during all day.
I know it is difficult to get by with such a low salary but I am sure you have not stopped to think twice about the sense of your life.
After I had a baby, I needed to stop working.

FORM: VERB + '-ING' FORM
Can use an increasing range of verbs followed by an '-ing' form.

Corrected Learner Examples
[talking about cars] ... we can't avoid using them because we are used to them.
I couldn't stand being there.
Moreover we may consider offering bonus schemes, to increase the staff's loyalty to our company.

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Uncorrected Learner Examples
[talking about cars] ... we can’t avoid using them because we are used to them. I couldn’t stand being there. Moreover we may consider offering bonus schemes, to increase staff’s loyalty to our company.

Comments
These are the verbs which are most frequently used at B2 with this pattern in the CLC. Though there are very few examples of 'admit', 'deny' and 'risk' at B2, they can clearly do the pattern at this level.

FORM: VERB + NEW SUBJECT + '-ING' FORM
Can introduce a new subject before the '-ing' form (using noun or object pronoun).

Corrected Learner Examples
If your boss doesn't mind you delaying, it could be a possible solution. I could not stand people shouting at me, or taking pictures of me all day. It would be horrible. Oh just one more thing: would you mind me staying in your flat again? We imagine it being a frozen land, where the people are frozen too – both 'inside' and 'outside'.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
We imagine it being a frozen land, where the people are “frozen” too – both 'inside' and 'outside'. If your boss doesn't mind you delaying every morning it could be a possible solution. I could not stand people shouting at me, or taking pictures of me during all the day. It would be horrible. Oh just one more thing: would you mind me staying in your flat again?

PHRASAL

FORM: NO OBJECT
Can use a wide range of phrasal verbs without an object.

Corrected Learner Examples
Some species are dying out, and keeping such animals in zoos where they can give life to new generations is the only way to prevent them from becoming completely extinct. The following day my grandpa didn’t show up. If you are not good enough at reading, you’ll end up wasting your time.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
Some species are dying out, and keeping such animals in zoos where they can give life to new generations is the only way to prevent them from becoming completely extinct. The following day my grandpa didn’t show up. If you are not good enough at reading, you’ll end up wasting your time.

FORM: VERB + NOUN + PARTICLE
Can use phrasal verbs + nouns as object + particle.
Corrected Learner Examples
I am glad that you have decided to take some time off and more glad because you are going to the U.S.
Another way is also to turn the computers off in the evenings.
It was necessary to call the electrician up.
If we can make these improvements, we might be able to work this problem out.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
I am glad that you have decide to take some time off and more glad because you are going to U.S.
Another way is also to turn the computers off in the evenings.
It was neccessary to call the electrician up.
If we can make these improvment, we might be able to work this problem out.

Comments
By B2, there are a lot of examples of this pattern. By C2, there are many more and varied examples e.g. 'But if you feel you cannot live with having kicked your relatives out.'

FORM: VERB + PARTICLE + OBJECT
Can use a wide range of phrasal verbs + particle + object.

Corrected Learner Examples
I don’t need to use my imagination while I’m surfing the internet, but if I’m reading a book I can build up the whole surroundings and the characters in my own head.
I had already booked my seat on the ferry–boat to Athens and I couldn’t put off my crossing.
I can surf the internet and look up some useful information.
The concert finished very late and after the concert I had to clean up the hall.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
I don’t need to use my imagination while I’m surfing the Internet, but if I’m reading a book I can build up the whole surroundings and the characters in my own head.
I had already booked my seat on the ferry–boat to Athens and I couldn’t put off my crossing.
I can surf the internet and look up some useful information.
?the concert finished very late and after the concert I had to clean up the hall?

PHRASAL-PREPOSITIONAL
FORM: VERB + PARTICLE + PREPOSITION + OBJECT
Can use an increasing range of verb + particle + preposition + noun or pronoun.

Corrected Learner Examples
I can look up to someone in admiration if he (or she) is dedicating his (or her) life to helping other people.
Other people will see you as a knowledgeable person and they will look up to you.
You should face up to the problem and tell everybody the truth, that you are working too hard.
We couldn’t just swim and eat ice–cream every day of our summer vacation, so we sat down and came up with the craziest idea ever.
Uncorrected Learner Examples
The reason that I can look up to someone in admiration is if he (or she) is dedicating his (or her) life to help other people.
Other people will see you as a knowledgeable person and they will look up to you.
You should face up to the problem and tell everybody the truth that you are working too hard.
We couldn’t just swim and eat ice-creams every day of our summer vacation, so we sat down and came up with the craziest idea ever.

PREPOSITIONAL

FORM: PREPOSITIONAL VERB, STRANDED PREPOSITION
Can use verb + preposition, where the preposition is separated from its complement.

Corrected Learner Examples
In Poland rules that refer to how to dress at school aren’t very strict; we don’t wear any uniforms, but our clothes have to be clean and nice to look at.
But there is one difficulty which we should deal with.
I would like to give you some ideas of what people in my community want to listen to.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
In Poland rules that refer to the ways of being dressed at school aren’t very strict; we don’t wear any uniforms, but our clothes have to be clean and nice to look at.
But there is one difficulty which we should deal with.
I would like to give some ideas of what people in my community want to listen to.

Comments
Not much evidence of this where Romance language is L1.

FORM: VERB + ADVERB + PREPOSITION
Can use an adverb between the verb and the preposition.

Corrected Learner Examples
I am really willing to know more about horses and to learn how to deal properly with them.
I hope you will look carefully at the enclosed papers and I’m looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
I am really willing to know more about horses and to learn how to deal properly with them, how to feed them and if there is any chance I would like to ride them as well.
I hope you will look carefully at the enclosed papers and I’m looking forward to hearing from you soon.

THERE IS/ARE

FORM: 'THERE' + VERBS WITH MODAL MEANING
Can use 'there' with other verbs with modal meaning + 'be' + complement.
Corrected Learner Examples
I figured out that there had to be matches somewhere; Bob, who owned the cabin, had told me that it was well equipped.
In the library there needs to be school books and also other books and magazines.
There is going to be a theatre performance, a chess championship and last but not least, swimming races where the participants will win medals and a lot of prizes.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
I figured out that there had to be matches somewhere, Bob who owned the cabine had told me that it was well equipped.
In the labery there needs to be school books and also other books and magazines.
There is going to be a theater performance, a chess championship and the last but not least, swimming races where the participants will win medals and a lot of prices.

Comments
Note the singular use of 'needs' with plural complement, generally more frequent in spoken informal contexts than written.

TYPES
FORM: SEMI-MODAL AUXILIARY VERBS, 'DARE', 'NEED'
Can use semi–modal auxiliary verbs, 'dare' and 'need'.

Corrected Learner Examples
You needn't worry about where we can stay.
I think that they are rather jealous because they daren't give up their car.

Uncorrected Learner Examples
You needn't worry about where we can stay.
I think that they are rather jalous because they daren't give up their car.

Comments
LOW FREQUENCY ITEM. There is very little use of dare as a semi–modal in CLC even at C2 level. Most examples are dare as main verb. At C level there is lots of evidence of dare + to inf and lots of errors with dare + –ing; Similarly need is most frequently used as a lexical verb need to.