

REFERENCE E-BOOK

Constructions in present-day English

Thematic section

COMMUNICATION-CONSTRUCTIONS

Immediate constructions (in bold-type) are word combinations with the dependent units on the left and on the right.

Extended constructions (underlined in the examples) include the immediate constructions into an utterance or text.

COMMUNICATION-CONSTRUCTIONS

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MESSAGE-CONSTRUCTIONS

* conveying information/ message/ news/ power/ feelings/ emotions

“It’s not just your words that convey a message,” Friedman says. “It’s all of you.”

It’s difficult to talk about layoffs and belt tightening, but if you’re in a situation where you have to convey that sort of **information**, your employees and colleagues likely already know something is up.

It may seem easier to convey negative **information** via e-mail, but imagine how you’d feel if you learned electronically that your best work friend had been sacked, vs. hearing it from another human being.

<http://www.forbes.com/2010/11/19/communicate-better-work-workplace-leadership-careers-job.html>

When listening, remember that words convey only a fraction of the message.

If you feel sad when the person with whom you are talking expresses sadness, joyful when she expresses joy, fearful when she describes her fears – and convey those feelings through your facial expressions and words – then your effectiveness as a listener is assured.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/womensmedia/2012/11/09/10-steps-to-effective-listening/#28a8e0a626fb>

* delivering a message/ news/ information in person/ via e-mail/ Skype

A more effective way to deliver that message: “Can you please get that report to me? I’d like it on my desk by 5 p.m. Friday.”

If you have bad news to deliver, lay it out plainly.

Always deliver bad news in person.

<http://www.forbes.com/2010/11/19/communicate-better-work-workplace-leadership-careers-job.html>

* getting the point/ message across - constructions

“*Shut Up And Say Something: Business Communication Strategies to Overcome Challenges and Influence Listeners*” (a book) lays out her no-nonsense philosophy about how to best get your point across, drawn from her 35 years of experience as a professional communicator.

If you open yourself to other opinions and perspectives, you’ll find it much easier to get your own message across.

<http://www.forbes.com/2010/11/19/communicate-better-work-workplace-leadership-careers-job.html>

Children used to be taught that it's rude to interrupt. I'm not sure that message is getting across anymore.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/womensmedia/2012/11/09/10-steps-to-effective-listening/#28a8e0a626fb>

* **making a/ the point - constructions**

Think about what the single most important point is that you need to make, the central idea. If your computer died or the fire alarm went off, what would be the one thing they needed to hear?

<http://www.forbes.com/2010/11/19/communicate-better-work-workplace-leadership-careers-job.html>

Six politicians who used their favourite song lyrics to make a point.

Here are five others who used their favourite recording artists in order to make their points.

US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump is fond of quoting The Snake – a 60s soul song by the late civil rights activist Oscar Brown Jr – when making a point about welcoming refugees to America.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-37439332>

OBTAINING INFORMATION-CONSTRUCTIONS

* **drawing from experience/ news/ books**

“Shut Up And Say Something: Business Communication Strategies to Overcome Challenges and Influence Listeners” lays out her no-nonsense philosophy about how to best get your point across, drawn from her 35 years of experience as a professional communicator.

Another strategy Friedman draws from newscasting: Hit the headline first.

<http://www.forbes.com/2010/11/19/communicate-better-work-workplace-leadership-careers-job.html>

* **gleaning information/ knowledge/ rule from experience/ remarks/ news/ Internet**

Her No. 1 rule, gleaned from two decades in the TV news trenches: “It is absolutely critical to be as direct, to the point and concise as possible,” she says, in a lively, forceful voice with a Philadelphia tinge.

<http://www.forbes.com/2010/11/19/communicate-better-work-workplace-leadership-careers-job.html>

Now, senior administration officials quoted by the New York Times say they are confident that Russian hackers also infiltrated the Republican National Committee's computer systems as well as those of the Democratic Party, but did not release information gleaned from the Republican networks.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-38273933>

He's convinced that all **knowledge** of climbing and survival can be **gleaned from his mobile phone**, so he isn't taking on any training – just a partner who has loads of online followers.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p03txp61>

It's particularly hard to **glean** any nuggets of **information from** early voting data, but that doesn't stop political nerds from trying.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-us-2016-37865154>

INTERACTION-CONSTRUCTIONS

* **engendering closeness/ trust/ confidence**

You may think you're being entertaining or **engendering closeness**, but “you meet the same people on the way up as on the way down.”

<http://www.forbes.com/2010/11/19/communicate-better-work-workplace-leadership-careers-job.html>

He added that, if elected as Allan Bell's successor as chief minister, he would "drive forward a strong government to **engender trust and confidence in the people** of the Isle of Man".

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-isle-of-man-37448181>

"Constant changes in administration [are] not good for strategic planning and not good for **engendering confidence in the city**.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-bristol-14744758>

* **drawing people out**

“Take a poll at your next meeting,” she suggests. “**Draw the other people out**.”

<http://www.forbes.com/2010/11/19/communicate-better-work-workplace-leadership-careers-job.html>

"These techniques can **draw out** a distressed **person**, give them a sense of autonomy and make them relax," she explains.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/health-36675485>

* **opening oneself (up) to other opinions/ perspectives/ views/ ideas/ influences**

If you **open yourself to** other opinions and perspectives, you'll find it much easier to get your own message across.

<http://www.forbes.com/2010/11/19/communicate-better-work-workplace-leadership-careers-job.html>

Keep **an open mind**.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/womensmedia/2012/11/09/10-steps-to-effective-listening/#28a8e0a626fb>

So if you're musing, you are letting your mind wander, you're opening yourself up to new influences and new ideas, and not thinking in too structured a way.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/features/6-minute-english/ep-160811>

EFFECT-CONSTRUCTIONS

* **planting ideas/ images in peoples' heads/ minds**

As David Robson discovers, it's surprisingly easy to plant ideas in peoples' heads without them realising.

<http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20150324-the-hidden-tricks-of-persuasion>

The whole idea of my journey was to understand, engage and plant new ideas in the minds of people living in border villages.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-34600661>

* **subtle influence/ message/ ways of tricking**

Often, we are as helpless as a marionette, being jerked about by someone else's subtle influence.

Olson has spent a lifetime exploring the subtle ways of tricking people's perception, and it all began with magic.

We may all be puppets guided by subtle influences – but if you can start to recognise who's pulling the strings, you can at least try to push back.

<http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20150324-the-hidden-tricks-of-persuasion>

* **spotting tricks / picking on cues**

The question is, can we learn to spot those tricks, and how can we use them to our own advantage?

How to spot manipulation?

Clearly, this kind of knowledge could be used for coercion in the wrong hands, so it's worth knowing how to spot others trying to bend you to their will without you realising.

<http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20150324-the-hidden-tricks-of-persuasion>

We're all busy and don't pick up on cues that people need support, which may lead to positive and negative feelings.

<http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20141119-why-you-love-to-hate-some-friends>

* **influence/ impact/ effect-constructions**

Olson found that things like personality type didn't seem to have much influence on how likely someone was to be influenced – we all seem equally vulnerable.

Often, we are as helpless as a marionette, being jerked about by someone else's subtle influence.

What we're finding more and more in psychology is that lots of the decisions we make are influenced by things we are not aware of.

We may all be puppets guided by subtle influences – but if you can start to recognise who's pulling the strings, you can at least try to push back.

It seems likely that other kinds of priming do have some effect on behaviour without you realising it.

<http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20150324-the-hidden-tricks-of-persuasion>

Unfortunately, the earlier studies examining our friends' influence on our health had not looked at these nuances.

For now, Uchino and Holt-Lunstad's studies have most looked at the short-term influence of frenemies, and they would now like to investigate how they add up over years and decades.

For this reason, telomere length is often used as a measure of cellular ageing – and it is known to be influenced by stress.

Around half of our acquaintances may be “frenemies” – and they could have a surprising impact on your psychology and physical well-being, says David Robson.

To understand this we need to look at the impact our social networks can have.

It suggests that our relationships have an impact not just on direct interactions, but through these less consciously perceived processes that operating all the time in everyday life.

So what they do and say can have a much bigger effect on us.

<http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20141119-why-you-love-to-hate-some-friends>

*** being in complete control of our / their mind / decisions**

Are we always in control of our minds?

When he questioned the volunteers afterwards, he was shocked to find that 92% of the volunteers had absolutely no idea that they'd been manipulated and felt that they had been in complete control of their decisions.

Despite a strong sense of freedom, our ability **to make deliberate decisions** may often be an illusion.

<http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20150324-the-hidden-tricks-of-persuasion>

After this sudden mood swing, the person is disarmed, less likely to make mindful or rational decisions, and more likely to respond positively to various requests.

<http://lifehacker.com/5953183/three-of-the-most-evil-ways-to-manipulate-people-into-doing-what-you-want>

* **sticking in sight/ in the mind**

In our conversation, Olson wouldn't divulge how he engineers that to happen, but others claim that folding the card very slightly seems to cause it **to stick in sight**.

Those few extra milliseconds mean that **it sticks in the mind**, causing the volunteer to pick it when they are pushed for a choice.

<http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20150324-the-hidden-tricks-of-persuasion>

* **preying on a person's mind/ emotions**

The technique **preys on a person's emotions**.

<http://lifehacker.com/5953183/three-of-the-most-evil-ways-to-manipulate-people-into-doing-what-you-want>

Cdr Greany said: "It is a reprehensible criminal act which **preys on one of the oldest human emotions**, which is love.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-34656783>

Georgia preys on England minds.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport2/hi/rugby_union/rugby_world_cup/team_pages/england/3116312.stm

* **pulling a fast one on**

These aren't the only ways someone could trick you into saying *yes*, of course, but they are some of the more common—just keep an eye out, stay on your toes, and you should be able to spot **when someone's trying to pull a fast one**.

<http://lifehacker.com/5953183/three-of-the-most-evil-ways-to-manipulate-people-into-doing-what-you-want>

It's not only because **Facebook always seem to be trying to pull a fast one on us**. The company also seems to have an incomplete grip on its business.

<http://europe.newsweek.com/online-privacy-who-needs-friends-facebook-72601?rm=eu>

* **leaving me / him seething for hours/ days**

It sounds trite, but **this would leave me seething for days**.

<http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20141119-why-you-love-to-hate-some-friends>

But it all disappeared 24 hours later as the Panthers were allowed to plunder five goals without conceding, **leaving Gardner seething afterwards**.

<http://www.bbc.com/sport/ice-hockey/21601630>

The Minstermen conceded twice from corners, with the U's winner going in direct **to leave McEwan seething**.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport2/hi/football/teams/y/york_city/6040198.stm

TOPIC-CONSTRUCTIONS

* **hitting the headline**

Another strategy Friedman draws from newscasting: **Hit the headline** first.

<http://www.forbes.com/2010/11/19/communicate-better-work-workplace-leadership-careers-job.html>

Pictures of Indian PM Narendra Modi's 94-year-old mother changing banned notes at a bank have **hit the headlines**.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-37984656>

He **hit the headlines** earlier this year as the face of controversial legislation which limited protections offered to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people, and another bill which prevented local governments from raising minimum wage requirements.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-38350822>

* **bringing up a (painful/ sensitive) topic**

Are they going to come through for me or **bring up a painful topic** again?

<http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20141119-why-you-love-to-hate-some-friends>

If nothing else, perhaps **bringing up the topic** will get them all to re-think what they have and fix any accessibility issues.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-34488006>

Not only was I nervous about **bringing up a sensitive topic**, I was struggling to remember which was Tyler and which was Cameron Winkelvoss.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/thereporters/rorycellanjones/2010/04/winkelvoss_twins_our_facebook.html

* **ruminating on an issue/ conversations/ questions/ war and peace**

And that's not just in the moment; you tend **to ruminate on their hurtful conversations** for longer periods of time.

<http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20141119-why-you-love-to-hate-some-friends>

Any media, literature or **conversation that ruminated on the giant unanswered questions** immediately had my attention.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/local/bristol/hi/people_and_places/nature/newsid_7934000/7934520.stm

Speaking to the class of 1963, he was philosophical and expansive, **ruminating on war and peace**.

<http://europe.newsweek.com/meacham-trial-error-and-gulf-oil-spill-72805?rm=eu>

* **a subject of long controversy**

It is less clear how this might relate to other forms of priming, **a subject of long controversy**.

<http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20150324-the-hidden-tricks-of-persuasion>

The dispute over ownership on The Pinnacle **has been the subject of long-running controversy**, with Howell's descendants fighting court cases against local developers.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/blogs-news-from-elsewhere-26016900>

Ng had been taking part in a protest in Yuen Long against Chinese mainlanders visiting Hong Kong to buy cheaper and better quality produce, **a long-running controversial subject** in the territory.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-33754907>

* **finding a new understanding of the mind / reaching a mutual understanding**

As an undergraduate in psychology, **he found the new understanding of the mind** often chimed with the skills he had learnt with his hobby.

<http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20150324-the-hidden-tricks-of-persuasion>

His personal strategy is to talk to his frenemies and explain his issues – in **the hope of reaching a mutual understanding**.

<http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20141119-why-you-love-to-hate-some-friends>

* **spending a lifetime exploring**

Olson has spent a lifetime exploring the subtle ways of tricking people's perception, and it all began with magic. "I started magic tricks when I was five and performing when I was seven," he says.

<http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20150324-the-hidden-tricks-of-persuasion>

Here is why you could **explore this city for a life-time**.

<http://www.bbc.com/capital/story/20160525-heres-why-you-could-explore-this-city-for-a-lifetime>