GOGOL STATE UNIVERSITY AT NIZHYN
GERMANIC PHILOLOGY DEPARTMENT

REFERENCE E-BOOK

Present-day English constructions for speaking / writing

Thematic section

REPUTATION-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.

Nizhyn – May 2017

CONSTRUCTIONS FOR SPEAKING / WRITING ABOUT REPUTATION

Compiled by Oksana Khomenko & Victoria Khomynska

CHARACTERIZING PEOPLE

* being bad/ ruthless/ brutal/ scheming/ unfeeling/ callous/ self-centered

Do **ruthless** people really get ahead?

When we think of success, we often picture rather **brutal** characters who will happily trample over others' feelings in the pursuit of fame and fortune.

However, there's more than one way to be **bad**.

As *BBC Future* explored last year, psychologists have recently identified three traits that might describe the most **ruthless** people. They are: Machiavellianism: characterised by cynical manipulation; Narcissism: how **self-centred** you are; Psychopathy: a combination of **risky** impulsivity and **callousness**.

Occasionally, all three corners of this "dark triad" converge in a single person, who is vain, **scheming**, and **unfeeling**, but sometimes you can score highly in one characteristic but not the other.

So, to get ahead, does it matter what 'type' of **ruthless** you are?

Previous evidence had suggested that psychopathy is slightly more common among **high-flying** CEOs than the general population – the so-called "snakes in suits". The idea was that cool, **ruthless** and somewhat risky behaviour is occasionally demanded in the office.

http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20160103-do-ruthless-people-really-get-ahead

* score/ perform - constructions

Occasionally, all three corners of this "dark triad" converge in a single person, who is vain, scheming, and unfeeling, but sometimes you can **score highly** in one characteristic but not the other.

Despite the previous findings on "snakes in suits", Spurk found that the psychopaths in his sample actually **performed worse** on his measures of success: they earned less than their peers and tended to have lowlier positions on the career hierarchy.

http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20160103-do-ruthless-people-really-get-ahead

* feel-good factor / attitude

Emily Cook, a 22-year-old Instagram user from Lincoln, believes they elicit a **feel-good factor**. "It's always nice to document a good hair day, or an outfit you love. And generally, especially with Instagram, there's a real **feel-good attitude** towards selfies, and as vain as it may be, you know that if you're not feeling great, there's someone who will 'like' your photo and tell you you're pretty."

http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-22511650

* huge popularity

The 1860s saw **huge popularity** for the sharing of *cartes de visite* – little photocards.

http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-22511650

Viral internet campaigns proved **hugely popular**, and saw millions of pounds donated.

http://www.bbc.com/news/av/technology-30671190/web-s-winning-formulas-raising-millions-for-charities

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* emphasizing people's features

You don't have to be Don Draper **to realise** that pragmatically pulling other's levers will put you in a position of power.

But **it was** the narcissists **who** earned the most money, overall. This may be because their sense of self-worth makes them better negotiators, helping them to swing more benefits.

http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20160103-do-ruthless-people-really-get-ahead

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CHRACTERIZING PEOPLE'S ACTIONS

* getting ahead/ to the top

Do ruthless people really **get ahead**?
Does a dark personality actually help you **get to the top** of business?

http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20160103-do-ruthless-people-really-get-ahead

* taking/ sharing/ uploading selfies

There's a mania for **sharing self-taken photographs** online.

You only need this second, forward-facing camera if you want **to take pictures of yourself**.

Could there be any more conclusive indication of **the ubiquity of the self-portrait** or "selfie"?

Images can be **shared** with thousands of other people.

There's the high angle photo, awkwardly featuring the taker's arm. There's the mirror **self-portrait**. There are posed **selfies**, with Bambi-eyes and pouting lips. And there are group **selfies**, even dodging a stranger's kind offer **to take** the same **photo**.

A search on photo sharing app Instagram retrieves over 23 million photos **uploaded** with the hashtag #selfie, and a whopping 51 million with the hashtag #me.

Rihanna, Justin Bieber, Lady Gaga and Madonna are all **serial uploaders of selfies**. The Obama children were spotted **posing into** their mobile phones at their father's second inauguration. Even astronaut Steve Robinson **took a photo of himself** during his repair of the Space Shuttle Discovery.

Selfie-ism is everywhere. The word "**selfie**" has been bandied about so much in the past six months it's currently being monitored for inclusion in the Oxford Dictionary Online.

The first **self-portrait photograph** is thought **to have been taken** by camera pioneer Robert Cornelius in 1839, but whether or not it's a true "selfie" is debatable.

"It's more likely the first **'selfies'** were **taken** a bit later on.

Sharing of self-portraits also pre-dates the internet.

Some people prefer the images they **take themselves**.

One theory is that the **"selfie"** tells other people how we want to be seen.

Of course, most **selfies** are clothed and innocuous.

Selfie-taker Emily points out that her generation has forever been warned about internet risks and, as a result, she's careful.

Many view **selfies** as acts of self-focus and cries for attention.

http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-22511650

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SPEAKING / WRITING ABOUT CAREER STAGES

* a watershed moment / event

The first smartphone with a forward-facing camera was the **watershed** moment.

http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-22511650

It was a **watershed** moment in the history of technology.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0549xgm

The general election was a **watershed**.

http://www.bbc.com/news/av/entertainment-arts-40259539/how-the-general-election-was-a-watershed-for-the-media

On Monday, the Pentagon said the crash was not a **watershed** event that would change US strategy in the war.

http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-14469120

* on the spur of the moment

The cameras, which focus automatically from arm's length, invite us to photograph **on the spur of the moment**, regardless of location or company.

http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-22511650

The man who drove his 4x4 up Snowdon says it was a "**spur of the moment**" act and on his list of "50 things to do before he dies".

Mrs Hannigan said she acted "**on the spur of the moment** out of fright".

* in the long run / game

Although their willingness to take risks could be a boon in some industries, their impulsiveness may mean that they are less productive **in the long run**, skiving off work as the mood takes them.

"Psychopaths are really impulsive – they have real problems with controlling behaviour." The determining factor, Spurk thinks, may be intelligence: a smarter psychopath might be able to temper some of those excesses, allowing them to win out **in the long game**.