

NB: If you received this newsletter by e-mail, it is (hopefully) because you have expressed a wish to do so. If this is not the case, and/or you do not wish to receive it in future – *please let us know!*

No. 22 – August 2006

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Dear friends

Wow, what a summer! Usually it rains quite a lot during the summer holiday in Denmark, with the good weather coming before and after. But this year even the *Roskilde Festival* was bathed in sunshine instead of the traditional rain. Of course, it is difficult to work in this heat, but there has also been plenty to do this summer. Export-oriented companies seem optimistic about the future. So, lots to do and little energy to do it – you’ve guessed it – this newsletter is just a two-pager!

Last month I bought myself a new chair ...

Like many of you, I spend quite a lot of my day sitting on a chair in front of a computer. This is almost unavoidable nowadays, especially if you work with written communication. On the other hand, it is a somewhat dramatic wrench away from the path of our evolutionary development until historical times (civilisation and all that). So sitting on a chair for long periods every day can seriously damage your health. Most chairs do not encourage you to hold your back in the natural upright posture you have when standing. The result is that one third of adults over 35 suffer from chronic back pains of one sort or another.

The chair I bought is different. It may not look smart, but it does encourage an upright posture. It is also very comfortable to sit on, even for long periods and even for people with back pain. It is called the *Everybody*® chair and you can find out more about it at www.everybody.dk. If you decide to buy one, mention that you heard about it in the *English support* newsletter – rumour has it you might get 5% off the price!

Teachers!

– *Do you sometimes have to go through complex equations for your students in English?*

Speaking maths is a new *English support* leaflet that can help you find the right expressions!

Available now – FREE on request.

e-mail: info@englishsupport.dk

Errata

Last month’s newsletter contained some mistakes. I blame the heat. ☺ The e-mail exchange with Mette Aarslew took place in *June*, not July, and my friendly lawyer points out that “state-authorised” is not used in connection with lawyers based in Denmark, even in Danish.

Finally, under **Miss doing and fail to do**, I was a little too categorical in saying that to *miss doing* something *always* contains the idea of *feeling that something is no longer present but you wish it was*. It *normally* does, but you can also have a sentence like: *He missed being caught red-handed by a matter of seconds*. This construction is not uncommon, but it is probably best left to native speakers. It means something very nearly happened to someone or something, but didn’t.

Please turn over!

Substitute and replace

These two verbs are often confused. This is because there is some overlap in meaning. Here is a typical case: *The energy produced **substitutes** an equivalent production based on fossil fuels.*

The key thing to note is that the direct object of the verb *substitute* is never the thing *being replaced*, but the thing *replacing*: If I *replace* X with Y, then I might say I *substitute* Y for X. So the verb *replace* is right here. If we wanted to use the verb *substitute* in this sentence, we would need to say “*substitutes for*”.

The second thing to note is that the verb *substitute* is usually more “active” than the verb *replace*. It usually implies the act of some kind of an agent. As time goes on, night *replaces* day, but we would never say it *substitutes* for day!

And please **note** this date in your diary ...

KOMMUNIKATIONS- OG SPROGFORUM 2006
Tuesday, 26 September, Porcelænshaven, CBS Copenhagen

Information and booking:

<http://www.kommunikationogsprog.dk/Forum/>

Tel. 33 91 98 00 or e-mail:

forum2006@kommunikationogsprog.dk

See you there!

Extend and extent

Keeping these two words apart depends on careful pronunciation of the last letter. *To extend* is a *verb* and means to increase in length, area, volume or range: *Trajan extended the Roman Empire.* *Extent* is a *noun* and refers to an area something *extends* to: *The Empire reached its greatest extent under Trajan.* Hence the expression, *to the extent that I understand him ...*

“Environmental friendly”

This is an amazingly popular mistake – and not just in Denmark. A quick check in Google shows over 725,000 hits. Nevertheless it is a mistake. When you want to modify or qualify an *adjective* (e.g. “friendly”), you must use an *adverb* (e.g. “environmentally”). But many people, including even some native speakers, find it difficult to *say* “environmentally friendly”, and they end up writing the way they speak. Most of the hits seem to be on non-native-speaker websites.

Frame and framework

The noun *frame* is usually used about a physical object, like a *window frame* or a *picture frame*, and (by analogy) for an individual exposure on photographic film. As a metaphor it is used in statistics (defining a population for sampling purposes) and in scheduling (a *time frame*) – and in some special expressions like *frame of mind* and *frame of reference*.

The noun *framework* can also refer to general physical structures (e.g. the girders making up the *framework* of a building), but it is most commonly used in a metaphorical sense, e.g. *the framework of government* or *a framework for future research*. So if you are speaking metaphorically, *framework* is normally the right choice.

How to write a scientific paper

Lawrence White

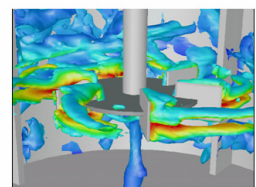


Figure 1. 3D visualization of a protein, for the paper written in author's book.

A hand-practical guide to writing scientific papers in English, written for people who do not have English as their mother tongue.

Published by *English support*

Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Best wishes

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