

VB001 PRACTICE

OPEN CLOZE: Variation in English

When foreign learners of English first come to the British Isles, they are usually surprised, and often dismayed, to discover little they understand of the English they hear.

For thing, people seem to speak faster expected. Also, the English that most British or Irish people speak seems to be different in ways from the English the visitor has learnt. While it is probably differences of pronunciation that immediately strike them, learners may also notice differences of grammar and vocabulary.

Their reactions this experience will vary. They may conclude that most of the English, Welsh, Scottish and Irish people that they hear do not – or even cannot – speak English correctly. In this they would find that many native speakers agree them. They might even be told that, since learners of English a foreign or second language have usually studied English in a formal way, they should know better than would native speakers what is 'correct'.

WORD FORMATION: Steel that doesn't rust

Harry Brearley, the son of a Sheffield steel smelter, left school at 12 to go to work in one of the city's steelworks. He was an (**AMBITION**) chap and started to study metallurgy at home and in evening classes. He (**GRADUAL**) built a reputation for expertise, and still in his 30s was chosen to run a new (**SEARCH**) facility funded by two of Sheffield's largest steel companies. In 1912, he was tasked by a small-arms manufacturer to find a material that could (**LONG**) the life of their gun barrels. He set out to find erosion-resistant steel, but found corrosion-resistant steel instead.

The story goes that in 1913 he threw out some (**EXPERIMENT**) steel made of 12.8 per cent chromium and 0.24 per cent carbon. A few weeks later, he found it in the yard still (**SHINE**) as new. This apparently serendipitous discovery led to the (**TRANSFORM**) of the already established cutlery industry in Sheffield. Stainless steel is now used in everything from (**SURGERY**) instruments and turbine blades to architectural cladding.

SENTENCE TRANSFORMATION

1. None of the phones were left when we got to the shop.

time

_____ the shop, all the phones had been sold.

2. I didn't know it was Carl until he took off his hat.

when

Only _____ his hat did I recognise Carl.

3. Don't waste your time asking Bryan to come with us.

worth

It's _____ to come with us.

4. Perhaps John heard the story from Pippa.

have

Pippa might _____ story.

5. Until they fire me as manager here, I'll run the company my way.

long

_____ the boss, I'll run the company my way.

6. The school's management are investigating allegations of teacher brutality.

into

Allegations of teacher brutality _____ the school's management.

7. It's not possible that you saw Mary last night, she was with us!

have

You _____ last night, she was with us!

8. The beach was fun even though it was too cold.

fact

_____ too cold, the beach was fun.

OPEN CLOZE WITH THE FOCUS ON ICT TERMINOLOGY

WHAT IS VIRTUAL REALITY?

Virtual Reality (VR) is a computer-generated environment with scenes and objects that appear to be real, making the user feel they are _____ in their surroundings. This environment is perceived through a _____ known as a Virtual Reality headset or helmet. VR allows us to immerse ourselves in [video games](#) as if we were one of the characters, learn how to perform heart surgery or improve the quality of sports training to _____ performance.

Although this may seem extremely futuristic, its origins are not as recent as we might think. In fact, many people consider that one of the first Virtual Reality devices was called Sensorama, a _____ with a built-in seat that played 3D movies, gave off odours and generated vibrations to make the experience as vivid as possible. **The invention dates back as far as the mid-1950s.** Subsequent technological and software _____ over the following years brought with them a progressive evolution both in devices and in _____ design.

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- 1 by the time we got to
- 2 when he took off
- 3 not worth asking Bryan
- 4 have told John the
- 5 as long as I'm
- 6 are being looked into by
- 7 can't have seen Mary
- 8 despite the fact that it was

Steel that doesn't rust

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Variation in English

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Their reactions **TO** this experience will vary. They may conclude that most of the English, Welsh, Scottish and Irish people that they hear do not – or even cannot – speak English correctly. In this they would find that many native speakers agree **WITH** them. They might even be told that, since learners of English **AS** a foreign or second language have usually studied English in a formal way, they should know better than would native speakers what is 'correct'.

