



Communicative Grammar Applications for Successful Academic Writing

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Spring 2010

Communicative Language Teaching (CLT)

- response to audio-lingual method (ALM)
- originally focused more on *meaning* than on *form*



Communicative Language Teaching (CLT)

- “Communicative task is a piece of classroom work which involves learners in comprehending, manipulating, producing or interacting in the target language while their attention is principally focused on *meaning* rather than on *form*.” (Nunan, Designing Tasks for the Communicative Classroom, 1989)

Communicative Language Teaching (CLT)

- “In recent years [1980’s – 1990’s] it seems to be widely accepted that there is *value* in classroom tasks that require learners to *focus on form*. It is also accepted that *grammar is an essential resource* in using language communicatively.” (Nunan, 1989, p. 13)

Communicative Language Teaching (CLT)

- Littlewood (1981) in his introduction to communicative language teaching suggests certain steps to be followed before the learners are able to manipulate language.
- First, the learners have to acquire /develop a certain set of skills (i.e. linguistic competence)
- Then, they have to distinguish between the forms they have mastered.

Why is CLT popular?

- Focuses on the learners' individual needs
 - Authentic material
 - Students learn to communicate through interaction in the target language
 - Link between classroom instruction and activities outside the classroom
- Student – centered
 - Students manipulate language through interaction

Communicative Grammar for Academic Writing

- Prompt:

Some parents decide to stay home with their young children until they turn three. Others think their children can benefit more from sending them to day care. What is your opinion? If you had a child would you rather stay home with him/her or would you prefer sending your child to day care? Please provide details to support your choice.

Communicative Grammar and Academic Writing

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Communicative Grammar and Academic Writing

- Life or Death?
- How would you feel if a loved one were killed? Would you want retribution, or would sending the killer to prison be enough? This question has been asked many times, but people are not in agreement with the ultimate punishment. We all know that it is wrong to take a human life, but if our government does the killing, is it still a crime? Some people say that the government does not have the right to end someone's life, but the following reasons will show why capital punishment should be preserved.

Folse, K. et al. *Great Essays*. (2002). 2nd edition. Heinle. Boston, MA. p. 120

Communicative Grammar and Academic Writing

- How **would** you **feel if** a loved one **were killed**? **Would** you want retribution, **or would** **sending** the killer to prison be enough? **This question has been asked** many times, **but people are not in agreement** with the ultimate punishment. We all know that it is wrong to take a human life, but if our government does the killing, is it still a crime? **Some people say** that the government does MS1 not have the right to end someone's life, **but the following reasons will show** why capital punishment **should be preserved.**

Slide 10

MS1

Start with the opposite viewpoint, and finish with your own opinion on the topic.

Maria, 2/15/2010

Grammar for Successful Academic Writing

- How would you feel / What would you do **if** _____
+ **simple past**? Would you _____ (base form of verb)
, or would _____? (Mention both viewpoints) **This**
question has been asked many times, but people are not
in agreement with **what the right answer is**. We all know
that _____, but _____?
Some people say that
_____ (opposite viewpoint),
but the following reasons will show _____.

Prompts eliciting a particular type of grammar structure

Conditionals

- How would your life be different if you were married / weren't married?
- Do you think it would be a good idea if the state of New Jersey adopted the four-day workweek?
What would be the implications of this law?
- What would you have done if you hadn't come to the USA?

Prompts eliciting a particular type of grammar structure

Passive voice

- What are some things that need to be done in order to make your city / neighborhood a better place to live?

Prompts eliciting a particular type of grammar structure

Present Perfect

- How has life in USA / your life changed since 9/11 attack?

Prompts eliciting a particular type of grammar structure

Simple Past / Simple Present

- Think about a friend or family member who got married. How was this person's life before s/he got married and how is this person's life now? Which one is/was better?
- Describe your childhood and describe your life now as an adult. Which period of life do you prefer? Why?

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- Any questions?

- Thank you!