

GOGOL STATE UNIVERSITY OF NIZHYN
GERMANIC PHILOLOGY AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES
METHODOLOGY DEPARTMENT

REFERENCE E-BOOK

Present-day English Constructions for
Speaking and Writing

Thematic section

ENVIRONMENT - 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.

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1. Speaking/writing about plastic waste

* **plastic items** – constructions

Consumer pressure to end **plastic packaging** in shops could actually be harming the environment, a report says.

Firms are swapping to other **packaging materials** which are potentially even worse for the environment, an independent think tank warns.

Paper bags tend to have higher carbon emissions than **plastic bags** – and are more difficult to re-use.

Several supermarkets, for instance, are selling more drinks in **coated cartons** under the assumption that they can be recycled.

In fact, the Green Alliance says, the UK only has the facilities to recycle a third of **the coated containers** in circulation.

The government has partially banned **microbeads**, and a ban on **plastic straws, stirrers and cotton buds** is set to come in later this year.

A ban on expanded polystyrene has also been mooted and the Treasury has promised to introduce a tax on **plastic packaging** that does not include at least 30% recycled content.

The UK has committed to adopting the EU's Circular Economy Package, which includes much more stringent recycling targets, but has not committed to transposing the Single-Use Plastics Directive, which

requires more widespread action on plastic reduction, including bans on plastic cutlery.

It is also not clear if the UK will adopt the EU's much more wide-ranging ban on microbeads.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-51040155>

* **types of plastic materials** – constructions

Its spokeswoman, Libby Peake, told BBC News: “A lot of shops are selling packaging described as biodegradable or compostable.”

The report says: “Over 80% of consumers think biodegradable or compostable plastic is environmentally friendly, but there is little understanding of what the terms mean and how the material should be dealt with.

The retailers worried that confusion could potentially harm the environment if people either put "compostable" plastic in with conventional plastic, or littered it, wrongly assuming it would biodegrade like an apple core.

One firm is quoted as saying: “Consumers are hugely confused about what bio-based, compostable and biodegradable mean.”

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* **ban** – constructions

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* **harm to the environment** – constructions

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2.Speaking/writing about wildlife trade

* **wildlife trade** – constructions

The wildlife trade - in the likes of horns, ivory and exotic pets - is the number one cause of animal extinction, tied only with land development.

The UK/US team quantified for the first time the species most affected by the global wildlife trade based on a study of the tree of life.

At least one in five vertebrate species on Earth are bought and sold on the wildlife market, according to a study.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-49904668>

Experts from around the world are gathering in London to discuss "the global crisis" in the wildlife trade.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-26122438>

*trade – constructions

"The sheer diversity of species **being traded** is astounding - the risk that that will grow is very worrying," said Prof David Edwards of the University of Sheffield, a co-researcher on the study.

According to their analysis, 5,579 animals - 18% of vertebrates - are currently **being traded** globally.

The research also identified another 3,000 or so species that look set to **be traded** in the future, based on their similarities with animals currently bought and sold - for example if they have bright plumage or exotic horns.

"If one species **is traded**, the chances are its evolutionary cousins are also traded," said Dr Brett Scheffers of the University of Florida.

"Once we discovered that pattern, we could develop a new model that would predict which species are likely to **be traded** in the future, even if they are **not traded now.**"

Prof Edwards said: "Without urgent focus on how to stem both the supply and demand for wild-caught species, there is a real danger that we will lose **many traded species.**"

The study, published in Science, identified hotspots for **traded** birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles in regions within the Andes mountain range and Amazon rainforest, sub-Saharan Africa, South East Asia and Australia.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-49904668>

The meeting will also look at the trade in other species, including tigers, which are thought to number just 3,200 in the wild, and pangolins, which are traded at high volume.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-26122438>

*wildlife trafficking – constructions

Prof Jonathan Baillie, director of conservation at the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), said: "It's clear that illegal wildlife trafficking is completely out of control, and we need to bring the best minds together to really identify some clear solutions and show clear leadership and direction."

Conservationists say animal trafficking is reaching unprecedented levels and species such as rhinos, elephants and tigers are under threat of extinction.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-26122438>

*wildlife poaching – constructions

Wildlife poaching has seen a recent boom, and it is worth an estimated £12bn (\$19bn) each year.

This will take place on Thursday at Lancaster House, with international leaders gathering to discuss a global response to animal poaching.

In South Africa, in 2007, 13 rhinos were killed for their horns, but in 2013, 1,004 rhinos were slaughtered by poachers.

An estimated 20,000 of the giants were killed in Africa during 2012, according to work carried out for the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-26122438>

***wildlife products** – constructions

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The aim of the meeting, hosted by the Zoological Society of London, is **to find new ways to protect animals and reduce demand for wildlife products**.

Naomi Doak, from Traffic, said **the demand for animal products in Asian counties such as Vietnam was growing**.

The conservationists at the conference will **discuss ways to stem the growing markets for wildlife products**.

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***actions against wildlife trade** – constructions

The scientists stress the need for **proactive rather than reactive strategies**, including **a "watch list" of susceptible species**, **better detection of illegal imports**, **fighting corruption and engaging local people in conservation**.

Prof Edwards said: "Without urgent focus on how to **stem both the supply and demand for wild-caught species**, there is a real danger that we will lose many traded species."

Individuals can help by **not taking any illegal animal products** offered to them abroad, he said, and by **checking any exotic pets** they buy have not been captured illegally from the wild.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-49904668>

They will be joined by Prince Charles and Prince William, Duke of Cambridge. They have jointly released a video campaign urging people to **"unite for wildlife"**.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-26122438>

3. Speaking/writing about returning animals to the wild

***introduce** – constructions

India's top court has said cheetahs can **be reintroduced** in the country, 70 years after they were wiped out.

Responding to a plea by the government, the Supreme Court said African cheetahs could **be introduced** to the wild in a "carefully chosen location".

India's Supreme Court said the animal would have to **be introduced** on an experimental basis to find out if it could adapt to Indian conditions

India's former environment minister Jairam Ramesh welcomed the decision **to reintroduce** the animal.

For more than a decade, wildlife officials, cheetah experts and conservationists from all over the world have discussed the **reintroduction** of the spotted big cat to India and have agreed that there is a strong case for it.

Lions were reintroduced in the Chandraprabha sanctuary in northern Uttar Pradesh state in the 1950s, but were then poached out of existence.

They fear that in its haste to bring back the cheetah, India will end up housing the animals in semi-captive conditions in huge, secured open air zoos rather than allowing them to live free.

Endangered cheetahs can return to Indian forests – court

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-51279206>

4. Speaking/Writing about Australia bushfires

*fire(s) – constructions;

But after fierce bushfires tore through the island this week, there are fears it may never fully recover.

Nearly a quarter of the beehives are believed to have been lost in the bushfires.

Even on the night when the bushfire was coming at them, two dozen koalas were brought in for treatment.

"You see the glowing in the distance," says Sam Mitchell, remembering the fire that threatened his home, family, and animals last week.

The fire, on 9 January, was the second major blaze to ravage Kangaroo Island in less than a week.

The fires on Kangaroo Island have been shocking for their speed and extreme behaviour.

It turns out the fire missed us and was heading in their direction.

The fire came dangerously close to Kingscote but did not impact the town.

"It's so hard to see him playing innocently when there are fires all around us," he says.

Driving through the fire trail in Kangaroo Island, there are rows upon rows of blackened trees, some still burning from inside.

In some parts of Vivonne Bay, the fires burned right up to the sea.

The south-western area is home to the island's national park. Now the whole has been ravaged by fires that have burned since 20 December.

Also, the presence of feral cats - which have been a problem before the fires.

But it's proving difficult because fires are still active in some areas - and other parts of the island are deemed too dangerous.

"At the moment the fires are still going and the parks are closed," says Caroline Paterson.

It's estimated that half of the Kangaroo Island's 50,000 koalas have perished in the fires - a huge loss for a population that was thriving here.

Since the fires started, Sam Mitchell has received koalas with severe burns almost on a daily basis.

The whole park is running on generators because the fires have destroyed power lines in the area.

Every sector of this island has been hit hard by the fires - including agriculture.

There are fires still going.

The fire, on 9 January, was the second major blaze to ravage Kangaroo Island in less than a week.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-51102658>

***impact of fires – constructions;**

The fire, on 9 January, was the second major blaze to ravage Kangaroo Island in less than a week.

Driving through the fire trail in Kangaroo Island, there are rows upon rows of blackened trees, some still burning from inside.

The scorched earth smoulders and smoke fills the air.

At least a dozen charred koala and kangaroo carcasses lie on the side of the road.

Some have helped dig trenches to bury the thousands of sheep and cattle killed.

At Hanson Bay in the island's west, we watch Australian and New Zealand soldiers fan out across paddocks, collecting the remains of hundreds of koalas, kangaroos, wallabies and birds.

With masks to help keep out the stench, they silently move the charred carcasses into piles - which are then transferred to a hire truck and offloaded by hand into a deep trench.

"Nobody likes to handle deceased wildlife, but we'll be here to support the community and will be for as long as we are wanted and needed."

Now it's feared that half of the island (more than 215,000 hectares) has been scorched.

"We're struggling to look for remnants of intact vegetation where some species may still be present," says Caroline, tearfully.

Nearly a quarter of the beehives are believed to have been lost in the bushfires.

There's a risk of lack of food, water and shelter.

It's estimated that half of the Kangaroo Island's 50,000 koalas have perished in the fires - a huge loss for a population that was thriving here.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-51102658>

***Unique nature of Australia – constructions;**

Kangaroo Island in South Australia has been likened to a Noah's Ark for its unique ecology.

Kangaroo Island is one of Australia's most important wildlife sanctuaries, renowned for its biodiversity.

One of the reasons Kangaroo Island retained a good number of its original species was because rabbits and foxes weren't introduced there.

A lot of the flora and fauna there are distinctive because a lot of the island's habitats remained fairly pristine.

It's like a southern Australian ark, retaining a really good complement of its species.

But scientists are now worried about many endangered species - including the Kangaroo Island dunnart, a mouse-like marsupial, and the glossy black-cockatoo.

The island is also home to a pure strain of Ligurian bees, originally from Italy.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-51102658>

***injured koalas – constructions;**

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Since the fires started, Sam Mitchell has received koalas with severe burns almost on a daily basis.

Even on the night when the bushfire was coming at them, two dozen koalas were brought in for treatment.

Duncan McFetridge, a retired vet, and Belinda Battersby, a veterinarian nurse, are scraping some dead skin off one koala's burned hand.

"Many will be euthanised unfortunately," says Duncan.

It's a difficult place to treat so many badly-injured animals.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-51102658>