Questions dealing with Lexical Items

1. What is the difference in usage of *affect* and *effect*?

2. For those of you “enjoying” economics courses, perhaps you’ve found that A has an impact on B (i.e., *impact* is a noun here). What about its usage as a verb? For example, which of these is preferable?

A. The falling birthrate in Japan impacts the allocation of money?

B. The falling birthrate in Japan impacts **on** the allocation of money?

3. For dispensing advice (policy papers, anyone?), which would be better: *must*, *ought to*, *had better*, or *should*?

4. One usage I find incredibly irritating is when *grow* is used as a transitive verb (e.g., *The new president wants to grow the economy*.). How common is this usage now? What about in the past?

5. What collocates with *originate* in the *n* + 1 position? (originate with? originate in? originate from?) What differences in the usage of originate exist among different genres?

6. Phrases often change over time from two separate words into a hyphenated form and finally into a single lexeme (*one way* 🡪 *one-way* 🡪 *oneway*). Of these three forms, which is most common?

7. Where does one work? For a company? In a company? At a company?

Other Questions

8. In academic discourse, how common is the use of passive voice? (e.g., The economy was influenced by the prime minister’s sudden resignation.)

9. Of the many possibilities for closing a letter (e.g., Sincerely), is one form more common than other forms? Are there differences between British English and American English?

10. In my Montana dialect of American English, the word *folks* is a common lexeme used interchangeably with *people* (e.g., *Not many folks live there now*). How common is it in various genres of English? (No, you really should not use folks in your policy paper!)

11. In academic writing, should we avoid using 1st-person pronouns such as *I* and *we*?