

REFERENCE E-BOOK

Constructions in present-day English

Thematic section

THE WAY WE LIVE NOW-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.

CONSTRUCTIONS FOR SPEAKING AND WRITING ABOUT OUR LIFE

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SPEAKING / WRITING ABOUT IDENTITY AND ATTITUDES

* **forging / shaping / defining / creating a national/ Ukrainian/ Ukraine's/ post-2014/ false/ online identity / role**

He hopes Ukraine can **forge an identity** based on common "values", embracing the diversity of nationalities and ethnicities that live in the country.

Mr Eristavi says the "biggest danger" when it comes to **shaping Ukraine's post-2014 national identity**, is if Ukrainians simply paint themselves "as some anti-version of Russians".

Twenty five years after independence, the process of **shaping and defining Ukrainian identity** goes on.

Ukrainian attitudes **have**, to a large extent, **been shaped by recent events** in the country's history.

"The main foundation [of Ukrainian **identity**]," he says, is "I'm not Russian".

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-37169341>

"And third, our country needs strong, proven leadership – to steer us through this time of economic and political uncertainty and to negotiate the best deal for Britain as we leave the European Union and **forge a new role** for ourselves in the world."

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-36760953>

* **being vehemently opposed to / expressing their vehement opposition to**

Moscow is vehemently opposed to – and actively working to prevent – Ukraine's closer relationship with the European Union.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-37169341>

Almost every head teacher of a state secondary school in Surrey has signed a letter to the prime minister expressing their "**vehement opposition**" to plans for more grammar schools in England.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/education-37898977>

Whilst some were **vehemently opposed to** the move, others hailed it has an exciting and necessary change to the way the corporation delivered content to the 16-34 year-old demographic.

http://www.thetvfestival.com/?post_type=programme-item&p=8078

* **embracing (the diversity of) nationalities and ethnicities/ jobs/ ideas/ change**

He hopes Ukraine can forge an identity based on common "values", **embracing the diversity of nationalities and ethnicities** that live in the country.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-37169341>

To survive in a hostile world, guys need to embrace girly jobs and dirty diapers.

<http://europe.newsweek.com/why-we-need-reimagine-masculinity-71993?rm=eu>

At Jaguar, embracing change is at the heart of the business.

<http://www.bbc.com/storyworks/autos/specials/discover-jaguar/>

Bosses 'should embrace Facebook.'

<http://imaginatik.com/news/bbc-news-bosses-should-embrace-facebook>

Should we embrace the mid-life crisis rather than be embarrassed by it?

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-37101625>

The BBC must embrace "political diversity" alongside social and sexual equality if it is to truly reflect its viewers, a senior Tory MP has demanded.

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/668162/Tory-MP-demands-BBC-embraces-political-diversity-social-sexual-equality>

* **undergoing/ going through a makeover**

Some Ukrainians say the divided nation is undergoing a makeover.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-37169341>

Since the 1950s, the image of the American woman has gone through numerous makeovers.

For starters, it encourages them to confront new challenges the same way they dealt with earlier upheavals: by blaming women, retreating into the woods, or burying their anxieties beneath machismo.

<http://europe.newsweek.com/why-we-need-reimagine-masculinity-71993?rm=eu>

SPEAKING / WRITING ABOUT POLITICS

* **control-constructions**

The Daily Telegraph leads on the PM's pledge that Britain will control immigration from the EU after it leaves the bloc, and says she has set out her first "red line" for the forthcoming Brexit negotiations.

The Guardian's take is that Mrs May's stance means "Brexit means border controls at whatever price".

to have/ take/ gain/ maintain/ assume/ lose/ take back / regain control (over/ of something)

Leave side suggested the UK would be able to take back control of immigration and the £350m a week they said the UK sent to the EU.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-36881718>

* **campaign-constructions**

to launch/ mount/ run/ carry out a campaign for/against

During the campaign, there were warnings from the Remain side about the economic impact of leaving.

A report published by the Electoral Reform Society says the campaign was dogged by "glaring democratic deficiencies" with voters turned off by big name politicians and negative campaigning.

The group, which campaigns for electoral reform, was critical of both Remain and Leave, saying people felt "ill-informed" by the "dire" debate and it said the impact of political leaders had been "minimal".

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-36881718>

* referendum-constructions

in a/ June's referendum

to hold / run a referendum on independence/ the issue

The UK voted to leave the European Union in a referendum on 23 June.

The UK public voted 52% to 48% to leave the European Union in June's referendum.

Its own report is due to be published later this month, with recommendations for "improving the conduct and regulation of future referendums".

It wants a "root and branch" review of the way referendums are run, and has proposed a "rule book" to govern campaigns' conduct, a public body to intervene when "misleading" claims are made and a review of broadcasters' role.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-36881718>

* vote-constructions

The UK voted to leave the European Union in a referendum on 23 June.

The UK public voted 52% to 48% to leave the European Union in June's referendum.

Cases are expected to soar after the vote to leave the EU.

What economic impact has the Brexit vote had?

She said she was determined to "make the most of the opportunities" resulting from the Brexit vote.

A government spokeswoman said the referendum result was decisive "with one of the highest turnouts of any vote seen in a UK-wide poll in a generation".

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-36881718>

* to take office / to be in office

Mikhail Pogrebinskiy, a political analyst and ex-adviser to former President Leonid Kuchma (in office from 1994-2005), says Ukraine's current elite has an unhealthy obsession with distancing the country from Russia.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-37169341>

President-elect Donald Trump, who will take office next month, has been critical of the current administration's Middle East policy, tweeting earlier this week that Israel had been treated with "disdain" by the US in recent years.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-38464800>

* to carry out a poll / a survey

A recent **poll, carried out** by Mr Pogrebinskiy's organisation, the Kiev Centre of Political Research and Conflict Studies, found 25% of respondents favoured a union with Russia and Belarus.

The **survey** of 1,802 people **was carried out** across Ukraine but - crucially - not in Crimea or the eastern Donbass region, which borders Russia.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-37169341>

A government spokeswoman said the referendum result was decisive "with one of the highest turnouts of any vote seen in a **UK-wide poll** in a generation".

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-36881718>

Recent **polls** show that majorities of Republicans (62 percent), Democrats (92 percent), and independents (71 percent) now support the idea of paid paternity leave.

<http://europe.newsweek.com/why-we-need-reimagine-masculinity-71993?rm=eu>

SPEAKING / WRITING ABOUT WAR & CONFLICT

* **volunteer-construction**

Those of us who **volunteered for military service** in 2001 are now at the tail end of young adulthood.

When Drew **volunteered to deploy** to Afghanistan for a second tour in 2013, there were many who asked him why.

Martin's words echoed in Drew's explanation for **volunteering to return** to Afghanistan for a second tour.

After 9/11, there was a job that had to be done, and we **volunteered to do it**.

The **volunteer fighting force makes** about 0.5 percent of the total U.S. population.

The September 11 attacks were a devastating reminder of the dark reality of the world that exists beyond our borders, from which we are cocooned by the privilege of our prosperity and the protection of our **all-volunteer armed forces**.

There is an ideal, I think, that motivated most of us who served after 9/11 – some reason that justified the unrecoverable currency of youth we **voluntarily** spent in Iraq, Afghanistan and other places.

<http://europe.newsweek.com/fifteen-years-after-911-what-are-we-fighting-497049?rm=eu>

The energy and drive of **volunteer** movements mean Ukraine has a bright future.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-37169341>

* **combat – constructions**

Nolan Peterson writes that U.S. troops, sailors, airmen and Marines are still **conducting combat operations against** Islamist militant groups in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as in other theaters such as Syria and Libya, across Africa and in the Philippines.

All of us who served have friends or acquaintances who **died in combat**.

This might sound dark or off-putting to those who **have never been in combat** or sent a loved one off to war, but when I hugged my brother goodbye before each of his deployments to Afghanistan, I found myself purposefully emblazoning the moment in my mind, worrying it could be the last time I would ever see him.

Former Army Sergeant 1st Class Jeffrey Martin, a veteran of six **combat deployments**, including Desert Storm and the 2003 invasion of Iraq, said it well: “When the bullets are flying and shit starts blowing up, you’re not thinking about any of that duty, honor, country bullshit.

Nolan Peterson, a former special operations pilot and a **combat veteran** of Iraq and Afghanistan, is the Daily Signal’s foreign correspondent based in Ukraine.

<http://europe.newsweek.com/fifteen-years-after-911-what-are-we-fighting-497049?rm=eu>

SPEAKING / WRITING ABOUT MIGRATION

* **migrant/ emigrant/ immigrant-constructions**

Some 214 million people are international **migrants**, living in a different country from the one in which they were born.

In the UK, 38% of **immigrants** have a degree level qualification, compared with 18% of the UK-born population, according to The Work Foundation.

On the face of it, that looks like a bad thing for the developing nation they have come from, especially if it has paid for the skilled **emigrant's** education.

This is what Australia says on an official website about the points system that it uses in assessing **would-be immigrants**: "The points test is a transparent and objective method of selecting skilled migrants with the skills and attributes needed in Australia."

It also shows some **well-trodden migration routes** used by skilled workers.

***applying for/ granting permanent residence**

The Financial Times says the Home Office is holding secret trials of an online system aimed at speeding up **permanent residence applications** from thousands of EU citizens looking to secure their UK immigration status in the run-up to Brexit.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-36881718>

EU nationals with a right to **permanent residence** can stay in the UK after it leaves the EU and enjoy the same rights, a top civil servant has said.

Mark Sedwill said **the rights of those granted residence** after five years were "quite clear" in law and it amounted to a guarantee of their future status.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-36849071>

* **customs-constructions**

There's probably elevator music echoing in the late-night silence and some janitors waxing the floor as she waits in line **to get her passport stamped and go through customs.**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-36881718>

The country is outside the EU but **inside the customs union** - allowing some goods to move across EU borders **without customs controls.**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-38364056>

* **at home and abroad**

While Ukraine's political class has been criticised **at home and abroad** over the depth and speed of its programme for change, Ukraine's civil society has been a beacon of hope for those who hope to truly change the country.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-37169341>

* **international employment**

Rebecca, the nurse from the Philippines, **enjoyed the greater professional independence** she found once she had started work in the United States.

"I would **send out about five job applications** a week and not even **get one interview call.**" says King, who holds a master's degree in business management from a university in the UK.

Many rich countries actively encourage immigration by people with particular skills that **are in short supply.**

The clickable guide gives some examples of what the developed countries have done to encourage migrants, and of the types of skills that **are in high demand.**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/business-21923867>

SPEAKING / WRITING ABOUT COMMUTING TO WORK

* **commute-constructions**

Such a long commute in a region where there are big discrepancies in the climate, **poses additional challenges.**

"The first several months that **I was doing this commute,** I was always caught off guard," he says.

<http://www.bbc.com/capital/story/20170712-the-man-who-takes-a-plane-to-work-every-day>

This mindset will improve even **the worst commute** to work.

[Jessica] Patch listened to podcasts to kill the time and took in a therapy show on Oprah Winfrey's satellite radio station to ease the stress, but she said the strain of **the lengthy commute**, on top of a long workday "completely ruined my body."

<http://www.bbc.com/capital/story/20160718-this-mindset-will-improve-even-the-worst-commute-to-work>

* **time, frequency & distance-constructions**

Curt von Badinski, a mechanical engineer and co-founder of a San Francisco-based tech company, has a **six-hour daily commute** from Los Angeles – most of it by plane.

Five days a week, he rises at 05:00 for the **15-minute drive** to Bob Hope Burbank airport, for a **90-minute flight** to Oakland, located 353 miles (568km) north west.

"The way I justify a **six-hour commute** is having the ability to have all the things that I want," he explains.

<http://www.bbc.com/capital/story/20170712-the-man-who-takes-a-plane-to-work-every-day>

With 150 trips a year, including jaunts to Asia every few weeks, numerous visits to Europe, biannual trips to the Americas and a yearly stop in Australia, it's no wonder he regards the sky his second home.

How do frequent travellers continue to look and feel human, through regular **long-haul flights**?

<http://www.bbc.com/capital/story/20140807-when-your-second-home-is-a-plane>

The trade-off: a **55-mile drive** to the office that sometimes left her commuting by car up to four hours a day.

I think many of us feel this overwhelming sense of powerlessness on commutes because we get stuck on a train or in a traffic jam and there is nothing we can do about it."

Someone who **commutes for 15 hours** each week misses out on about half an hour of sleep each day.

Of course, there's an underlying problem that keeps us from taking in **the benefits of commuting**.

Could it be that we aren't **utilising our commute time** in the way we should?

Essentially, people who have higher levels of self-control might ask themselves a series of questions on the morning commute, such as: What do I need to do today?

Statistics Canada, for example, found transit commutes in Canada to be 81% longer (41 extra minutes per day) than those by car. Plus, there's the added stress of travelling with a group of people in crowded conditions.

<http://www.bbc.com/capital/story/20160718-this-mindset-will-improve-even-the-worst-commute-to-work>

* **commuters-constructions**

Once he's in the air, he uses his time to work free of interruptions network with other **like-minded air commuters**, including start-up founders and venture capitalists.

<http://www.bbc.com/capital/story/20170712-the-man-who-takes-a-plane-to-work-every-day>

For business travellers like 48-year-old Cowie, life can be a never-ending whirlwind of carry-ons, check-ins and clock-changes. How do frequent travellers continue to look and feel human, through regular long-haul flights?

<http://www.bbc.com/capital/story/20140807-when-your-second-home-is-a-plane>

* jet lag / time zone - constructions

Jet lag, a confusion between the internal body clock and the external environmental time, is often one of the most unpleasant parts of travel.

“We as humans were never expected to travel at speed across time lines so quickly; when you go beyond three time lines you can start getting jet lag,” said Dr Guy Meadows, who runs *the Sleep School* in London and is author of *The Sleep Book*.

Warding off **jet lag**

“Remember few people have ever died of jet lag,” he added, but long flights can take their toll in other ways.

BBC Capital quizzed frequent business fliers for their best tips and tricks to beat jet lag and arrive five time zones away ready for the next meeting.

To get through time zone trauma, Cowie has two key tricks — and one of them involves working less.

In general, it takes about one day to get over each hour of time difference from your home country, Dr Meadows said. One way to cut back on that time zone malaise?

Dr Meadows recommends the power nap to combat jet lag. “The pressures of your old time zone bearing down on you can be sickening. Have a 10 to 30 minute power nap.”

Some experienced travellers say it’s better to keep pace with your home time zone. “I always keep my watch and body clock at the time of my home [London] so that I don’t lose perspective of time zones. This is really important as the majority of my work is in London, hence I need to stick to that time zone,” El Imad said.

How do you combat jet lag and flight fatigue on long trips?

<http://www.bbc.com/capital/story/20140807-when-your-second-home-is-a-plane>

SPEAKING / WRITING ABOUT TRAFFIC CALMING

* car-free

Major Hong Kong street to go car free this weekend – but city ‘lagging behind’ New York and London.

Planned closure of Des Voeux Road in Central hailed as breakthrough for car-free events, but experts say it is just a “small step” towards much-needed greater pedestrianisation.

The road will be temporarily closed to traffic on Sunday between Pedder Street and Morrison Street, in what campaigners have hailed as a significant breakthrough for car-free events in Hong Kong.

He said he hoped transport chiefs would begin to seriously consider proposals to make other parts of the city permanently pedestrianised while his group starts planning similar car-free days for next year.

But Fung said he wanted to see stronger connections between car-free roads, particularly between the east and west of Hong Kong Island.

Sunday's event will be held just a few days after World Car Free Day was celebrated across the globe on Thursday.

In London, pedestrianisation schemes have increasingly garnered support from politicians, road users and business owners, with the city's main shopping hub, Oxford Street, due to become car free by 2020.

Hong Kong currently has seven full-time pedestrian schemes, 30 part-time pedestrian schemes and more than 40 traffic calming schemes.

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/education-community/article/2022012/hong-kong-street-go-car-free-weekend-citys>

* **environmentally-/ pedestrian-friendly roads / city**

Hong Kong is “lagging behind” other international cities in terms of traffic management and pedestrian-friendly roads, campaigners and academics have said.

Patrick Fung Kin-wai, chief executive and co-organiser of Clean Air Network, which is leading Sunday's event, said it was just a “small step” towards making the city less congested and more environmentally friendly.

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/education-community/article/2022012/hong-kong-street-go-car-free-weekend-citys>

SPEAKING / WRITING ABOUT BIAS & DISCRIMINATION

* **bias-construction**

Similar studies in the US, UK, Australia and France uncovered racial bias among CV screeners toward ethnic minorities.

A randomised field experiment conducted in Chicago and Paris that compared call-back rates of foreign-sounding names and Anglo-Saxon names encountered similar labour-market bias.

In a 2016 study conducted jointly by the University of Toronto and *Administrative Science Quarterly*, a Cornell University journal, 40% of minority job applicants admitted to “whitening” their CVs to counter racial bias in the hiring process.

Research done by Dr Mahzarin Banaji, professor of social ethics at Harvard University, corroborates that we are wired to be biased in favour of those who are like us. Banaji, who co-authored *Blindspot: Hidden Biases of Good People*, argues

that despite claims of being open-minded, most people prefer those with similar education or ethnic backgrounds and experiences.

So we bring this unconscious bias to everything we do.

<http://www.bbc.com/capital/story/20160915-should-you-change-your-name-to-get-a-job>

* **discrimination-construction**

New Zealand-based Paul Spoonley, a researcher at Massey University, says there is significant name and accent **discrimination exhibited** by employers in New Zealand that can be tied to assumptions around ethnicity.

Conrad Braithwaite, funder of *UK Deed Poll*, a company that helps people legally change their name, says each year thousands of UK residents Anglicise or adopt new names. A significant number of these are by ethnic minorities trying to **escape discrimination** in the job market, he says.

Around the world research and anecdotal evidence shows job applicants from racial minorities have **responded** in similar way to **recruitment discrimination** due to their ethnic identities.

“The results support the idea that **discrimination arises** [because] birds of a feather flock together,” he says.

<http://www.bbc.com/capital/story/20160915-should-you-change-your-name-to-get-a-job>
