



**EXPERIMENTAL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MACEDONIA**

GRAMMAR REQUIREMENTS FOR LEVELS C1-C2

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ADJECTIVES

COMBINING

FORM: COMBINING MULTIPLE ADJECTIVES

[C2] Can combine more complex, lengthy strings of adjectives, joining the last two adjectives with 'and'.

Corrected Learner Examples

A timid, shy, self-conscious, over-sensitive and vulnerable person can yearn to make friends with someone who is very self-assured, confident, decisive, even bossy.

In the increasingly materialistic, greedy and shallow society we live in today, it would almost seem that there are no disadvantages to being rich.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

A timid, shy, self-conscious, oversensitive and vulnerable person can crave to make friends with someone who is very much self-assured, confident, decisive, even bossy.

In the increasingly materialistic, greedy and depthless society we live in today, it would almost seem that there are no disadvantages to being rich, save for a few minor worries.

FORM: COMPOUND ADJECTIVES

[C1] Can use a wide range of compound adjectives ('open-minded', 'above-mentioned', 'well-to-do', 'jaw-dropping')

Corrected Learner Examples

I would describe myself as an easy-going and open-minded person.

...we suggest investing a certain amount of money in the above-mentioned technical devices in order to achieve the financial target.

But as she does not live in a well-to-do family, Ola was never able to afford additional private lessons, for example.

If anyone has ever seen it, they would agree with me that it was THE most jaw-dropping road in the world.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

I would describe myself as an easy-going and open-minded person who doesn't find it difficult to talk about everything with everybody even with strangers.

Considering that our business is booming we suggest to invest a certain amount of money in the above-mentioned technical devices in order to achieve the financial target which is to increase our gross profit by 10%.

But as she does not live in a well-to-do family – she is half an orphan – Ola was never able to afford additional private lessons for example.

If anyone has ever seen it, they would agree with me that it was THE most jaw-dropping road in the world.

USE: FOCUS

[C2] Can use a list of adjectives in ellipted clauses before and after a noun, to give focus. ► focus

Corrected Learner Examples

*Imaginative, good-humoured, friendly, he was respected and liked by his peer-students.
The latter – fat, ugly and sick – blows his top when Ralph tells the others about the fat boy's nice name, as he wanted to keep it secret.*

Uncorrected Learner Examples

*Imaginative, good-humoured, friendly, he was respected and liked by his peer-students.
The latter, – fat, ugly and sick – blows his top when Ralph tells the others about the fat boy's nice name, as he craved for keeping it secret.*

COMPARATIVES

FORM/USE: WITH 'NO' OR 'NOT ANY'

[C2] Can use 'no' / 'not any' with comparative adjectives to limit the scale of comparison. ► comparative clauses

Corrected Learner Examples

*That is why we are not any happier than you were.
I will probably find the water to be no higher than my thighs.*

Uncorrected Learner Examples

*That is why as you mentioned, we are not any happier than you were.
I will probably find the water to be no higher than my thies.*

FORM/USE: WITH 'NOT THAT MUCH'

[C2] Can use 'not that much' to modify comparative adjectives to a small degree. ► comparative clauses

Corrected Learner Examples

Although she is not that much older than I am, one could think there were quite a few years between us.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Although she is not that much older than I am, one could think we would differ quite a few years.

Comments

This is a very low frequency item.

MODIFYING

FORM: COMPARISON

[C2] Can use adjectives in 'as ... as' and 'so ... that' in comparative structures. ► comparative clauses

Corrected Learner Examples

Because our debates do not draw as large a number of students as the guest appearances, but are still enjoyed by a relevant number of students, we propose a change of focus for the events.

It was such a riddle that I went and saw my psycho-analyst, who revealed to me that I once had so strong a shock that I was now walking and hiding my money in my sleep.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Because our debates do not draw as large a number of students as the guest appearances, but are still enjoyed by a relevant number of students, we propose a change of focus of the events.

It was such a riddle that I went and saw my psycho-analyst who revealed to me that I once had so strong a shock that I was now walking and hiding my money in my sleep.

FORM: WITH EXTREME ADVERBS

[C1] Can modify gradable adjectives with extreme adverbs of degree ('absolutely', 'extremely', 'incredibly', 'totally') to intensify their meaning.

Corrected Learner Examples

I am absolutely sure that it will attract even more attention.

Nowadays, it is extremely difficult to imagine how workers lived ten years ago, especially because of the incredibly fast evolution in technology.

I would make a totally new programme, in which the following points must be improved: ...

Uncorrected Learner Examples

I am absolutely sure that it will attract even more attention.

Nowadays, it is extremely difficult to imagine how lived workers ten years ago, especially because of the incredibly fast evolution in technology.

In my opinion, I would make a totally new programme, in which the next points must be improved: make sure the hotel is really a luxurious one and with a good service; include real English food restaurants; get the best places for theatre or opera; don't program so much free time; prepare extra events in case of emergency.

POSITION

FORM/USE: DEGREE ADJECTIVES BEFORE NOUNS

[C2] Can use an increasing range of adjectives before a noun to express intensity.

Corrected Learner Examples

As a conclusion, I shall say that the major problem concerns the exam.

It is located in the very centre of Pisa, in a magnificent ancient building.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

As a conclusion, I shall say that the major problem concerns the exam.

It is located in the very centre of Pisa, in a magnificent ancient building.

Comments

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

FORM: PAST PARTICIPLE AS ADJECTIVE

[C1] Can use the '-ed' form of a verb as an adjective, after a noun.

Corrected Learner Examples

First of all, I would recommend providing a wider range of films and introducing discussions after each film shown.

It is believed that if some improvements are made, the club will live up to the high standards required.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

First of all, I would recommend providing wider ranpe of the films and introducing discussions after each film shown.

It is believed that if some improvements apply, the club will live up to the high standards required.

SUPERLATIVES

FORM/USE: 'SLIGHTEST', 'FAINTEST'

[C2] Can use 'the slightest', 'the faintest' with a specific range of nouns to express the least amount possible, most frequently following a negative verb form.

Corrected Learner Examples

I should not end my relationship with Alex by phone, without giving him the slightest explanation.

They act as consumers, nothing more, and never show the slightest interest in learning and sharing opinions with the locals.

I haven't the faintest idea.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

I should not end my realationship with Alex by phone, without giving him the slightest explanation.

They act as consumers, nothing more, and never show the slightest interest in learning and sharing opinions with the locals.

I haven't the faintest idea.

FORM/USE: WITH NOUN AND POSTMODIFIER

[C1] Can use a postmodifier to make the superlative stronger in the structure superlative + postmodifier + noun.

Corrected Learner Examples

What is more, in order to increase sales of the new model to the highest possible level, the possibility of entering the Asian markets should be considered.

I am fond of the idea of working in Central London. It absolutely is the best possible location, I cannot deny that.

It is not the shortest possible route, but the easiest for people with luggage.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

What is more, in order to increase sales of the new model to the highest possible level, the possiblity of entering the Asian markets should be considered.

It absolutely is the best possible location, I cannot deny that.

It is not the shortest possible route, but the easiest for people with luggage.

Comments

Useful teaching point: There are no examples of ever + noun in the CLC. e.g. 'The highest ever result' even at C2. In the CIC native speakers use noun + ever four times more than 'ever' + noun.

FORM/USE: WITH POSTMODIFIER AND NOUN

[C1] Can use a postmodifier to make the superlative stronger, in the structure superlative + noun + postmodifier ('possible', 'ever', 'by far').

Corrected Learner Examples

... we want to present ourselves in the best way possible.
...this cleansing gel will definitely produce good results in the shortest time possible.
Achieving health by using her common sense and having fun while doing it is probably her greatest performance ever and, if elected, she could share that with the world.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Another main reason for us being such generous givers is that we want to present ourselves in the best way possible.
...this cleansing gel that will definitely produce good results in the shortest time possible.
Achieving health by using her common sense and having fun while doing it, is probably her greatest performance ever and if elected she could share that with the world.

ADVERBS

ADVERB PHRASES – FORM

FORM/USE: ADVERB + 'ENOUGH'

[C1] Can post-modify adverbs with 'enough to intensify'.

Corrected Learner Examples

Surprisingly enough, Meal's management was very responsive.
Sadly enough, I wasn't able to find any job proposals for us myself, so I'll just have to speculate on the results of your work.
Luckily enough, we have a garden where we can cook over an open fire, and as the temperatures in June are rather enjoyable here in Sweden, it actually works.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Surprisingly enough , Meal's management was very responsive.
Sadly enough, I wasn't able to find any job proposals for us myself, so, shamefully, I'll just have to speculate on the results of your work.
Luckily enough, we have a garden where we can cook over an open fire, and as the temperatures in June are rather enjoyable here in Sweden, it actually works.

Comments

Note the emergence of post-modification patterns at C1.

FORM/USE: ADVERBS + PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES, HIGHLIGHT

[C1] Can post-modify adverbs with a complex prepositional phrase complement, to highlight information.

Corrected Learner Examples

Luckily for you, I kept notes on everything we did, so I proudly present to you the top 4 of our course-days.

Unfortunately for some of them, the "holiday of their dreams" turned out to be rather nightmarish.

Especially in the period of 1999-2001, it shot up from 5 points to 7 points.

Probably in the next ten or more years, the engineering profession will be as much respected as it used to be twenty years ago.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Luckily for you, I kept notes on everything we did, so I proudly present you the top 4 of our course-days.

Unfortunately for some of them the "holiday of their dreams" turned out to be rather nightmarish.

Especially for people like me from other cities it would make it easier to find the centre if you would include a small map into the packet.

Especially in the period of 1999-2001, it shop up from 5 points to 7 points.

Probably in the next ten or more years profession of an engineer will be as much respected as it used to be twenty years ago.

Comments

Note the emergence of post-modification patterns at C1.

FORM: ADVERB + ADVERB

[C1] Can modify a wide range of adverbs with other adverbs.

Corrected Learner Examples

Even the beautiful, attractive cover and the extra Audio CD aren't enough to justify the slightly higher price, especially because the value of this game will drop extremely rapidly.

Firstly, we should get some TV airtime, to catch the attention of a large number of people effectively and achieve a substantial market penetration relatively quickly.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Even the beautiful, attractive cover and the extra Audio CD arent enough to justify the slightly lower price (21 £ at Dixon's), especially because the value of this game will drop extremely rapidly.

Firstly, we should air some TV spots, catching the attention of a large number of people effectively and we achieving a substantial market penetration relatively quickly.

Comments

By C1, we see some development, for example, 'perfectly well', 'extremely well', 'relatively quickly', but not much (cf. C1 entry). Note, we predict a greater range in spoken data, particularly in intensifiers

FORM: PRE- AND POST-MODIFIED ADVERBS

[C2] Can form adverb phrases with modifiers before, and complements after, adverbs.

Corrected Learner Examples

Many politicians and owners of big enterprises have been able for a long time to work almost exclusively for their own interests.

It was so completely in harmony with the sun, the sea, the sand, the summer, I decided instantly that was the kind of thing I would like to keep and collect.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Many politicians and owners of big enterprises, have been able for a long time to work almost exclusively for their own interests.

It was so completely in harmony with the sun, the sea, the sand, the summer instantly, I decided that was a kind of things I would like to keep and collect.

ADVERBS AND ADVERB PHRASES: TYPES AND MEANINGS

FORM: DEGREE, MODIFYING ADVERBS

[C1] Can use an increasing range of degree adverbs to modify a range of adverb types. ► adjectives ► adverb phrases: form

Corrected Learner Examples

The attitude of young people today towards keeping fit and healthy has almost completely changed.

Moreover, making use of some techniques I practised in the How to Negotiate classes is something which happens to me quite frequently.

The mobile market is growing incredibly fast in Britain and your company is leading this process.

Recently, the charity organised a fun-raising day, which went reasonably well.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

The attitude of young people today, towards keeping fit and healthy has almost completely changed.

Moreover, making use of some techniques I practised in the How to Negotiate classes, is something which happens to me quite frequently.

The mobile market is growing incredibly fast in Britain and that your company is leading this process.

Starting at sold units of 10M, then falling slightly down to 9M units, they finally peaked at 11 million units.

FORM: DEGREE, MODIFYING COMPARATIVES

[C1] Can use degree adverbs ('slightly', 'a bit', 'much') to modify comparatives.

Corrected Learner Examples

My Spanish is slightly more fluent than my English, because I lived in Spain longer than in England.

It will be a bit more expensive than the bus but it's safer and quicker.

Despite all the controversies between these two generations, the grandchildren shouldn't forget that their grandparents are much more experienced.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

My Spanish is slightly more fluent than my English, because I lived in Spaine longer than in England.

It will be a bit more expensive than the bus but it's safer and quicker.

Despite all the controversies between these two generations, the grandchildren shouldn't forget that their grandparents are much more experienced.

ADVERBS AS MODIFIERS

USE: CERTAINTY

[C1] Can use a wide range of adverbs to indicate degrees of certainty.

Corrected Learner Examples

It was undoubtedly an unforgettable experience.

Television programmms are undeniably a way of keeping ourselves well-informed and open to a special knowledge of every aspect of our lives.

I bought a skirt, a pair of jeans and a white dress, because I absolutely need new clothes for your party!

USE: DEGREE, WITH ADJECTIVES

[C1] Can use a wide range of adverbs with adjectives to express degree or intensity.

Corrected Learner Examples

It deals with the friendship between two completely different men.

It is extremely important that the project is finished before September.

The last thing I would like to mention is that you have lost a single passenger's luggage three times, which is totally unacceptable.

USE: DISTANCING

[C2] Can use adverbs mid clause, to distance the writer from what they are saying.

Corrected Learner Examples

He came out from school at the age of 16, and joined the "Universidad xxx" – the best one in Chile, supposedly – to study Economics

The author of the letter apparently has no experience of being a parent in our times.

He was quite nice to me, surprisingly and he told him that he would do his best but that the music was not too loud.

Comments

While we see these adverbs being used as stance devices at C1 it is the emergence of them in mid clause position, and with a distancing function, which increases at C2 level.

USE: STANCE

[C1] Can use a wide range of stance adverbs (simply, truly, surely, apparently, naturally, surprisingly, inevitably, literally, exceptionally, frankly, clearly, amazingly, wisely, admittedly) to indicate an attitude or viewpoint, often in clause initial position.

Corrected Learner Examples

Obviously everybody has the right to be on a strike.

We can't truly blame ourselves for this unlucky beginning.

Apparently someone made a mistake writing the details I gave over the phone.

Naturally, I inclined towards the second option.

Luckily for me, I stayed with a kind and helpful host family but they lived four miles from the school.

POSITION

FORM/USE: FRONT POSITION, INVERSION, WITH 'HARDLY'

[C2] Can use 'hardly' in front position followed by an inverted subject and verb, to give focus.

Corrected Learner Examples

Hardly had he reached his front door when he heard the phone ringing.

Hardly had she finished her complaints when Bob stood up, paid and left.

Hardly had they arrived when they saw a sleek, black car leaving the house's yard.

Comments

This is a very low frequency form in L1 data and restricted to literary contexts. NB it is more frequent in the learner data than in the L1 data.

FORM/USE: MID POSITION, DISTANCING

[C2] Can use adverbs in mid position, to distance the writer from what they are saying.

Corrected Learner Examples

In all actuality Piggy himself theoretically has all the necessary character traits and skills at his disposal that would ensure he would be an effective leader.

For the houses opposite the cargo area we strongly support the idea of a "green" wall, as it was mentioned in the report of the town council but surprisingly seems to have been forgotten afterwards.

Comments

While we see these adverbs being used as stance devices at C1, it is the emergence of them in mid clause position, and with a distancing function, which increases at C2 level.

CLAUSES

COMPARATIVES

FORM/USE: 'SO ... AS TO', FORMAL

[C2] Can use 'so' + adjective + 'as' + 'to'-infinitive clause, usually in formal contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples

Travellers should not be so ignorant as to think they can understand other nationalities better when they have once lived in one of their hotels.

However, as soon as my glaring eyes met his, beseeching and helpless, I knew I couldn't endure being so cruel as to deny him my caring shoulder...

Should I be so fortunate as to win the scholarship, I would use it in a way that would not only affect me, but very much so also the area in which I live.

FORM: 'AS IF' + NON-FINITE CLAUSE

[C2] Can use 'as if' + non-finite clause to introduce a second clause as a comparison.

Corrected Learner Examples

She closed her eyes as if to push those thoughts away.

There it was: the chef's body, hacked to pieces, a carving knife in his hand as if to scare off an enemy.

I was so frightened that my heart was beating like crazy as if trying to leave my body.

Because of this, my mother never denied us anything, as if trying to compensate for our father's death.

Comments

This is a very low frequency form. There were no instances of 'as though' + finite clauses in the CLC. As 'though' + finite clause is a relatively low frequency pattern in native speaker use (0.2 occurrences per million in CIC).

FORM: SUPERLATIVE ADVERB 'BEST' + CLAUSE

[C1] Can use 'the best' as a superlative adverb + pronoun + ellipped 'can' or 'could'.

Corrected Learner Examples

I'm sorry to say that she is not the best of cooks but she tries the best she can.

On Thursday I did the best I could.

However, to make sure that we offer the best we can, we would be grateful if you gave us a grant.

Comments

Most instances follow the form [verb] + 'the best' + [pronoun] + ['can/could'] (main verb ellipped)

CONDITIONAL

FORM/USE: 'IF IT WERE NOT FOR', FORMAL

[C2] Can use 'If it weren't / were not for' + noun phrase to introduce conditions in formal contexts. ► past simple

Corrected Learner Examples

If it weren't for that boy, I am definitely certain that I would have failed the examinations and I would have ended up taking the class again the following year.

If it weren't for his determination, he would have resigned when he first heard "no".

FORM/USE: 'IF IT WERE' + 'TO'-INFINITIVE FORM, FORMAL

[C2] Can use 'If it were' + 'to-' infinitive to introduce conditions in formal contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples

If it were to be published, the first issue would probably include a small introduction about the people who helped in the creation of the magazine.

However displacing such a number of commuters will need a lot of planning and a very good infrastructure if it were to succeed.

FORM/USE: 'IF' + 'SHOULD', FORMAL, POLITE

[C1] Can form subordinate conditional clauses with 'if you should', in polite, formal contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples

If you should have any concerns about my choice, please tell me.

If you should have any problems, you can go to an information booth and you will be told which train you have to take to Hassau.

If you should get lost, don't hesitate to call us.

If you should have any further questions do not hesitate to contact us.

Comments

Many but not all main clauses which follow 'if' + 'should' are imperatives, particularly in business contexts.

FORM/USE: 'IF' + PAST PERFECT + MODAL VERBS IMAGINED SITUATION, REGRET

[C1] Can form conditional subordinate clauses with if + the past perfect simple and modal verb + 'have' + '-ed' in the main clause, to talk about imagined situations in the past, often with regret.

Corrected Learner Examples

All this could have been avoided, if the plan had been more flexible.

Several statements in the newspaper could have been avoided, if the writer had taken notice of the income results which were sent along with the other facts from the charity day.

However, I think I could have learned more if more individual tuition had been available.

I wrote this article referring to my own experience in London, hence I might have had a different opinion if I had gone to another city or country.

Comments

could have +-ed is the most frequent form in the main clause after would have + -ed. There are very few examples with might have + -ed|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

FORM/USE: 'WERE IT NOT FOR', FORMAL

[C2] Can use 'Were it not for' + noun phrase to introduce conditions in formal contexts. ► past simple

Corrected Learner Examples

Were it not for my university, I would give up this class immediately.

Were it not for that kind of toy, children would be able to gain more team-spirit, creativity and self-confidence.

In fact, were it not for that reason, Laura would have accepted the comfortable executive chair in a big company.

FORM/USE: 'WHETHER OR NOT', FORMAL

[C2] Can use 'whether or not' to introduce conditions in formal contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples

Whether or not the visitors should imitate local customs and behaviour is definitely a debatable issue.

Whether or not it is better to educate boys and girls in separate schools has been a widely discussed issue in recent years.

Whether or not richer countries should help these poor nations is a very controversial issue, there are people on both sides of the argument who have very strong feelings.

However, it depends only on the children whether or not they'll go to a university and there are many factors to be considered before deciding on going.

FORM/USE: INVERTED 'WERE' + 'TO' INFINITIVE, FORMAL

[C2] Can use 'were' with an inverted subject + 'to' infinitive, to introduce conditions in formal contexts. ► past simple

Corrected Learner Examples

Were I to win this travel scholarship, the country of my choice would be Japan.

Were you to compare people's views on animals to their views on food, you would find many similarities.

Were someone to decide that he did not want to go to university, he would have to face the consequences of his choice.

Were this suggestion to be put into practice, our town's personality would change completely from a small town to a port of call for a large number of visitors.

Comments

Note this is instead of 'If' + pronoun + 'were to' infinitive? so it involves ellipsis and inversion.

FORM/USE: INVERTED PAST PERFECT, IMAGINED PAST

[C2] Can use past perfect + inverted subject, and a modal verb + 'have' + '-ed' in the main clause to talk about imagined situations in the past.

Corrected Learner Examples

Had he been more experienced he would have known that these things always happen in this part of the world.

Had we known this fact we would have organised more activities within school hours.

Had we learnt from the mistakes of the past, we would have given up fighting each other a long time ago.

Had I known so many people from abroad were coming to visit our stand, I would have studied harder during my private lessons in the past.

Had this file fallen into enemy hands, it might have had disastrous effects on the Western world.

Had public transportation been an option I would have chosen that instead of my car.

Comments

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

FORM/USE: SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS, CONDITIONS

[C2] Can use conditional subordinate clauses with a range of conjunctions ('so long as', 'on condition that', 'in the event that') with past, present or future reference. |

Corrected Learner Examples

As a matter of fact, education is free and as a result they can attend whichever university they desire so long as they have the proper qualifications, of course.

I was allowed to bring my friends home and go out with them on condition that my parents knew where I was and when I was going to return.

Comments

Note that these are low frequency items.

FORM: ELLIPTED 'IF' CLAUSE

[C1] Can form ellipted 'if' clauses with 'if' + '-ed' form.

Corrected Learner Examples

Furthermore I found little rooms where an employee could take a short nap if needed.

Meals are served, if requested, three times a day, unless picnic lunches are needed.

Women who want to start a career more often decide to be single or, if married, don't devote much time to the family.

FORM: INVERTED CONDITIONAL CLAUSE, 'SHOULD'

[C1] Can introduce a conditional subordinate clause with 'should' + inverted subject.

Corrected Learner Examples

Should you require any further information about the program or any other detail please do not hesitate to ask for it.

Should there be a lack of mutual understanding a break-up is unavoidable.

USE: INVERTED 'SHOULD', FUTURE, POSSIBLE OUTCOME, FORMAL, POLITE

[C2] Can use inverted 'should', + 'would' in the main clause to talk about possible future outcomes, in polite or formal contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples

Should we win your prize we would like to build a new school close to our production center, for the children of the area.

Should you fail to do so, we would have no choice but to take further action.

Comments

This structure is similar to the second conditional structure.

COORDINATED

FORM/USE: 'NOT ONLY ... BUT (ALSO)' WITH INVERSION, FOCUS

[C1] Can combine clauses using 'not only' in front position followed by an inverted first clause + ... 'but (also)' to introduce the second clause, to give focus.

Corrected Learner Examples

And not only did they come for the most popular sports, such as football and basketball, but many other less known activities were very well attended.

Not only was he helpful but the students had the opportunity to watch videos and listen to music.

Not only has the cost improved, but also the value for money.

FORM/USE: NEGATIVE CLAUSE + 'NOR', FOCUS

[C2] Can combine a negative clause with an inverted clause with 'nor', to give focus.

Corrected Learner Examples

That night Kevin did not sleep; nor did Kristin.

They do not have any hobbies, nor do they have friends or relatives (at least not where they live).

Her diary was never found, nor was Juliette.

I should never have agreed to meet him, after all I didn't know the man nor did I understand what he was talking about, but he really said my friend Peter was in danger, that's what made me say yes.

Comments

Note this pattern is without 'neither' and hence differs from the B2 level pattern. Also, note the inversion.

IMPERATIVES

FORM/USE: 'DON'T YOU ...'

[C2] Can use you with an imperative form to make an instruction stronger.

Corrected Learner Examples

Don't you ever do that again!

Don't you dare!

Don't you dare forget me, I want letters from you promptly, understand!

FORM/USE: 'LET' + THIRD PERSON PRONOUN, DEVOLVING RESPONSIBILITY

[C2] Can use an imperative clause with 'let' + 'him/her/them' + base form of a main verb, to devolve responsibility.

Corrected Learner Examples

Let them find their own food.

But she put aside her friends because she didn't want to be pitied. After few attempts her friends gave up. "Let her live alone".

So let them be and let them scrutinize the peculiar events that do occur in life.

Comments

This is a very low frequency use of this form and it occurs in negative contexts.

FORM/USE: 'LET' + THIRD PERSON PRONOUN, PERMISSION, ORDER

[C1] Can use an imperative clause with 'let' + 'him/her/them' + base form of a main verb, to give permission or allow something or instruct someone to allow something.

Corrected Learner Examples

Try to play chess with him whenever you can and remember: Let him win!

While in London, they want to do their shopping there, so let them have more free time to do that.

If she wants to study away from home, please, let her go.

FORM/USE: DON'T 'LET' + PRONOUN, PERMISSION, ORDER

[C1] Can use an imperative clause with 'let' + 'him/her/them' + base form of a main verb, to disallow something or instruct someone to disallow something.

Corrected Learner Examples

Don't let them spend all their free time in front of the TV.

Don't let him go out alone, because he may not feel well.

FORM/USE: IMPERATIVE + 'AND' CONDITIONAL

[C1] Can use imperatives to introduce a condition followed by 'and' to introduce a consequence of the condition.

Corrected Learner Examples

See one of them and you'll want to see them all.

USE: POINTING, IN FORMAL CONTEXTS

[C1] Can use imperatives to point within or to a document within formal contexts, often academic.

Corrected Learner Examples

See enclosed brochure.

As you requested in your memo, I have spent the past few days gathering information from the six students involved in our programme (see above).

Look at the graph of the Agricultural sector 1991–2001.

PHRASES/EXCLAMATIONS

FORM: 'HOW' + ADVERB + CLAUSE

[C2] Can use 'How' + adverb + clause.

Corrected Learner Examples

How differently we were brought up by our mother.

Comments

Very low frequency form, usually used in formal, particularly literary, contexts.

FORM: 'HOW' + CLAUSE

[C2] Can use 'How' + clause.

Corrected Learner Examples

How I often longed to play with the other children or relax with a good book.

How I love the smell of home!

How I long to be there again.

Comments

Very low frequency form, usually used in formal, particularly literary, contexts.

SUBORDINATED

FORM/USE: 'NOT' + '-ING' CLAUSE

[C1] Can use a non-finite clause, introduced by 'not' + '-ing', to give more information.

Corrected Learner Examples

Not knowing the North of London very well it took me quite a long time to get there.
A nine-member family living peacefully in 19th-century England is suddenly shocked by the untimely death of the mother. Not having accepted his wife's death, the father, George, deeply depressed, is left alone to raise his seven children.

FORM/USE: 'WERE' + PRONOUN + 'TO' INFINITIVE, FORMAL

[C2] Can use 'Were' + pronoun + 'to' infinitive to introduce a condition, in formal contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples

Were I to choose one of them, I would select the last one, so that I could have the opportunity to take part in my favourite radio station's programme.
Were you to need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.
Were we to give them this opportunity, it would not only be a great advantage for them but for the future of our society as well.
Were they to be paid a sufficient sum, say, equivalent or even more than their current pay-check, they would be inclined to give up their jobs.

Comments

Note this is instead of 'If' + pronoun + 'were to' infinitive... so it involves ellipsis and inversion.

FORM/USE: INVERSION

[C1] Can introduce a subordinate clause with inverted 'should/had/were' + subject + verb, in formal contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples

Should you need any further assistance, do not hesitate to contact me.
Had we known that before we could have taken more money with us.
Were I able to travel to any place and time, I would probably choose the Greece of more than two thousand years ago.

FORM/USE: NON-FINITE AFTER 'ALTHOUGH', 'THOUGH'

[C2] Can use non-finite clauses after subordinating conjunctions '(although, though)', to express contrast.

Corrected Learner Examples

I was my parents' first and only child, and I was brought up at my grandparents' home, because, although married, my mother decided not to leave her parents' home, and my father agreed with her.
Although committed to her job she successfully maintains her social contacts all over the world.
Jack, though disappointed, respects the result.

FORM/USE: NON-FINITE WITH '-ED' CLAUSES, FOCUS

[C1] Can use a non-finite subordinate clause with an '-ed' form, before a main clause, to give focus.

Corrected Learner Examples

Compared to the campsite job this one has its advantages.

Based on the assessment above, I strongly recommend that we should take some action to improve the store.

Given all the inconveniences explained above I expect compensation from your company and if I do not hear from you within ten days I will have to contact my solicitors and take further steps.

Based in Zurich with departments all over Europe we reach almost 150 million people.

Comments

There are examples of this pattern at B2 but they are predominantly business. Note that 'compared to' is a chunk that can be learnt as a unit.

FORM: NON-FINITE AFTER 'IF'

[C1] Can use non-finite clauses after 'if'. .► 'clauses: conditionals'

Corrected Learner Examples

Please do not hesitate to ask for further assistance if needed.

Finally, there are some suggestions that, if taken, could improve the schools' academic standards.

There are plenty of taxis, of course, but they are very expensive, if compared with London taxis.

Comments

This is usually followed with an ellipted clause. There is a sharp increase in this structure at C1 but enough evidence to put it here.

CONJUNCTIONS

COORDINATING

FORM/USE: 'AND YET', CONCESSIVE

[C2] Can use 'And yet' to combine sentences to introduce a contrast, often unexpected, sometimes in a formal context.

Corrected Learner Examples

If I had, I would try to do the best for them, just like my parents did, and very likely I would make the same mistakes. And yet, I think I would be a good and loving father.

I felt very embarrassed and I was sure I would get the sack. And yet the manager forgave me and I continued to work there.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

If I had, I would try to do the best for them, just like my parents did, and very likely I would make the same mistakes. And yet, I think I would be a good and loving father.

And yet the manager forgave me and I continued to work there.

FORM/USE: 'NEITHER'

[C2] Can use 'Neither' or 'Nor' + inverted auxiliary or 'be' + subject to add to a previous related negative clause, to focus on an additional negative factor.

Corrected Learner Examples

Nevertheless, I have no recollection of ever leaving my diary. In fact, I can clearly remember that I kept it with me all the time I was working. Neither do I remember losing it during the time I was on the platform waiting for my train to pull in.

Maybe he will eventually get over this terrible experience, but he's bound to be a lonelier boy than he was. Nor does Jack's future look any more promising.

There are also considerable disturbances during day-time. It is, for example, not possible to lead a conversation, e.g. on the veranda, without shouting. Nor is it possible to watch television peacefully without the thunderous noise in the background.

At first, I didn't pay attention to the large number of magazines and newspapers she subscribed to. Neither did I oppose her 'need' to get new clothes every month.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Neither do I remember losing it during the time I was on the platform waiting for my train to pull in.

Nor does Jack's future look any more promising.

Nor is it possible to watch television peacefully without the thunderous noise in the background.

Neither did I oppose to her 'need' to get new clothes every month.

FORM/USE: 'NOT ONLY ... BUT ALSO'

[C1] Can use 'not only ... but also' to combine phrases and clauses, often for focus or emphasis.

Corrected Learner Examples

This book is not only a guide to the history of music but also a compendium of theory.

In addition to that, if we move to the new premises, we can not only solve the above problems, but also gain other benefits such as a better environment.

If we go back in time we will see that the difference between the old and the modern films is not only the number produced but also the content.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

This book is not only a guide of the History of Music but also a compendium of theory as it includes subjects as Harmony, Accustics or information on instruments.

In addition to that, if we move to the new premises, we can not only solve the above problems, but also gain other benefits such as better environment.

If we go back in time we will see that the difference between the old and the modern films, it not only in the number of their production but also the content.

FORM/USE: 'NOT ONLY ... BUT ALSO' WITH INVERSION

[C1] Can use inverted auxiliary 'do' + the subject after 'not only', to give focus.

Corrected Learner Examples

Indeed, not only did they teach us useful knowledge, but they also organised practical exercises to ensure that we had assimilated all the information.

Furthermore, not only do I speak (and write) in fluent English, but I also speak French, Spanish and Portuguese.

For me, not only do extreme sports provide satisfaction of achievement, but they also help you to express yourself.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Indeed, not only did they teach us useful knowledge, but they also organised practical exercises to assure that we had assimilated all the information given.

Furthermore, not only do I speak (and write) fluent English, but I also speak French, Spanish and Portuguese.

For me, not only do extreme sports provide satisfaction for your achievement, but they also help you to express yourself.

FORM/USE: 'YET', CONCESSIVE

[C1] Can use '(and) yet' to combine phrases and clauses to introduce a contrast, often unexpected.

Corrected Learner Examples

In the face of these recent events, our department also reviewed the contract with ProLine International, and found some interesting yet unpleasant details.

This college is famous for its art teachers and very skilled students, and yet it does not have its own gallery.

The host family was carefully selected, yet it was four miles away from school.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

In the face of these recent events, our department also reviewed the contract with ProLine International, and found some interesting, yet unpleasant details.

This college is famous for its art teachers and very skilled students and yet it does not have its own gallery.

In spite of the fact that the host family was carefully selected yet it was four miles away from school.

FORM: 'EITHER ... OR'

[C1] Can use 'either ... or' to combine more complex strings of clauses and sentences.

Corrected Learner Examples

And finally, about the present, you have two options; either you get something typical from your country, which they may like because you know how much they like collecting things from all over the world, or I get something from the wedding list store and sent it to them with your name on it and we can sort it out when you arrive here.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

And finally, about the present, you have two options; either you get something typical from your country, which they may like because you know how much they like collecting things from all over the world, or I get something from the wedding list store and sent it to them with your name on it and we can sort it out when you arrive here.

SUBORDINATING

FORM/USE: 'IN THAT'

[C2] Can use 'in that' as a subordinating conjunction, to give greater in-depth explanation, often in formal contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples

Nowadays it is widely argued that professional sports are damaging to people's health in that they involve gruelling training sessions as an integral part of the occupation.

It's often said that nowadays people must be proud of medical advances, in that life is getting considerably longer.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Nowadays it is widely argued that professional sports are damaging to people's health in that they involve gruelling training sessions as an integral part of the occupation.

With regards, Yours sincerely </original_answer> <original_answer> It's often said that nowadays people must be proud of medical advances, in that life is getting considerably longer.

FORM/USE: FOCUS

[C1] Can use 'whatever', 'wherever', 'however', etc. as a subordinating conjunction, at the beginning of a sentence, to give focus.

Corrected Learner Examples

Whatever you choose, you'll probably have to share it with other people.

Whatever the cause of the fall in the standard of your services is, we would strongly recommend that you take all the necessary measures to make sure that this won't happen again.

Wherever you go, you find shops, hotels and pubs which are full of tourists.

Whoever we appoint, he/she should be a well-qualified, educated and flexible person.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Whatever you choose, you'll probably have to share it with other people.

Whatever the cause of the fall in the standard of your services is, we would strongly recommend that you take all the necessary measures to make sure that this won't happen again.

Wherever you go, you find shops, hotels and pubs, which are full of tourists.

Whoever we appoint, he/she should be a well qualified, educated and flexible person.

DETERMINERS

DEMONSTRATIVES

FORM/USE: 'THIS' WITH NOUN AND POSSESSIVE

[C2] Can use 'this' + noun + 'of' + possessive pronoun to highlight something, often in a positive way.

Corrected Learner Examples

What is more, not only is this rare talent of theirs used for public pleasure but also for international sports success, which makes us all proud.

This characteristic of his is shown in every situation of his life.

USE: 'THIS', IN NARRATIVES

[C2] Can use 'this' with nouns and noun phrases in a narrative to create a sense of immediacy.

Corrected Learner Examples

*[talking about two characters in a story] There's this flame of passion between them.
It's a story where there's this old man who makes a marionette that comes to life.
In our group there was this girl, tiny and fragile, very sensitive; she had a special way with words.*

USE: EMOTIONAL DISTANCE

[C2] Can use 'that' and 'those' to convey emotional distance, often to express disapproval.

Corrected Learner Examples

*I also told her that if I had been in her shoes, I would not have put up with that sort of behaviour.
Nowadays, celebrities, like pop stars or football players, are often worshipped by hysterical crowds of fans who can't see through the mask that those so-called heroes make up to sell the product that they are.*

POSSESSIVES

FORM: 'S + 'S'

[C2] Can use two possessive 's' constructions in the same noun phrase.

Corrected Learner Examples

*There were no photographs of him in Ann 's mother's albums.
They spent two weeks together at Emily's grandmother's house, after fourteen months of dating.*

FORM: 'S' WITH ELLIPTED NOUN

[C2] Can use 's' without a following noun when the noun has already been mentioned or is obvious in the context.

Corrected Learner Examples

*Olivia's experiences probably are the narrator's.
He started to shake me and meanwhile I heard a familiar voice; it was my father's.
Suddenly, after two weeks I realised that my bank account was empty and so was my friend's.*

FORM: 'ONE'S'

[C1] Can use 'one's' to indicate possession, referring to people in general.

Corrected Learner Examples

*Living in Greece, I have had a chance to realise how much tourism can affect one's life.
After one has spent enough time away from one 's parents and has a personality of one's own, it is definitely possible to move in with one's parents.
In my opinion, this process depends on one's ability to open another way of communicating apart from one's mother language.*

FORM: SINGULAR NOUN ENDING IN 'S' + APOSTROPHE

[C2] Can use an apostrophe after singular nouns ending in 's', to indicate possession.

Corrected Learner Examples

However, I believe that in order to maintain its popularity, the programme should keep some of the series' aspects the same, but alter some others.

Comments

This feature is very low frequency in CLC and CEC.

QUANTITY

FORM/USE: 'MANY A' WITH SINGULAR NOUNS, FOR FOCUS

[C2] Can use 'many a' or 'many an' + singular noun for emphasis and focus.

Corrected Learner Examples

We have come a long way and climbed many a mountain but are we really better off than our ancestors?

Her father's pharmacy was broken into very often, the local drug addicts were relentless and Mary was threatened many a time on her way home from work.

It has raised many an issue which I would like to comment upon here.

FORM: 'EITHER', 'NEITHER' + 'OF' + DETERMINER WITH PLURAL NOUNS

[C1] Can use 'either' and 'neither' + 'of' with plural noun phrases or pronouns.► pronouns

Corrected Learner Examples

Either of the measures is recommended and those measures are bound to enhance the company's competitive power.

Of course if you are not at all interested in sports, neither of these games will be of any interest to you.

However, you forgot to add that neither of us could foresee the rise in the price of wheat.

FORM: 'EITHER', 'NEITHER' WITH SINGULAR NOUNS

[C1] Can use 'either' and 'neither' with singular nouns.

Corrected Learner Examples

Second, we would draw your attention to the fact that neither party could foresee or predict the recent rise in the price of wheat.

In the Czech Republic, somewhere between those two extremes, either way is possible.

This way, the toilet can be accessed easily from either floor.

Comments

Note that these determiners can be used with singular nouns only.

USE: HYPERBOLE

[C1] Can use determiners in hyperbole, often in informal contexts ('millions of', 'loads of', 'tons of').

Corrected Learner Examples

My kitchen is absolutely cramped. I love cooking and despite the fact that I have no space, I managed to fit in a table as well as millions of cookbooks and all the necessary kitchen tools. I'm going to make loads of cookies this year and will give them in nice little boxes to my family and friends.

I received tons of plastic ducks every time I had my birthday or some kind of celebration.

DISCOURSE MARKERS

DISCOURSE MARKERS IN WRITING

FORM/USE: TEXTUAL REFERENCE

[C1] Can use a range of phrases as discourse markers to point to other parts of a text.

Corrected Learner Examples

As mentioned above, it might be possible to negotiate better contracts for your company.

I hope this brief note has convinced you to start this club. As mentioned earlier, I have already asked for information.

So as shown above, I recommend TELECARS to be our car services supplier because it offers all we need.

Comments

As mentioned above/below etc. occurs only 5 times at B1, 35 times at B2 but mostly German speakers. There are no examples of As previously mentioned at C1 and only 1 at C2.

FOCUS

FOCUS

FORM/USE: 'IT' CLEFT

[C2] Can use 'It' + 'be' + noun + 'that' clause for focus.

Corrected Learner Examples

It is Lily who decides to go to the seaside and it is also her who kills the turkey given by a lorry-driver.

It was Paul who stole the money.

It is Piggy who finds the conch and knows how to blow it.

It is my mother who always plays the role of mediator.

It is this silence that gives me the impression of togetherness, for which no words are needed.

FORM/USE: 'NOT A' + NOUN

[C2] Can use 'Not a' + noun with a passive verb or inverted auxiliary and subject for focus.

Corrected Learner Examples

Not a word was spoken by anyone throughout the journey.

Not a scrap of remorse do they have.

FORM/USE: 'THE' + PREMODIFIER + 'THING, FACT ETC.' + 'IS (THAT)'

[C2] Can use 'The' + premodifier + 'thing, fact, point, problem or reason' + 'is (that)' for focus.

Corrected Learner Examples

The sad thing about it was that it was actually Richard who said, "Why don't you go on holiday??"

The strange thing was that the noise reminded her of someone making a cup of tea.

The sad fact is, poverty is very likely to pass down to the next generation in these situations.

The relevant point is that that personal, almost intimate relationship between the possessor and the thing possessed is at the core of that particular love we all hold for certain things.

The only problem is that they are a little too noisy in the night.

FORM/USE: 'WH-'CLEFT CLAUSE

[C2] Can use 'How', 'Why', or 'Where' cleft clauses as subject, for focus

Corrected Learner Examples

How we are brought up forms our character, our thinking and our attitude towards ourselves and towards everybody and everything around us.

Where he had gone to was a mystery.

How they influenced my life is hard to tell.

Why I think my father is successful is because of his personality, he is very fair about everything,; for example if he sees two beautiful women walking down the street and you ask him which is the nicest of them, he couldn't tell even if one was plain ugly he couldn't.

[talking about possessions] How people have got their objects is also important.

FORM/USE: 'WH-'CLEFT CLAUSE, TITLES

[C1] Can use 'Wh-'cleft clauses as titles or subtitles, to point to something that follows, for focus.

Corrected Learner Examples

Why I think this is a good idea

People are sensitive, and when they hear about charities, they always want to help.

Why you should choose that event

If you fund this event, you will gain in two ways: firstly you will help needy people, and secondly you will be admired.

The aim of this is to find out why our biggest customer stopped purchasing from our company.

How I investigated. First I started looking on the internet in general.

How we could benefit in terms of sales

This drink will be taken by athletes of any kind.

FORM/USE: 'WHAT' CLEFT CLAUSE

[C1] Can use 'What' + noun or pronoun + verb phrase as subject + 'be', for focus.

Corrected Learner Examples

What we need is a strong publicity campaign, directed at young people.

What everyone loved were the special effects and we were very impressed by the use of advanced technological innovations.

What companies care about is money and football players help them to earn it.

What tourists want is to see the most typical things in England, not a hamburger restaurant or a London musical from the back row in the gallery.

What students learn are mostly facts and theories.

What I found particularly fascinating about this story is that it is still exciting and thrilling, despite the plot being rather easy to follow.

FORM/USE: FIXED EXPRESSIONS, FRONTING

[C1] Can use fixed expressions in the front position for focus.

Corrected Learner Examples

At the end of the day everything is up to you!

All in all, the activity week was a nice experience for both students and teachers.

All things considered, I would recommend the third proposal as it seems to me that it covers most of the points the students have been complaining about.

When it comes down to it, who does not like such a surprise?

When you think about it, can we afford a flat in Central London and still have something left with a basic salary?

Comments

Note prepositional phrases are used in a literal sense from A2 (e.g. 'In my house', 'there will be a party'). By C1, there is widespread use of fixed expressions, many of which are prepositional phrases, being used non-literally for focus.

FORM/USE: IMPERATIVES

[C1] Can use imperatives as pointing devices within texts for focus.

Corrected Learner Examples

Note the disadvantages of this transfer.

Notice the difference in the salary.

See the written instructions on the phone for complete instruction.

FORM/USE: MULTIPLE FIXED EXPRESSIONS

[C2] Can use more than one fixed expression in the front position for added focus.

Corrected Learner Examples

But all of a sudden, out of nowhere a bunch of people came running towards him, yelling something he couldn't understand.

All in all, taking everything into account, I would suggest that a leisure centre would be the most beneficial as it provides all the facilities necessary to attract and benefit a number of people in the community.

What is more, from my point of view happiness has nothing to do with big things but with small things such as day-to-day details.

FORM/USE: NON-FINITE WITH '-ED' CLAUSES

[C1] Can use a non-finite subordinate clause with an '-ed' form, before a main clause, for focus, often in formal, academic or business contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples

Compared to other European capitals, there has been a lot done to make riding a bike less dangerous and more comfortable in Berlin.

Outlined below are some essential reasons which justify my choice and should be seriously considered.

FUTURE

FUTURE CONTINUOUS

USE: EXPECTATIONS WITH 'MIGHT' OR 'MAY'

[C1] Can use the future continuous with 'might' or 'may' to talk about an event or activity potentially in progress at a specified or understood time in the future.

Corrected Learner Examples

As far as I'm concerned, we should definitely do some additional publicity, particularly for the new offerings which might be coming up.

For example, your boss may be calling at 10 pm asking you to prepare a report for next day's meeting.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

As far as I'm concerned, we should definitely do some additional publicity, particularly for the new offerings which might be coming up.

For example, your boss may be calling at 10 pm asking you to prepare a report for next day's meeting.

FUTURE IN THE PAST

USE: 'BE DUE TO'

[C2] Can use the simple past form of 'be' + 'due to' to talk about scheduled events in the future from a point in the past.

Corrected Learner Examples

It was quite early in the morning, only 7.15 am, and my plane was due to leave in about 40 minutes.

Ten minutes after the time we were due to begin, she arrived.

We have succeeded in persuading the local Council that the factory that was due to be built near the lake was dangerous.

FUTURE PERFECT CONTINUOUS

USE: ASSUMPTIONS

[C2] Can use the future perfect continuous to make assumptions about the present.

Corrected Learner Examples

I do not think that this aspect is really necessary because it is supposed that ... you will have been studying very hard to occupy that job

Uncorrected Learner Examples

I do not think that this aspect is really necessary because it is supposed that you will be an adult for that moment and you will have been studying very hard to occupy that job ...

Comments

Very low frequency item.

FUTURE PERFECT SIMPLE

FORM: QUESTIONS

[C2] Can use the question form of the future perfect simple.

Corrected Learner Examples

Will he have changed?

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Will he have changed?

Comments

In general questions are low frequency in the CLC, because of the data is written rather than spoken. Questions forms with the future perfect simple are low frequency in the NS data too. .

FORM: WITH ADVERBS

[C1] Can use the future perfect with adverbs (in the normal mid-position).

Corrected Learner Examples

If you have ever read a fairytale by Hans Christian Andersen you will surely have discovered why this man is so famous worldwide.

However, sales will possibly have fallen to 5000 units again by the end of the year.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

If you have ever readen a fairytale by Hans Christian Andersen you will surely have discovered why this man is so famous worldwide.

However, sales will possibly have fallen to 5000 units again by the end of the year.

USE: ASSUMPTIONS

[C1] Can use the future perfect simple with 'will' to make assumptions about the present, particularly with 'you'.

Corrected Learner Examples

As you will have heard, this year's work experience programme in Britain was in general a success.

All of this is because her book will have included the cultural traditions that go with the dishes.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

As you will have heard, this year's work experience programme in Britain was in general a succes.

All of this, is because her book will have included the cultural traditions that go with the dishes.

USE: POLITENESS

[C1] Can use the future perfect simple with 'will' as a politeness strategy, often in formal contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples

[from a formal letter] I hope I will have reassured you.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

I hope I will have reassured you.

Comments

This is very low frequency in the learner data.

FUTURE SIMPLE (WITH WILL AND SHALL)

FORM: NEGATIVE 'SHALL'

[C1] Can use the negative form 'shall not'.

Corrected Learner Examples

However, we shall not forget to mention the legal and social consequences of such a merger to the average employees.

Therefore, my client shall not release you from the agreement, which is binding upon both parties.

Comments

There are only 2 occurrences of 'shan't' in the whole of the CLC, one at B1 and one at C2, therefore this form has been omitted. It may be more a feature of spoken data.

USE: LONG-TERM INTENTIONS WITH 'SHALL'

[C2] Can use 'shall' to talk about long-term intentions.

Corrected Learner Examples

I must believe, believe in myself and in everybody else, and mainly in what I look for, this way I shall never lose hope.

I shall always remember it as the city of lights.

I shall always keep it in mind, in order to keep my children close to me and avoid being hated.

I came to the conclusion that the Excel Academy is not worth the money our company paid and that we shall not send further candidates there.

USE: PREDICTIONS WITH 'SHALL'

[C2] Can use 'shall' to make predictions, usually in formal contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples

Once more I invite you wholeheartedly to stay at my place and I hope we shall meet in November.

... we shall probably have several years more to live.

FUTURE WITH BE GOING TO

FORM: WITH ADVERBS

[C1] Can use 'be' + 'going to' with an increasing range of adverbs (particularly adverbs of certainty) in the normal mid position.

Corrected Learner Examples

Mario Soares is already an old man, nearly 70, who is probably going to finish his active political life in 2 or 3 years.

As the new store is going to be the first and only one in Moscow, and, to make matters worse, it is going to be located close to our most successful outlet, it is undoubtedly going to have a detrimental effect on our company.

Additionally, many British people stay at "Tall Trees Campsite", so I guess we would be forced to speak English all the time, which is also great because it is surely going to help us to improve our English skills.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Mario Soares is already an old man, nearly 70, who is probably going to finish his active political life in 2 or 3 years.

As the new store is going to be the first and only one in Moscow, and, to make matters worse, it is going to be located close to our most successful outlet, it is undoubtedly going to have a detrimental effect on our company.

Additionally, many British people stay at "Tall Trees Campsite", so I guess we would be forced to speak English all the time, which is also great because it is surely going to help us to improve our English skills.

[C2] Can use 'be' + 'going to' with a wide range of adverbs before the main verb.

Corrected Learner Examples

But I don't know if I'm going to still live here.

First, I am going to briefly introduce the three main activities offered by the club.

Nobody is going to even look at you when your sister is there.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

But I don't know if I'm going to still live here.

First, I am going to briefly introduce the three main activities offered by the club.

Nobody is going to even look at you when your sister is there.

Comments

We have evidence here of split infinitives. This is frequent in informal native speaker language but is a structure which some teachers may wish to avoid for exam use if they think it is incorrect.

PRESENT CONTINUOUS FOR FUTURE USE

FORM: INVERSION WITH 'ONLY WHEN'

[C2] Can use the present simple with 'only when' (followed by 'will' and inverted subject) to refer to the future.

Corrected Learner Examples

Only when we understand that, will we be able to live in better societies.

Moreover, I think that only when people manage this will they be able to move on with their lives and offer something new to humanity.

And, sadly, I also believe that only when something really catastrophic happens will citizens face reality and accept that measures must be taken.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Only when we understand that, will we be able to live in better societies.

Moreover, I think that only when people manage this will they be able to move on with their lives and offer something new to the humanity and to the future generesions.

And, sadly, I also believe that only when something really catastrophic happens will citizens face reality and accept that measures must be taken in other to improve everyone's lifestyle.

FORM: WITH 'BY THE TIME'

[C1] Can use the present simple with 'by the time' to refer to the future.

Corrected Learner Examples

... by the time he gets home, he will just want to go straight to bed.

By the time you arrive the information office at the airport will be closed, as at 11.00 o'clock a full day strike will start.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

By the time he gets home, he will just want to go straight to bed.

By the time you arrive the information office at the airport will be closed as at 11.00 o'clock a full day strike will start.

Comments

Note that there aren't many time conjunctions – they are quite a closed set, but their use with the present simple for future does develop as you move up the levels.

USE: SUGGESTIONS, OBLIGATION

[C1] Can use the present simple after speech act verbs expressing suggestions and obligation.

Corrected Learner Examples

We would suggest that our management takes a closer look.

I recommend that we go to the theatre in Ginza where "Miss Saigon" is on.

Moreover, we insist that the agreement between you is legally binding

Uncorrected Learner Examples

I recommend that we go to see the theatre in Ginza where "Miss Saigon" is on.

Moreover, we insist that the agreement between you is legally binding so without the consent of United Wheat Shippers you can't release yourself from the obligations to it and my client is not going to give you such consent.

MODALITY

ADJECTIVES

FORM/USE: MODIFYING ADJECTIVES, EMPHASIS

[C1] Can modify adjectives with adverbs, often for emphasis.

Corrected Learner Examples

It is painfully obvious that it will rescue our city from the pollution and fumes that cars are producing.

[talking about stolen goods] It is highly unlikely that the goods can vanish from your warehouse without that being noticed.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

It is painfully obvious that it will rescue our city from pollution and fumes that cars are producing.

[Talking about stolen goods] It is highly unlikely that the goods can vanish from your warehouse without being noticed.

FORM/USE: MODIFYING ADJECTIVES, HEDGING

[C1] Can modify adjectives with degree adverbs, often to make an assertion less direct.

Corrected Learner Examples

If you want to come earlier or if there's a public transport strike (which is quite probable), you will have to take a taxi.

It is almost certain that we'll have fights in the future but we will probably overcome them.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

If you want to come earlier or if there's a strike of public transport (which is quite probable) you will have to take a taxi.

It is almost certain that we'll have fights in the future but we will probably overcome them.

ADVERBS

FORM/USE, RESPONSE TOKENS

[C2] Can use adverbs expressing certainty as short responses.

Corrected Learner Examples

Do I agree with this statement? Definitely.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Do I agree with this statement? Definitely.

Comments

There is very little evidence of this because of the lack of spoken data.

FORM/USE: 'NOT NECESSARILY'

[C1] Can use 'not necessarily' to express a possible exception to a general perception, i.e. not in every case.

Corrected Learner Examples

As a conclusion, I want to say that while what we wear doesn't necessarily define who we are, it does play a big part in it.

This is not necessarily the way the older generation would see it though.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

As a conclusion, I want to say that, while what we wear doesn't necessarily define who we are, it does play a big part in it.

This is not necessarily the way the older generation would see it though.

FORM/USE: RESPONSE TOKENS

[C1] Can use 'not necessarily' as a short response.

Corrected Learner Examples

Presents. Strips, bows, paper-wrapping. Thinking of Christmas? Not necessarily.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Presents. Strips, bows, paper-wrapping. Thinking of Christmas? Not necessarily.

Comments

There is very little evidence of this because of the lack of spoken data.

CAN

FORM/USE: PAST NEGATIVE, DEDUCTIONS

[C1] Can use 'can't' or 'cannot have' + '-ed' to make deductions.

Corrected Learner Examples

I live with my partner and we can't have used so much electricity.

...it cannot have been such a disappointment.

The air-conditioning cannot have been working properly as the coach was too cold.

FORM: PASSIVE

[C1] Can use 'can' in passive reporting clauses in a more formal impersonal style (e.g. for reports and academic contexts), such as 'It can be said that', 'It can be argued (that)', 'It can be concluded that', 'It can be considered'. ► passives

Corrected Learner Examples

It can be argued, looking at the figures, that the company should consider withdrawing from the heater market.

Taking everything into account, it can be concluded that the current training course is very useful for our company.

As for marriage and relationships, it can be said that women who have a job, nowadays, do not quit it after marriage.

FORM: WITH ADVERBS

[C1] Can use a wide range of adverbs with 'can' in the normal mid position after the modal verb). ► adverbs

Corrected Learner Examples

Only those who live with their relatives can fully understand how essential is the role of your parents, sisters, aunts...

Miss Sylvia Ann Powers is a good friend of mine for over six years, so I can honestly say that I know her personality fairly well.

Comments

Adverb use really increases at the C levels, not in terms of the range of different adverbs but the frequency of their use.

USE: EMPHASIS

[C1] Can use expressions with 'can' or 'can't' to give focus or add emphasis, such as 'as you can see', 'I can't say', 'I can tell you that', 'as you can imagine', 'I can say that', 'I can assure you that'.

Corrected Learner Examples

So, as you can see, there are no serious consequences for us, so far.

I can't say I was very impressed with the level and the way the classes were given.

About my country, I can tell you that we went through a great number of wars in the last century...

USE: REFLECTIONS

[C2] Can use 'how can' to reflect, through rhetorical questions.

Corrected Learner Examples

And how can we improve if we are not allowed to make mistakes, evaluate our experiences in a new light and try again?

But how can each of us stay fit in this world of stress and fast food restaurants?

COULD

USE: CRITICISM

[C1] Can use 'could have' + '-ed' form to express disapproval or criticism.

Corrected Learner Examples

Since your travel company chose a hotel that far from the city, I think that you could have arranged entertainment at the hotel.

? for the money they had paid, you could have given them a better service (hotel, restaurant and evening entertainment).

USE: SPECULATION

[C2] Can use 'couldn't have' + '-ed' to speculate about the past.

Corrected Learner Examples

Imagine my dismay when I realised I hadn't brought back the notebook from the pub. Surely I couldn't have left it on my seat.

[speculating about a lost diary] ? her mother couldn't have hidden it there just like that. It just wasn't like her. She must have put it away there and then forgotten about it.

DARE

FORM/USE: 'I DARE SAY'

[C1] Can use the fixed expression 'I dare say' to say that something is probably true.

Corrected Learner Examples

I feel that I have a huge responsibility trying to choose only one option, but I dare say that the last option may be the best one.

I must express my concern about some facilities, like the student study centre and the canteen, which I dare say needs improvement.

Comments

See comment at B2 'affirmative'

FORM/USE: NEGATIVE WITH 'DIDN'T'

[C2] Can use the negative form 'didn't dare' + infinitive without 'to' to talk about not being brave enough to do something.

Corrected Learner Examples

She didn't dare think about him and the possibility that he would never come back.

Since we didn't dare move our feet, we were slowly swaying to the left and to the right, backwards and forwards.

Comments

See comment at B2 'affirmative'

FORM: QUESTION

[C1] Can use the question form.

Corrected Learner Examples

Dare we run the risk of even one child or adult turning to violent crime because they think it is ok?

Comments

See comment at B2 'affirmative'

USE: 'HOW DARE ...!'

[C1] Can use 'how dare ... !' to express disapproval or offense about something

Corrected Learner Examples

How dare people say that we don't practice sport!

... how dare you say that this event was a complete failure!

Comments

See comment at B2 'affirmative'

EXPRESSIONS WITH BE

FORM/USE: 'BE' + ADJECTIVE + 'NOT' + 'TO'

[C2] Can use 'be' + adjective + 'not' + 'to' + infinitive for emphasis.

Corrected Learner Examples

People should be obliged not to have more than a very small number of children otherwise they will be punished.

Now without her knowledge, I know everything about her and she is bound not to conceal the truth!

Indeed, whatever path parents choose, they are almost certain not to do a good job.

Be sure not to miss the alligator steak.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

People should be obliged not to have more than a very small number of children otherwise they will be punished.

Now without her knowledge, I know everything about her and she is bound not to conceal the truth!

Indeed, whatever path parents choose, they are almost certain not to do a good job.

Be sure not to miss the alligator steak.

FORM/USE: HEDGING

[C1] Can use 'be' + 'not' + adjective + 'that-' clause to make an assertion less direct.

Corrected Learner Examples

[Talking about a town near a dump where people cannot open their windows] I am not certain that they have got used to it.

[Talking about distractions while studying] It's not likely that you'll make progress.

As you can see, I'm really in favour of this plan but I'm not sure that the council has anticipated everything.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

[Talking about a town near a dump where people cannot open their windows] I am not certain that they have got used to it.

[Talking about distractions while studying] It's not likely that you'll make progress.

As you can see, I'm really in favour of this plan but I'm not sure that the council has anticipated everything.

FORM: NEGATIVE

[C2] Can use 'be' + 'not' + adjective + 'to' + infinitive.

Corrected Learner Examples

The country's population is not likely to increase fast enough.

[Talking about relatives] You are not obliged to invite them over.

[Talking about tourism] Its positive effects are not certain to outweigh the negative ones.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

The country's population is not likely to increase fast enough.

[Talking about relatives] You are not obliged to invite them over.

[Talking about tourism] Its positive effects are not certain to outweigh the negative ones.

USE: 'BE SET TO', ASSERTION

[C1] Can use 'be set to' to talk about strong assertion about the future, especially in institutional contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples

The turnover of our company is set to increase dramatically after the establishment of the e-shop, which itself requires little investment.

The population of children is set to plummet to 11.5% and that of working people also to 46.2% in 2050.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

The population of children (0 to 14) is set to decrease to 37% and the population of senior citizens is set to increase to 5.7%

This report is set to compare TELECARS and STREETLIGHT CABS in order to select a proper taxi firm for our company.

Comments

This pattern is used especially in business contexts.

HAVE (GOT) TO

FORM: PAST

[C2] Can use 'have to have' + '-ed'.

Corrected Learner Examples

[talking about urban versus rural life] In order to have an objective view on which lifestyle tends to be more problematic, you certainly have to have lived at each setting for a rather extensive time period.

They stop at the most famous places, which you "have to have seen", jump down and take photographs, always chatting with each other.

USE: DEDUCTIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

[C2] Can use a range of present and past forms of 'have (got) to' to talk about deductions and conclusions. ► must ► had to

Corrected Learner Examples

[talking about a castle on a small island] It's got to be incredible to see a castle emerging from the sea.

[wondering why his mother has suddenly decided to come to his house] There had to be something else since she was definitely not the kind of person who drops by without asking. Yes, I was sure, it had to have been Peter.

USE: OBLIGATION

[C2] Can use present and past forms of 'have to' + '-ed' to talk about obligations in the past.

Corrected Learner Examples

Nowadays, one has to have finished at least senior high school for any employer to consider hiring you.

The State Universities have a higher level of education than Public Universities, but usually to get into a State University you had to have been studying in a public school.

MAY

FORM/USE: 'MAY AS WELL'

[C2] Can use 'may as well' to talk about what we think is the easiest or most logical course of action, often when we cannot see a better alternative or when it will not spoil the situation if you do that thing. ► might

Corrected Learner Examples

A few minutes later, she began hesitantly: "After all, you may as well know..."
I may as well see the other things.

Comments

This is at C1 in EVP but most of the C1 examples are either from Business English candidates or are not pragmatically correct. ||NB this structure tends to be more spoken than written.

FORM/USE: 'MAY WELL'

[C1] Can use 'may well' to give emphasis to something unexpected.

Corrected Learner Examples

I think they may well come to an agreement on these payment problems.
In general a week's work experience is a good way for a high school student to get familiar with the world of work. It may well be that after leaving school they become our employees.

FORM/USE: PAST NEGATIVE

[C1] Can use 'may not have' + '-ed' to talk about possibility in the past.

Corrected Learner Examples

The percentage of Dutch people eating a big, hot breakfast may not have been as high as of English people, but it has certainly reduced.
Apart from the income from both partners, it helps them meet other people thereby acquiring other skills they may not have obtained by staying or working from home.

USE: CONCESSION

[C2] Can use 'may' in a subordinate clause expressing concession with 'however', 'whatever', 'whoever' ... + 'it or this may be or seem'.

Corrected Learner Examples

But honestly, I am sure that the price of the watch also contributes its part, however small it may be, to my love of it.
Nowadays, however useful it may seem, travel has proved to be pointless as far as broadening the mind is concerned.
The most important thing is that people enjoy what they are doing whatever it may be and wherever it takes place.
Nowadays, one of the main goals of people in society is to achieve success, in whatever field it may be.

USE: HEDGING

[C2] Can use 'it may be' + '-ed' that as a hedging device when drawing conclusions and summarising, particularly in academic contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples

On balance, it may be concluded that although international sports competitions do involve such factors as serious and physical strain and commercial gain, their ultimate aim remains unchanged – namely, to find out in a fair way who deserves the title of the winner.

It may be argued that a child's academic success is crucial to his or her future.

It may be argued that the career span of an athlete is quite short and therefore money earned is well deserved.

MIGHT

FORM: 'MIGHT AS WELL'

[C2] Can use 'might as well', mostly to talk about or suggest what we think is the easiest or most logical course of action, often when we cannot see a better alternative. ► 'may'

Corrected Learner Examples

Living longer allows you to fulfil the different stages of your personal development, and if you reach the necessary maturity and integrity that corresponds to this stage of your life, you might as well make the best of these years.

What should be changed about travelling and spending one's holiday is that the people, in my opinion, should decide on what they want to do during their holidays: If they only want to have fun, they might as well stay at home.

FORM: PAST, NEGATIVE

[C1] Can use 'might not have' + '-ed'.

Corrected Learner Examples

First of all, not 45 but only 35 stalls were promised, meaning the disappointment you mentioned might not have been as bad as you, or whoever gave you the information, thought it was.

FORM: QUESTIONS

[C1] Can use the question form.

Corrected Learner Examples

Could it be possible that your company sent me the wrong bill, or might it be the bill from the last person who lived in my house?

Might it not be a good idea to change the travel company you are working with next time?

USE: CONSOLING OR JUSTIFYING

[C1] Can use 'might' followed by 'but' to console or justify.

Corrected Learner Examples

The argument that fashion reflects people's attitudes and behaviour might sound superficial, but on closer examination it turns out to be true.

The idea of going to work-out to keep fit might be tedious sometimes but the majority of young people are interested in taking up an activity these days.

All in all, it might not have been a huge success, but people enjoyed themselves.

You might not have been able to "change the world" but maybe you have made a difference to one or two people.

USE: EMPHASIS

[C2] Can use 'try as I might' for emphasis at the beginning of a sentence.

Corrected Learner Examples

Try as I might, I was never able to persuade her to go for a walk.

Try as I might, I cannot imagine a world without music.

Try as I might, I can't see an explanation

USE: POLITE CRITICISM

[C1] Can use the question form to make polite criticisms and suggestions.

Corrected Learner Examples

Last but not least, might it not be wise if you had more trips ...?

Also might I suggest that we have more exiting publicity for the club?

As for the musicals running in London, might I suggest that you arrange for seats where one can both see and listen?

USE: POSSIBILITY IN THE PAST

[C1] Can use 'might not have' + '-ed' to talk about possibility with a past reference.

Corrected Learner Examples

The survey, mentioned in the local newspaper yesterday, might not have asked an accurate sample of people.

Even though things might not have gone as you expected or as you would like them to have, we have to remind you we are dealing with charity here.

MUST

FORM: ELLIPSIS

[C2] Can use ellipted 'must have' + '-ed' without a subject. ► ellipsis

Corrected Learner Examples

[from a story] 'Must have fallen out of a car, or somfin'" This was his next thought.

Comments

Ellipsis is more typically found in spoken language than written language.

FORM: INVERSION

[C2] Can invert 'must' and the subject after negative phrases, e.g. 'not only', 'never', 'nor', to change the focus and give prominence/emphasis.

Corrected Learner Examples

Not only must you study really hard during university, but also keep studying afterwards.

To sum up, my opinion is that education is sacred, necessary and useful to all of us and never must it be characterised as "a waste of time".

[talking about personality] Nor must we overlook the human qualities.

FORM: PAST, NEGATIVE

[C2] Can use 'must not have been' (especially with 'easy').

Corrected Learner Examples

But I would like to stress that I was really happy that she found another husband, although she had three little children which must not have been easy for him.

Something I have missed on behalf of my father is a bit more tenderness, but again I am guessing it must not have been easy for him to be a post-war-time son of a widow.

It mustn't have been more than an hour after the first announcement of the captain that there was a second one.

FORM: WITH ADVERBS

[C2] Can use 'must' with a wide range of adverbs in the normal mid position after the modal verb. ► adverbs|

Corrected Learner Examples

There must certainly be other solutions to the problem of the need for space for new houses.

RECOMMENDATION In my opinion our town must clearly use this area to create a park and a playground for children.

I must completely disagree with this statement, since I believe that in all jobs or occupations only the good professionals are able to earn a lot of money.

NEED

FORM: PAST, NEGATIVE

[C1] Can use 'needn't have' + '-ed'.

Corrected Learner Examples

You needn't have bought me anything!

However, you needn't have bothered so much.

FORM: QUESTIONS

[C2] Can use the question form.

Corrected Learner Examples

Need you ask?

Lastly I would appreciate , as I am sure others would too, if the premises were cleaner. Need I say more?

Comments

This is very low frequency in the CLC.

USE: IN DISCUSSION

[C2] Can use the question form rhetorically in discussion, typically in formal contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples

Need I go on?

Need you work in this way?

OUGHT

FORM/USE: DESIRED STATES, WITH 'THERE OUGHT TO BE'

[C1] Can use 'there ought to be' to talk about desired states of affairs.

Corrected Learner Examples

The rooms were dirty, there was no room service and there ought to be a lift since the rooms were on the 4th floor.

... we came to the conclusion that there ought to be some changes to the club's publicity. I think there ought to be more excursions and guided tours.

FORM/USE: EMPHASIS, WITH 'REALLY'

[C1] Can use 'ought to' with 'really' to add emphasis.

Corrected Learner Examples

Moreover, you really ought to ask for details about the timetable they've set for schooling hours, just to be sure that it fits the way of studying you are accustomed to.

This is what almost everyone thinks, but we really ought to think a little bit more about it. One really ought to know the interests, wishes and demands of the receiver.

FORM/USE: PAST, AFFIRMATIVE

[C1] Can use 'ought to have' + '-ed' to refer to desired states of affairs in the past.

Corrected Learner Examples

Another point, which I think ought to have been better managed, was the boat trip on the Thames.

However, the expert that I have consulted claims that this kind of polluted water is the most common consequence when placing gas stations and the government ought to have known that.

We were taken by surprise, when we didn't get a tour guide. We ought to have booked one!

Comments

No results for negative past form or ellipted past form (I didn't leave early but I ought to have.)

FORM: CONTRACTED FORM, NEGATIVE

[C2] Can use 'oughtn't' (without 'to') + verb.

Corrected Learner Examples

...they will most certainly have a banquet that day... and you oughtn't miss it for the world!

Comments

VERY LOW FREQUENCY ITEM.

FORM: NEGATIVE

[C2] Can use the negative form 'ought not to'.

Corrected Learner Examples

Secondly, there ought not to be a division between rich and poor.

We ought not to forget that in the last twenty years the food industry has increased the number of chemicals used in its products.

FORM: QUESTIONS, NEGATIVE

[C2] Can use 'ought' + subject + 'not to' + verb to form (rhetorical) questions, often in formal contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples

And if not, ought we not to learn from the mistakes of the past?

Comments

VERY LOW FREQUENCY ITEM. There are no examples of affirmative or tag questions in the CLC, and only one example of the question form.

USE: LIKELIHOOD

[C1] Can use 'ought to' to talk about something which is likely.

Corrected Learner Examples

... the fundamental function of accounting software is to record the numerous ordinary business activities, which may improve the efficiency of the company. Besides, it ought to provide useful information in decision-making.

You ought not to be hungry.

SHALL

FORM: NEGATIVE

[C1] Can use the negative form.

Corrected Learner Examples

This way, students shall not die of boredom or feel that their stay was useless.

Secondly, supplier contracts shall not be omitted.

This is, as I mentioned in my letter, only in the event I shall not be able to pick you up at the airport.

Comments

There are only 2 occurrences of “shan’t” in the CLC, one at B1 and one at C2. Neither are great examples so we have decided not to include them. This may be a spoken language feature.

USE: AFTER 'IF' CLAUSES

[C2] Can use 'shall' in the main clause after an 'if-' clause ► conditionals

Corrected Learner Examples

Nowadays people live longer than they did in the past, which is very nice and pleasant, but we must be careful because if things get out of hand, ... we shall be doomed to live in complete chaos.

I have to inform you that if we do not receive a reply this time we shall take the matter to court.

USE: COMMANDS AND INSTRUCTIONS

[C1] Can use 'shall' to express commands in very formal contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples

We therefore need to insist that the agreement is binding and that the contract shall be fulfilled.

Comments

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

USE: PREDICTIONS

[C2] Can use 'shall' to make predictions.

Corrected Learner Examples

As a result, our town shall have financial benefits, as people visiting the library will visit the city's shops for their needs.

... we shall probably have several years more to live.

SHOULD

FORM/USE: AFTER 'IF' CLAUSES

[C1] Can use 'should' after 'if' to talk about possible situations in the future.

Corrected Learner Examples

If you should change your mind and prefer to take a taxi, you can do it outside the airport by calling this number: 3570.

If something should happen, call 112, the local alarm number.

FORM/USE: INVERSION

[C1] Can use 'should' with an inverted subject to refer to possible situations, in formal contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples

Should you need any further information, don't hesitate to contact us.

Should you withhold any important information or documentation, this could stop any payment to you.

USED TO

FORM/USE: WITH 'AS' + PRONOUN, NARRATIVE

[C2] Can use 'as' + pronoun + 'used to' ... to add background to a narrative, often to highlight something unusual.

Corrected Learner Examples

She had gone out for a walk in the woods as she used to do every Sunday, with her diary in her hand and a pen in her pocket.

He divorced his wife, old flabby Nellie as she used to call her, and proposed to her.

She married a well-off man, and ended up being a housewife, doing piecework for peanuts, as she used to say.

FORM: 'USED NOT TO'

[C2] Can use negative form 'used not to'

Corrected Learner Examples

I used to play until late in the evening, I used not to do my homework and I did not excel at school.

As a teenager I used not to be very sociable, I had few friends and none of them felt close.

FORM: QUESTIONS

[C1] Can use the question form.

Corrected Learner Examples

[talking about a change in eating habits] What did we use to eat?

Comments

Questions form generally are low frequency in the CLC as they are more common in spoken language than written.

WILL

USE: HABITUAL AND TYPICAL

[C1] Can use 'will' to talk about something which is typical or habitual.

Corrected Learner Examples

The abundance of ingredients required in any recipe will result normally in a spicy but nutritious dish, a dish that will usually contain some kind of sauce made of hot pepper, tomatoes, garlic and onion, some kind of meat and also some vegetables.

She will often knock on the door to see you.

Go to lots of beautiful places that you won't usually be able to go to with a car, such as riversides.

USE: WILLFULNESS OR DISAPPROVAL

[C2] Can use 'will' to talk about general behaviour, often disapprovingly.

Corrected Learner Examples

Indeed no one can imagine what children will do!

Comments

Note that this use is very low frequency, perhaps because of the lack of spoken data. The 'will' here is typically stressed, e.g. "She 'will' slam that door!" (unstressed 'will' would not work here).

WOULD

FORM: WITH ADVERBS

[C1] Can use an increasing range of adverbs with 'would', including 'strongly', 'easily', 'especially', 'actually', 'absolutely', 'gladly' ► adverbs

Corrected Learner Examples

Considering the aspects of our education system, and the results of my research, I would strongly recommend the following changes to be made.

Because of her wide and excellent experience with small children I believe that Nascha would easily fit into a family with small children.

[C2] Can use a wide range of adverbs with 'would', including 'undoubtedly', 'possibly', 'normally', 'personally', 'eventually', 'obviously', 'significantly', 'inevitably'. ► adverbs

Corrected Learner Examples

[talking about the construction of a leisure centre] I believe that the construction of such a centre would undoubtedly contribute to the improvement of our quality of life.

Organising family-oriented activities would significantly increase membership and raise the society's popularity with the local community.

NEGATION

NEGATION

FORM/USE: 'DON'T YOU ?', WARNING

[C2] Can use a negative imperative form with 'you' to give a warning or reprimand.

Corrected Learner Examples

Don't you ever do that again!

Don't you dare!

Don't you dare forget me, I want letters from you promptly, understand!

Comments

This is a very low frequency form in the CLC.

FORM/USE: 'IN THE LEAST', EMPHASIS

[C2] Can use 'in the least' after a negative form for emphasis.

Corrected Learner Examples

She has lost her little brother but that does not discourage her in the least.

Most of the times, the director of a television channel is not in the least interested in the quality, but only in the matter of how many people watch their programmes.

What others say doesn't matter in the least.

FORM/USE: 'NEITHER'

[C2] Can use 'Neither' or 'Nor' + with 'do' or 'be' + inverted subject to add to a previous related negative clause, to focus on an additional negative factor.

Corrected Learner Examples

There are also considerable disturbances during day-time. It is, for example, not possible to lead a conversation, e.g. on the veranda, without shouting. Nor is it possible to watch television peacefully without the thunderous noise in the background.

At first, I didn't pay attention to the large number of magazines and newspapers she subscribed to. Neither did I oppose her 'need' to get new clothes every month.

Comments

This is a very low frequency form in the CLC.

FORM/USE: 'NOT A' + NOUN, EMPHASIS

[C2] Can use 'not a' + noun, often with a following passive structure, for emphasis.

Corrected Learner Examples

Not a single noise could be heard from inside of any of the rooms.

Not a long time passes before another Polish city, Warsaw, hosts a festival.

Not a single member of the group would have imagined that the "Luxury coach" would break down and leave them stranded in the middle of nowhere.

FORM/USE: 'NOT ONLY ? (BUT) ALSO' WITH INVERSION

[C1] Can use auxiliary 'do' + inverted subject after 'not only', to give focus.

Corrected Learner Examples

Not only was it in a wonderful location, with extraordinary views, but it was also very accessible and the shops were really near.

Not only do they have the biggest turnover overall, they also managed to increase it constantly from 2000 to 2002.

FORM/USE: 'NOT' + STANCE ADVERB, HEDGING

[C1] Can use 'not' + stance adverb, often in a mid position, to soften the directness of a statement.

Corrected Learner Examples

This is not necessarily the way the older generation would see it, though.

Being a passionate student of the English language, you do not necessarily need a teacher to guide you through the meanders of English.

I'm not sure what exactly they would expect us to do at the campsite, but organising the entertainment is not really my thing.

Personally, I do not actually think that this relationship will change.

Comments

In the majority of cases, 'not necessarily' is used.

FORM/USE: 'WHATSOEVER', EMPHASIS

[C1] Can use 'whatsoever' after a negative form for emphasis.

Corrected Learner Examples

This means that nothing shall change for the employees, there shall be no implication whatsoever for their rights stipulated in their employment contracts.

Organising the entertainment would be rather fun, whilst waiting tables would be boring and we have no experience whatsoever.

FORM: 'NONE', SUBSTITUTION

[C1] Can use negative pronoun 'none' to substitute for subject and object pronouns or noun phrases. ► pronouns: substitution

Corrected Learner Examples

In fact, there are none, but the hills that do exist can be dubbed mountains – just because there are none...

Concerning your question about any special requirements of some students – I am glad that I am able to tell you that there are none this year.

Problems when using English? None.

FORM: 'NOT ALL', 'NOT EVERY'

[C1] Can use 'not with indefinite pronouns 'everyone' and 'everything' and determiners 'every', 'all'.

Corrected Learner Examples

Not everyone likes sports or music.

Not everything was as good as we expected.

Not all students, though, can attend the centre as it is not always open, and their lessons finish at 5 pm, the closing time of the centre.

Not all of us have got the fighting spirit to visit the gym regularly, but many of us would like to have a healthy look.

Not every cyclist is a danger to the public as most of them obey all rules and respect other road users.

USE: FORMAL

[C1] Can use '(very) few' meaning 'not many' to refer to people in formal written contexts, often reports or surveys.

Corrected Learner Examples

They were sent to Britain to improve their English but few had any real contact with the language.

English is the most spoken language nowadays and although most of the people can speak a bit of English, very few speak it in the right way.

The Greeks have always been a tortured folk; everyone tried to conquer them, but few managed.

NOUNS

NOUN PHRASES

FORM/USE: 'WH-' CLEFT, FOCUS

[C1] Can form complex noun phrases with 'wh-' cleft clauses, followed by 'be', to give focus.

Corrected Learner Examples

What everyone loved were the special effects and we were very impressed by the use of advanced technological innovations.

What companies care about is money and football players help them to earn it.

What tourists want is to see the most typical things in England, not a hamburger restaurant.

What students learn are mostly facts and theories.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

What everyone loved were the special effects and we were very impressed by the use of advanced technological innovations.

What companies care about is money and football players help them to earn it.

What tourists want is to see the most typical things in England, not a hamburger restaurant or a London's musical in the back row in gallery.

What students learn are mostly full of facts and theories.

FORM: COMPLEX NOUN PHRASES WITH 'LITTLE OR NO' + NOUN

[C2] Can form complex noun phrases with 'little or no' + noun.

Corrected Learner Examples

Harvey Keitel has always chosen the scripts that interested him as a person and as an actor, whilst refusing to invest his talent in big-time Hollywood block-busters with little or no artistic value.

They have little or no spare time to relax and recharge their batteries; they are constantly under pressure in order to live up to the expectations of the team and the supporters.

The careers of these people started at a very young age with little or no money.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

That is the reason why I appreciate someone like the actor Harvey Keitel, who in the course of his career has always been coherent enough to choose the scripts that interested him as a person and as an actor, whilst refusing to invest his talent in big-time Hollywood block-busters with little or no artistic value.

They have little or no spare time to relax and recharge their batteries; they are constantly under pressure in order to live up to the expectations of the team and the supporters.

These careers started at a very young age with little or no money.

As the highway is merely 300 metres from the centre, transportation of products is carried out with little or no problems.

FORM: NOUN PHRASE WITH POSSESSIVE 'S WITHOUT NOUN

[C1] Can form complex noun phrases with noun phrase + 'of' + noun phrase + possessive determiner 's', omitting the noun where it is previously mentioned.

Corrected Learner Examples

Our after-sales team now is perceived as faster, more qualified, friendlier and more efficient than our competitors'.

You cannot have peace and quiet in your own home, as your hour of peacefulness might considerably differ from your neighbours'.

I think it would be better to include a student's view of the college, not only a teacher's.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Our after-sales team now is perceived as faster, more qualified, friendlier and more efficient than our competitors'.

You cannot have peace and quiet in your own home, as your hour of peacefulness might considerably differ from your neighbours'.

I think it would be better to include a student's view of the college, not only a teacher's.

Comments

Note that at B1, learners can use this structure deictically to refer to a place which is mutually understood ('I went to the doctor's'), whereas this can-do is about reference to something previously mentioned rather than something understood.

USE: NOMINALISATION, FORMALITY

[C1] Can use nominalised forms in academic or business contexts, to make something more formal.

Corrected Learner Examples

As indicated by the charts, the output in state-owned industry increased by 12% in 2000. With reference to foreign-invested industry, it recorded fluctuations in industrial output increases throughout three years.

It stood at 14% in 2002, then dropped by 2% in 2001. 2002 brought a significant growth in the output and recorded 19%.

We could say that things have been altered by the advances of science and culture in general, like the rest of the world.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

As indicated by the charts, the output in state-owned industry increased by 12% in 2000. With reference to foreign-invested industry, it recorded fluctuations in industrial output increases throughout three years.

It stood at 14% in 2002, then dropped by 2% in 2001. 2002 brought a significant growth in the output and recorded 19%.

We could say that things have been altered by the advances of science and culture in general, like the rest of the world.

Comments

This type of nominalised form is typical in formal contexts in CIC.

TYPES

FORM'-ING' FORMS, ABSTRACT NOUNS

[C1] Can use the '-ing' form of verbs as abstract nouns.

Corrected Learner Examples

Learning English has its rewards too.

Advertising seems to be very important to promote a new product.

Teaching is terribly challenging and demanding.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Learning English has its rewards too.

Advertising seems to be very important to promote a new product.

Teaching is terribly challenging and demanding.

UNCOUNTABLE

FORM: UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS

[C1] Can use a wide range of uncountable nouns, particularly referring to abstract concepts.

Corrected Learner Examples

I appreciate that your company is concerned about safety and has installed safety belts in every coach but they do not help much when they are all broken.

Above all, the administration is not very efficient.

He will go with another two members in his department who are likely to be the core workforce and who are eager to broaden their vision.

Through that we can develop more humanity, solidarity, tolerance and respect among people of different countries.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

I appreciate that your company is concerned about safety and has installed safety belts in every coach but they do not help much when they all are broken.

Above all, the administration is not very efficient:

He will go with another two members in his department who are likely to be core workforce and who are eager to broaden their vision.

Through that we can develop more humanity, solidarity, tolerance and respect among the people of the different countries.

Comments

Errors increase with the most common items and with determiners, e.g. 'informations', 'transports', 'trainings', 'equipments', 'advices', 'knowledges', 'softwares', 'researches', 'furnitures', 'tuitions', 'spendings', 'accommodations', 'feedbacks', 'congestions'. Learner examples (1) 'I have knowledges of foreign languages such as English (written and spoken fluently), little knowledges of French.' (2) 'The three computers were acquired in order to replace the out-of-date equipments that were used by the General Manager.' At C2 errors decrease generally but persist with the most common items. Learner example: 'Reading these books is very interesting, as many advices are hidden inside.'

PASSIVES

GET AND HAVE

FORM/USE: 'GET' + OBJECT + '-ED'

[C1] Can use 'get' + object + '-ed' to talk about causing or instructing something to happen or to be done by somebody else, often informally.

Corrected Learner Examples

I must say that Caroline and I are good together because I think I am a little bit lazy but she is always the one who tries to get things done.

[talking about a minibus] ? ours broke down and it took hours to get it repaired.

But within the last two months we received several complaints from our customers about not getting their orders delivered in time.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

I must say that Caroline and I are good together because I think I am a little bit laisy but she is always the one who tries to get things done.

[talking about a minibus] ? ours broke down and it took hours to get it repaired.

But within the last two months we received several complaints from our customers about not getting their orders delivered in time.

FORM/USE: 'GET' + OBJECT + '-ING'

[C1] Can use 'get' + object + '-ing' to talk about causing someone or something to do something.

Corrected Learner Examples

First of all, I would like to underline the sheer boredom of these CDs, which got me yawning from the very first minute.

I was very happy when I received your letter, although I must say that your dilemma got me thinking.

As soon as they realized there was no way to get the employees moving, they got excited and nervous.

But still both concerts were great as Elton John and "Metallica" really know how to get people moving, but in two completely different ways.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

First of all, I would like to underline the sheer boredom of these CDs, which got me yawning from the very first minute.

I was very happy when I received your letter, although I must say that your dilemma got me thinking.

As soon as they realized there was no way to get the employees moving, they got excited and nervous.

But still both concert were great as "Elton John and "Metallica" really know how to get people moving , but in two completely different ways.

FORM/USE: 'HAVE' + OBJECT + INFINITIVE

[C2] Can use 'have' + object + infinitive without 'to' to talk about asking or causing someone to do something, often in formal contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples

In order to attract people and have them practise their English, we could point out the benefits and the possibilities one obtains, by acquiring a degree in this language ...

In assessing the prospective student's linguistic skills it does not suffice to just have him fill out a multiple-choice-form

Uncorrected Learner Examples

In order to attract people and have them practice their English, we could point out the benefits and the possibilities one obtains, by acquiring a degree in this language ...

Whatever their personality may be, I will always do my best to have them conquer their independence as soon as possible.

To have him answer one question was like pulling teeth.

PASSIVES: FORM

FORM/USE: NON-FINITE CLAUSES

[C1] Can use a passive non-finite '-ing' form as a subordinate clause or a noun clause to give explanatory background information.

Corrected Learner Examples

Being born and raised in Mexico, I believe her to be this country's best representative to the world.

Being overworked and badly paid, Polish women are torn between their dreams and their real possibilities.

Being invited by your boss for an unexpected lunch makes you feel noticed.

FORM/USE: NON-FINITE PERFECT CLAUSES

[C2] Can use passive non-finite '-ing' perfect forms in subordinate clauses to give explanatory background information.

Corrected Learner Examples

I myself, having been educated the hard way, would specifically insist on them getting the best possible school education.

Having been taught the rights and the wrongs, we had an idea about everything.

Not having been given precise orders from the top, as usual he decided to work on his own initiative.

FORM/USE: PRESENT CONTINUOUS NEGATIVE

[C1] Can use the present continuous passive negative form to refer to ongoing situations in the present.

Corrected Learner Examples

In my opinion, the store is not being promoted enough.

Women are not being seen as just inferior to men and incapable of working outside the home.

Finally, I agree with the fact that mobile phones have helped the human species develop, but as long as they're not being used in a sensible way, they're a destructive weapon against children's health.

FORM/USE: SUMMARISING, EVALUATING WITH 'IT'.

[C1] Can use the passive with 'it' as a dummy subject, to summarise or evaluate in discussions, usually in formal or academic writing.

Corrected Learner Examples

To sum up, it can be concluded that this report has attempted to summarize the main points regarding the Spanish educational system.

In addition, it has been found that some products were difficult to find.

FORM: NON-FINITE PERFECT COMPLEMENTS

[C2] Can use non-finite '-ing' perfect forms of the passive as the complement of prepositions.

Corrected Learner Examples

They are expected to give the couple expensive presents as a reward for having been invited.

We caught the bus as if we were escaping from Saigon, and with the sensation of having been rewarded with one of the funniest holiday evenings of our lives.

Miss Kenton has just been employed as a housekeeper when she knocks on Stevens' pantry door and comes in without having been bidden to do so, bringing a vase of flowers.

Comments

Currently there are no correct uses in the negative in the CLC. More non-exam data will be needed to confirm its existence.

PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS COMMENT

Comments

There is no evidence of use of the passive form of the present perfect continuous in the CLC.

PAST

PAST CONTINUOUS

USE: UNDESIRED EVENTS

[C2] Can use the past continuous with 'always' or 'constantly' to talk about repeated events which are undesired or uncontrolled.

Corrected Learner Examples

They had been told that I was always getting into mischief and so had decided that, by buying me this diary, I would probably calm down a little and my behaviour would change.

I was constantly trying to balance my school life, extra-curricular activities, studies and personal life and was always running out of time.

PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

FORM: QUESTIONS

[C2] Can use the question form.

Corrected Learner Examples

What had he been doing that morning?

So, why had she been waiting for so long a time?

Comments

There are no results for question forms at lower levels ? this may be due to the lack of spoken data.

PAST PERFECT SIMPLE

FORM/USE: AFTER 'IF ONLY', IMAGINED PAST

[C2] Can use the negative form after 'if only' to express regret.

Corrected Learner Examples

If only she had not changed, if only I had helped her, maybe we would still be best friends and I would not be sitting here, writing about her!

If only I hadn't been that rude!

FORM/USE: INVERSION, IMAGINED PAST

[C1] Can invert the subject and affirmative auxiliary verb to talk about imagined situations in the past, often with regret, in formal contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples

Had I known the tour would be so bad, I wouldn't have booked it.

Had they been new people, travellers from other countries, I could have taken it, but all the customers were English!

Sometimes I think that had I gone to Britain without this experience, my life would have been different.

FORM: FIXED EXPRESSIONS 'HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR', 'IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR'

[C2] Can use 'had it not been for' ? and 'if it hadn't been for' with a modal form for giving reasons.

Corrected Learner Examples

Had it not been for the fact that I had already read the article, I would have thought that this woman was at least thirty years old.

Another aspect of his emotional side is the fact that he is a very private person, and had it not been for this feature, he might have been able to react differently.

If it hadn't been for my lack of knowledge, skills, experience, and some other things like that, I wouldn't have been fired.

They had become very good friends and their friendship could have gone a little further if it hadn't been for Dan's character.

FORM: INVERSION WITH 'HARDLY ? WHEN'

[C2] Can invert the subject and affirmative auxiliary verb with 'hardly ? when' to talk about something that happened immediately before something else, in formal contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples

Hardly had she spoken these words when it dawned on the musician that life could not continue like that.

Hardly had he taken them from the counter when the monster vanished again.

PAST SIMPLE

FORM: INVERSION WITH 'NOT ONLY ? BUT ALSO'

[C1] Can use the inverted form of the past simple with auxiliary 'do', in the phrase 'not only ? but also'.

Corrected Learner Examples

The companies I found at the trade fair were very varied. Not only did I find high-technology companies, but also shoemakers, advertisement companies and plane manufacturers to name but a few.

Not only didn't we travel 5000 miles in 30 days, as you had advertised, but also we stayed 8 days in just one place, which had nothing interesting to see except a church.

Not only didn't I learn any new grammar but also I couldn't enrich my vocabulary.

FORM: QUESTIONS

[C1] Can use 'yes/no', 'wh-', tag and negative question forms with a wide range of verbs. ► Questions

Corrected Learner Examples

Did you spot the fact that what is expected from us in Tall Trees Campsite is to help in organising the entertainment?

How did it turn out then?

I told you about Peter and Mary, didn't I?

Didn't we all dream of being famous once in our lives?

USE: COMPLEX ORDERING OF PAST EVENTS

[C1] Can use the past simple to order sequences of events in the past in a complex way.

Corrected Learner Examples

Following advice from a friend, I purchased the English version of your product, only to find out its quality did not match the promises made in your advertisement.

After having discussed this subject with the other member, we came up with the following decisions. First of all ?

USE: FOR EMPHASIS, WITH 'DID'

[C1] Can use the past simple with 'did' for emphasis.

Corrected Learner Examples

We did reach the target figure and we have sent about 85 percent of the money to the hospital.

[in a letter defending the organisation of an event] We did have 34 games and one stall with beverages and snacks.

It is true that it did rain during the day but it was not a "sudden downpour", as you wrote. It was more a small shower ?

USE: POLITENESS: 'I THOUGHT'

[C1] Can use the past simple 'I thought' as a politeness structure to sound less direct.

Corrected Learner Examples

I understand you are quite concerned about the matter and I thought it would be a good idea to let you know what is really going on.

The reason why I'm writing to you is that I thought you might be interested in writing about a special dish from your country for the international cookbook.

PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

FORM/USE: INVERSION

[C2] Can invert the subject and affirmative auxiliary verb with 'not only ? but' as a focusing device. ► focus ► inversion

Corrected Learner Examples

Not only have I been wandering its streets ever since I was ten, but I have also come to know most of the main characters of its history in the past 50 years.

Not only have I been expecting it for the last few months but I will also give some support to my wife, who has been feeling a little nervous these last weeks.

PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE

FORM: NEGATIVE

[C1] Can use the full negative forms with a wide range of verbs, often in formal contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples

Thus, you have not fulfilled your task with due care, as you have stated in your letter.

Somehow, in my country education has not evolved, although it manages to maintain some advantages.

USE: NEWSWORTHY

[C2] Can use the present perfect simple to introduce news.

Corrected Learner Examples

A new shopping centre has opened in our town.

Comments

There are very few examples of this use in the CLC data. It is more common in spoken usage or in news reporting followed by a past simple.

PREPOSITIONS

PREPOSITIONS

FORM/USE: FORMAL

[C1] Can use less frequent complex prepositions, often in a more formal, literary or business context.

Corrected Learner Examples

It's unbelievable that this civilization that lived a long time ago could be so ahead of their time.

I think that the next area to develop will be the car industry, which will develop cars that are going to work by solar energy, on account of the levels of pollution in big cities.

PRESENT

PRESENT CONTINUOUS

FORM/USE: WITH ADVERBS OF INDEFINITE FREQUENCY

[C2] Can use the present continuous with a wide range of adverbs of indefinite frequency, often to talk about surprising or undesirable situations or events.

Corrected Learner Examples

? we are persistently asking ourselves questions about where we are from and why we are here.

During life we are permanently learning and increasing our knowledge.

USE: POLITENESS

[C2] Can use the present continuous with verbs that are not usually used in this form to make statements and requests sound less direct.

Corrected Learner Examples

Considering the importance of the matter, I am asking for your financial support.

I'm asking permission to be excused from work for at least three days.

If we're wanting to make progress in prolonging the length of human lives, we equally have to be willing to spend time and make an effort...

USE: RHETORICAL QUESTIONS

[C1] Can use question forms to ask rhetorical questions.

Corrected Learner Examples

[writing about fashion] Are we becoming shallow?

Why is technology taking over our lives?

Why am I explaining all this? The only reason is that I want to show that young people are interested in sports.

Comments

Note that there is less opportunity to use rhetorical questions at FCE, as candidates don't always get an essay question. Students taking FCE are encouraged to use these in writing tasks as they are good discriminators in marking.

PRESENT SIMPLE

FORM/USE: NEGATIVE QUESTIONS, OPINION

[C1] Can use the negative question form to check opinions.

Corrected Learner Examples

Doesn't it sound fascinating?

Don't we all like presents?

Don't you think that fashion always looks funny if it is not the fashion of today?

Comments

Spoken face to face data is likely to show more examples of this form being used to clarify information.

FORM/USE: NEGATIVE QUESTIONS, PERSUASION

[C1] Can use the negative question form as a persuasion strategy.

Corrected Learner Examples

Don't you just hate taking the bus to school every morning? well I have a perfect solution for you, a great bike with good brakes, a bell and lights. it is a great bike but since I never use it I would be happy to sell it to you.

Don't you find that when you are having a shower or bath, you occasionally run out of water?

USE: REPORTING VERBS

[C1] Can use the present simple with a wide range of reporting verbs, especially in academic contexts, including 'demonstrate', 'illustrate'.

Corrected Learner Examples

The popularity of this TV game in Russia clearly demonstrates the nature of human fears and dreams.

The 2 charts illustrate the number of employees, and the trends in profit for three factories, namely the factories located in London, Leeds, and Bristol, which belong to the same company, during the year 2003.

PRONOUNS

DEMONSTRATIVES

FORM: 'THAT OF', 'THOSE OF'

[C1] Can use 'that of' and 'those of' as a possessive form, in formal and professional contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples

It is widely known that the Russian educational system differs dramatically from that of the European, Asian or American countries.

The strength of our product is that it fits the customers' demands – especially those of middle-aged single consumers.

Therefore, I urge you to publish this letter and reconsider your opinions, which clearly do not reflect those of the general population.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

It is widely known that Russian educational system differs dramatically from that of the European, Asian or American countries.

The strength of our product is that it fits the customers' demands – especially those of middle aged single consumers.

Therefore, I urge you to publish this letter and reconsider your opinions, which clearly do not reflect those of the general population.

INDEFINITE – THING, –ONE, –BODY ETC

FORM/USE: 'ANYTHING', ELLIPSIS

[C1] Can use 'anything' in an ellipted clause, ('if there is anything?').

Corrected Learner Examples

Anything else you need, ask Sarah.

Anything you need in connection with my report, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Anything you want to ask me, feel free to do so.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Anything else you need, ask Sarah.

Anything you need in conection with my report, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Anything you want to aske me, feel free to do so.

FORM/USE: 'ANYTHING', FOCUS

[C1] Can use 'anything' with post-modifiers to form complex noun phrases as subjects with a singular verb, to give focus.

Corrected Learner Examples

Anything else can be attached too if needed.

Anything to show how happy you are for them will do.

Anything that puts you in contact with the English language is important.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Anything else can be attached too if needed.

Anything to show how happy you are for them will do.

Anything that puts you in contact with the English language is important.

POSSESSIVE

FORM/USE: WITH 'THAT ? OF'

[C2] Can use 'that ? of' + possessive pronouns to express an attitude about someone or something, often in humorous or sarcastic contexts.

Corrected Learner Examples

I could just imagine it, meeting her at her house, her mother asking me to take care of her between puffs of smoke and coughing fits in that hoarse voice of hers.

I kept silent when I was introduced to that new girlfriend of his.

You can park that precious jeep of yours.

I've been looking all over for that bright great-nephew of mine.

FORM: 'HERS' AS SUBJECT

[C2] Can use the possessive pronoun 'hers' with singular reference, in subject position.

Corrected Learner Examples

I put Sophie's pictures in my bag because hers was already packed.

[talking about gazpacho, a type of soup] I also recall my father saying to my mother that hers was not as good as my grandmother's.

She thought, as she sometimes did, that hers was a drab existence, but that she could do hardly anything to avoid it.

Comments

There is no evidence of 'hers' with plural reference in the CLC.

FORM: 'HIS'

[C2] Can use the possessive pronoun 'his', with singular and plural reference, in subject and object position, and complement positions after 'be' and after prepositions.

Corrected Learner Examples

Therefore, his was not a happy and normal childhood.

He was my confidant and I was his.

It was as if she had completely forgotten about the outlines of his face, his hair, all the features that were his.

Bob attracts many of his students to the teaching career, which is rather looked down on in a developing poor country like his.

FORM: 'OURS' AS SUBJECT

[C1] Can use the possessive pronoun 'ours', in subject position.

Corrected Learner Examples

I hope that other councils will consider improving the cyclists' cycling conditions as ours did. Yes, of course there are much larger gardens in this area, but ours is more than four times as big as the one we had in Holland.

What is more, the manager organises excursions to London. Ours was breathtaking. We visited unbelievably interesting museums?

FORM: 'THEIRS' AS SUBJECT

[C2] Can use the possessive pronoun 'theirs', with singular and plural reference, in subject position.

Corrected Learner Examples

Theirs is a relationship between two members of the privileged classes, who really don't care about the world around (or below) them.

Theirs had always been a love-and-hate relationship.

Yet, beautiful dreams never last long, and theirs lasted until she had to leave England.

When comparing the value and achievements of athletes with doctors or scientists, theirs begin to lack in significance.

FORM: OF 'THEIRS', 'HERS', 'HIS'

[C2] Can use the possessive pronouns 'hers', 'theirs' and 'his' after noun + 'of'.

Corrected Learner Examples

I was a great admirer of hers.

She asked some old friends of hers and she went to the church where the marriage was taking place.

My parents invited the father of a friend of theirs who spoke French.

Then he showed me a very old diary of his, just for me to have an idea of what to do.

He was able to build a very successful business which allowed him and his family to live very well and to travel (a passion of his).

QUANTITY

FORM/USE: 'MANY ARE THE' + NOUN, FOR FOCUS

[C2] Can form complex noun phrases using an inverted form 'Many' + 'are' + noun phrase, followed by a relative clause, as a focusing device. ► focus

Corrected Learner Examples

Many are the causes which have led us to a better and longer life.

Many are the examples of children who hate reading as they believe that it is pointless, but they are not able to judge from a young age.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Many are the causes which have led us to a better and longer life.

Many are the examples of children who hate reading as they believe that it is pointless, but they are not able to judge from a young age.

FORM: 'A LOT' AND 'MUCH'

[C2] Can use 'a lot' and 'much' as a subject pronouns. ► focus

Corrected Learner Examples

A lot has changed since prehistoric times.

A lot depends on your background.

Much has been said about the need for nuclear weapons, although after the end of USSR and consequently the end of the cold war, this topic was almost forgotten.

Much has been said about quality time, but children don't understand this concept, they only know whether you are there or you are not.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

"A lot has changed since prehistoric times.

A lot depends on your background.

Much has been said about the need of nuclear weapons, although after the end of URSS and consequently the end of the cold war, this topic was almost forgotten.

Much has been said about quality time, but children don't understand this concept, they only know whether you are there or you are not.

Comments

Much is used in formal contexts, especially in the phrase 'Much has been said'. A lot is overwhelmingly taught as an adverb of frequency or quantity, or determiner as in a lot of.

FORM: 'NONE', SUBSTITUTION

[C1] Can use pronouns 'none' to substitute for subject and object pronouns. ► pronouns: substitution

Corrected Learner Examples

As for disadvantages, in fact, I see none.

As for social life organized by the school, there was none.

The costs saved without external consultants would be higher than the costs for this course .

Opportunity costs: None.

I started learning the language when I was seven. Problems when using English? None.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

As for disadvantages, in fact, I see none.

As for social life organized by the school there was none.

The costs saved without external consultants would be higher than the costs for this course .

Opportunity costs: None.

I started learning the language when I was seven, just step by step and since the very beginning I felt as I had an axe to grind in the subject. Problems when using English? None.

Comments

None on its own mainly occurs as a short response so we imagine it would be higher frequency in spoken data as it needs interaction. There are lots of none of examples (see determiners: quantity) but very few correct examples of None as a pronoun. Lots of error with no-one.

FORM: MODIFIED

[C1] Can modify 'few' and 'many' with 'very', 'too', 'so' as intensifiers.

Corrected Learner Examples

It was on Thursday that I realized how many children were in the centre. There were too many and the day was extremely tiring.

Almost 5000 Greeks died that night, and very few managed to survive.

In recent years, the Internet, which used to be a luxury only used by the very few who had access to it, has become a means of exchanging information.

Sure, some of the motorists changed to bicycles or to public transport – but far too few.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

It was on Thursday that I realized how many children are in the centre, There were too many and the day was extremely tiring.

Almost 5.000 Greeks died this night, and very few managed to survive.

In the recent years, Internet, which used to be a luxury only used by the very few who had access to it, has become a means of exchanging information.

Comments

Note, 'too many', with 'many' as a pronoun exist at B2 in small numbers and many are not quite correct e.g. 'It is true that many accidents happen every day and the victims are too many.' (Greece; B2 VANTAGE; 1993; Greek; Pass)

FORM: RELATIVE PRONOUNS

[C1] Can use 'some of', 'many of' to modify relative pronouns in a relative clause.

Corrected Learner Examples

The people of his time were amazed every time they saw his new inventions, some of which were enormous.

By and large, how we eat is influenced by several factors, some of which have nothing to do with your nationality.

I am aware that you have a different view on young people's preferences, but I hope this event could give you an opportunity to see some other aspects of young people, some of whom are very active in sports in our club.

Today we continue this tradition by organising lectures and exhibitions, generally open to the public, many of which deal with Hamburg-specific issues.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

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Comments

No results for 'few of which' and 'few of whom' at C1 or C2 in CLC.

USE: FORMAL

[C1] Can use 'few', 'many', 'most', 'others' to refer to people in formal written contexts, often reports or surveys.

Corrected Learner Examples

Few people stop to think about what they are really doing, and few are motivated to work at all.

Few denied that it was one of the most thrilling and fascinating activities we tried the whole week.

Many express their satisfaction and claim to have acquired a great number of new skills.

Many say that extreme sports attract only those who are addicted to adrenaline or those who have nothing to lose.

Some of the students have a few comments. Most were concerned with the planning of the timetable and I hope there may be some changes this year.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Few people stop to think about what they are really doing, and few are motivated to work at all.

Few denied that it was one of the most thrilling and fascinating activities we tried the whole week.

Many express their satisfaction and claim to have acquired a great number of new skills which are advantageous for the work they are doing.

Many say that extreme sports attract only those who are addicted to adrenaline or those who have nothing to lose.

Some of the students have a few comments and they hoped that they can reach you. Most were concerned with the planning of the timetable and I hope there may be some changes this year.

All over the world each day many people take their driving test. Their motivation can be different. Most desire to be more mobile and free of relying on public transport.

RECIPROCAL

FORM: 'EACH ... THE OTHER(S)', AS OBJECT

[C2] Can use 'each' (+ noun or pronoun) as subject followed by 'the other(s)' as object, to refer to two related things. ► pronouns: quantity

Corrected Learner Examples

Each of them admires the other's intelligence.

As regards other aspects of my upbringing my parents taught me the importance of having all the family together, each one helping the others, each one loving the others.

Comments

This is a relatively low frequency form; here we see 'the other' being used as a pronoun and as a determiner (the other's intelligence).

FORM: 'EACH ...' + 'THE OTHER(S)', AS COMPLEMENT

[C1] Can use 'each' (+ noun or pronoun) as subject followed by 'the other(s)' a complement of a preposition, to refer to two related things. ► pronouns: quantity

Corrected Learner Examples

Each person could be a help to the other.

They all seem to mean exactly the same but if you study them more carefully, you realize that each of them differs from the others in tiny details that can be relevant.

Generally speaking, each individual is different from the others.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

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They all seem to mean exactly the same but if you study them more carefully you realize that each of them differs from the others in tiny details that can be relevant.

Generally speaking, each individual is different from the others.

REFLEXIVE

USE: DISCOURSE MARKERS

[C2] Can use 'as for myself' as a discourse marker to introduce or focus on a personal opinion.

Corrected Learner Examples

As for myself, as you can clearly see from my account of this musical event, music still means an awful lot to me, and most probably allways will.

As for myself I like taking responsibilities.

As for myself, I grew up during the "internet era", the years when it was spreading to average peoples homes and therefore I can still remember life without it.

SUBJECT/ OBJECT

FORM/USE: (SUBJECT) 'IT' + PASSIVE

[C1] Can use 'it' with the passive voice where the subject is unknown or unimportant, often in formal contexts. ► passives

Corrected Learner Examples

It was considered to be the most important thing to supply every computer with Internet and E-mail access

It is hoped that this report will help the club to improve and meet the needs of the whole school.

Firstly it was highlighted that so many people take advantage of the park, but our survey clearly contradicts this view.

Comments

All the evidence for this use of 'it' + passive at B2 is with the BECV exam. Other uses of the passive with it at FCE are with a known subject. At C1 there is much more evidence in non-business exams for this use.

FORM: (SUBJECT) CLEFT CONSTRUCTIONS WITH 'IT'

[C2] Can form a cleft construction beginning with 'it' to emphasise the subject of the main clause. ► clauses

Corrected Learner Examples

It was my father who took all this away from me.

SUBSTITUTION, ONE, ONES, NONE

FORM/USE: 'THE ONE(S) THAT', FOR FOCUS

[C2] Can use 'The one(s) that' + clause in subject position, for focus. ► focus

Corrected Learner Examples

The one that impressed me a lot is the Chinese Lunar New Year Carnival which was held in Hong Kong in January this year.

The one that I think will have permanent results is the raising of the financial standard of all these countries.

The ones that he preferred were those where his imagination could fly away to other places and times, and where he could live the life of other people.

The ones that wear clothes made by their mothers never seem to ask for much attention.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

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The ones that he preferred were those where his imagination could fly away to other places and times, and where he could live the life of other people.

The ones that wear clothes made by their mothers never seem to ask much attention.

FORM: 'NONE'

[C1] Can use 'none' as a pronoun. ► determiners: quantity ► pronouns: quantity

Corrected Learner Examples

Then I searched for a Coca-Cola, but I found none.

Although I was really disappointed, I managed to keep the presence of mind and think more carefully and calmly. The result? None!

We expected a social programme but there was none.

The odd thing about snowboarding in Russia ... is that there are very few mountains. In fact, there are none.

The costs saved without external consultants would be higher than the costs for this course.

Opportunity costs: None.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

The costs saved without external consultants would be higher than the costs for this course .

Opportunity costs: None.

Comments

NB predominantly a spoken structure. No evidence of this use before C1.

QUESTIONS

ALTERNATIVES

FORM/USE: ELLIPTED MODAL, HEDGING

[C1] Can form alternative questions with two clauses and ellipsis in the second clause, often as a hedging device.

Corrected Learner Examples

Maybe you could hand out toys or show a movie?

Maybe you will be able to arrange another excursion this year or provide more time there?

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Maybe you could hand out toys or show a movie?

Maybe you will be able to arrange another excursion this year or provide more time there?

FORM/USE: STRONG ALTERNATIVE

[C1] Can form alternative questions using an extreme alternative to give greater pragmatic force.

Corrected Learner Examples

Is this new industry a blessing for the region or the exact opposite?

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Is this new industry a blessing for the region or the exact opposite?

Comments

Very low frequency.

FORM: ELLIPSIS

[C2] Can form alternative questions with two or more clauses and ellipsis in the second or third clause.

Corrected Learner Examples

Is it not better to take the television away or stop them going to the cinema?

Do you enjoy reading, find it a waste of time or have an indifferent attitude to it?

Is he going to give it back to me or show it to everybody?

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Is it not better to take the television away or stop them going to the cinema?

Do you enjoy reading, find it a waste of time or have an indifferent attitude to it?

Is he going to give it back to me or show it to every body?

TAGS

FORM: TAGS WITH 'THERE' + 'BE'

[C1] Can use affirmative and negative forms of question tags with 'there' + 'be'.

Corrected Learner Examples

As you put it that way, there isn't much of a difference with our time, is there?

But there is always something you can improve, isn't there?

Uncorrected Learner Examples

*As you put it that way, there isn't much of a difference with our time, is there ?
But there is always something you can improve , isn't there ?*

Comments

We suspect that spoken data would show this form being used at lower levels, as they can use 'there + be' at A1 and A2 levels.

WH-

USE: FOCUS

[C1] Can use 'wh-'questions as a focusing device, often in a narrative or argument.

Corrected Learner Examples

Nevertheless, we still give presents because we really want to. You can recognize them normally very fast! They are the ones which are unexpected and made with lots of love. So what makes a good present? From my point of view, the best presents are personal and fitted to the individual.

The other very serious problem in connection with cars is pollution, which is the cause of more diseases and problems than we realise at the moment. But what are the alternatives? Berlin has a well-structured and functioning subway?

Some of them are coin operated but some are magnetic-card operated. Use these coin-operated ones because to call from the other ones, you should buy a magnetic card, which is only possible in post offices. What else can I tell you? If you want anything to drink or to eat after your arrival, there are restaurants at the airport.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Nevertheless, we still give presents because we really want to. You can recognize them normally very fast! They are the ones which are unexpected and made with lots of love. So what makes a good present? In my point of view, the best presents are personal and fit to the individual.

The other very serious problem in connection with cars is pollution which is the cause for much more diseases and problems than we realise at the moment. But what are the alternatives? Berlin has a well structured and functioning subway

Some of them are coined-operated but some are magnetic card operated. Use rather these coined-operated ones because to call from the other ones you should buy a magnetic card what is only possible in post officies. What else can I tell you? If you want anything to drink or to eat after your arrival there are restaurants at the airport.

YES/NO

FORM/USE: NEGATIVE QUESTIONS WITH 'NOT', EMPHASIS

[C2] Can form negative questions with uncontracted 'not' to emphasise a point in an argument.

Corrected Learner Examples

Do we not want our children to be as happy as possible?

Is it not too easy to put the blame systematically on our education?

Is it not possible to have this, though maybe on a smaller scale, in our everyday living right where we spend the majority of our time on earth?

Are they not aware of the negative effects the use of cars has on cities?

Can it not, sometimes, be harmful to the world?

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Do we not want our children to be as happy as possible?

Is it not too easy to put the blame systematically on our education?

Is it not possible to have this, though maybe on a smaller scale, in our everyday living right where we spend the majority of our time on earth?

Are they not aware of the negative effects the use of cars have on cities?

Can it not, sometimes, be harmful to the world?

VERBS

PATTERNS_WITH TO AND -ING

FORM/USE: 'WOULD HATE' + 'TO'

[C2] Can use 'would hate' + 'to' infinitive, for emphasis.

Corrected Learner Examples

We in the student committee would hate to see all that space go to waste.

I am very much aware of my parents' mistakes and would hate to make the same ones.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

We in the student committee would hate to see all that space go to waist.

I am very much aware of my parent's mistakes and would hate to make the same ones.

Comments

While it might seem surprising to see this pattern at C2, note its use – it is being used to strengthen what is said in a formal authoritative voice.

FORM/USE: VERBS OF SENSES + OBJECT + INFINITIVE

[C1] Can use some verbs connected with the senses + direct object + infinitive without 'to' emphasising a complete action.

Corrected Learner Examples

I would like to see it develop without any pollution and without destroying the environment.

Nowadays, it is very common in Argentina to hear people talk about the economic depression.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

I would like to see it develop without any pollution and without destroying the environment.

Nowadays, it is very common in Argentina to hear people talk about the economic depression

Comments

Note the subtle difference between the -ing and infinitive forms: e.g. I heard someone screaming and I heard someone scream. The -ing form places the speaker/writer ?inside? the action in a more involved way. The infinitive form places the speaker/writer ?outside? the action.

PHRASAL

FORM: VERB + PRONOUN + PARTICLE

[C1] Can use a wide range of phrasal verbs + object pronoun + particle.

Corrected Learner Examples

[talking about a band] I went to check them out last week and here is my review of the two concerts.

[talking about a living room] I tried to clean it up as much as possible.

[talking about setting up an office phone system] We just need a small set and a little time to fix it up.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

[talking about a band] I went to check them out last week and here is my review of the two concerts.

[talking about a living room] I tried to clean it up as much as possible.

[talking about setting an office phone system] We just need a small set and a little time to fix it up.

PHRASAL-PREPOSITIONAL

FORM: PHRASAL-PREPOSITIONAL VERB, STRANDED PREPOSITION

[C1] Can use verb + particle + preposition, where the preposition is separated from its complement. ► Prepositions

Corrected Learner Examples

Anyway, let me tell you what ideas I came up with.

Sometimes in order to feel confident and to be inspired we need a person to look up to.

This you will have to look out for.

This shows her superficiality, which Kingshaw cannot put up with.

Firstly, let me express that the situation you describe is certainly not something my client could easily put up with.

Uncorrected Learner Examples

Anyway, let me tell you what ideas I came up with.

Sometimes in order to feel confidence and to be inspired we need person to look up to.

This you will have to look out for.

At Kingshaw's school the boys mock her, calling her "an old tart,, and even Charles hates her jewellery and bracelets "sliding up and down her hand,, This shows her superficiality, which Kingshaw cannot put up with.

Firstly, let me express that the situation you describe is certainly not something my client could easily put up with.

Comments

There is an increase in use of the stranded preposition at C2 but enough evidence to show the structure being used successfully at C1 in a range of clause types.

FORM: VERB + DIRECT OBJECT + PARTICLE + PREPOSITION + OBJECT

[C2] Can use a direct object with some prepositional verbs as well as an object of the preposition.

Corrected Learner Examples

It is widely accepted that being a loyal and trusted individual means that the people around us can trust us or let us in on a secret.

Comments

Other phrasal prepositional verbs that can take a direct object after the verb are fix ? up with and put ? up to. There are no occurrences of these in the CLC. Other examples in the CLC that follow this form include put it down to chance/experience, take it out on someone but they are fixed expressions.