

# General feedback on position papers

- General comments
- Common mistakes

# Common mistakes

- Key areas in which you can improve your writing:
  - Word choice
  - Avoiding spoken style
  - Other stylistic issues (e.g., capitalization and punctuation)

# But first...

- ***Spell check!!!***

Always be sure to set your proofing language.

However, it is not perfect. You still need to edit your texts carefully. Otherwise, your supposed discussion of the use of **commas** in English will become a discussion of the state of unconsciousness that is a **coma**.

# Word choice

- ...if you do not **want to put it like that**, we will come to you and put it ourselves.
- ...if you do not **democratize**, we will democratize you by force.
  
- The writer of the article gave it **quite** significance...
- The writers of the article gave it **considerable** significance...

# Word choice

- Very small practice -> minimal practice
- Small knowledge -> lack of knowledge
- Small mistakes -> minor errors
- A bit -> rather, quite, slightly
- To get better -> to improve
- Move forward -> make progress, improve
- Bad thing -> difficulty, problem, challenge
- Big -> large, great, significant

# Avoiding spoken style

- I would like to make a review on it.
- The following is a review of his speech.
  
- I think he wanted to be emphatic... Although it could also be seen as a threat...
- While he probably wanted to be emphatic..., such language could also be seen as...
  
- Well, that could be true.
- Perhaps there is some truth to this statement.

# Avoiding spoken style

- Speaking of... -> Considering..., as regards..., with regard to...
- Obviously -> of course, clearly
- Get -> obtain, gain; become; have
- Actually -> in fact
- ...who knows...
- Well, in my opinion...
- To be honest...
- But that's a topic for a different paper.
- As I said before...
- I would like to say...

# Other things to avoid

- Contractions:
  - Don't, it's, I'm, etc.
  
- Starting sentences with And/But...
  - But if I'm to talk about...
  - When discussing..., on the other hand/however,...
  
  - But in English is my writing different.
  - In English, however, my writing is different.



# Other things to be aware of

## *Countable vs. uncountable nouns*

- Some words in English are always singular, even though they may be plural in Czech:
  - Knowledge, advice, information
- Some words may be either countable or uncountable depending on context and with slight changes in meaning:
  - e.g. I had an interesting experience at school today.  
I have several years of teaching experience.

# Capitalization & punctuation

- I still have no idea where and when to use commas or capitals because no one has ever shown me.
- Czech uses a lot of commas, as we have various types of sentences, and this affects my writing in English. I automatically write a comma before the word “that,” for example, because in my mother tongue it is almost always there. Capital letters are slightly confusing to me too, again because in Czech the rules are different. I would also like to add more creativity to my writing. For example, overuse of the verb “to be” sometimes makes my English rather bland.

# Capitalization

- the European union -> the European Union
- United Nations General assembly -> United Nations General Assembly
- the field of European studies -> ...European Studies
- the course English for academic purposes -> the course English for Academic Purposes.



# CJVA302: Week 6

## Brexit and the UK's current political climate

# Leads

- Jana – The House of Lords
- Ekaterina – Brexit & the Irish Border
- Petr – Leave vs. Remain
- Sarka – ?



# **Brexit: hard, soft and everything in between**

10 EU policies or processes	No Brexit	Soft Brexit		Hybrid	Hard Brexit		
	Full EU membership	EFTA EEA	EFTA Switzerland	Continental partnership	CU with Turkey	FTA with Canada	WTO rules
Single Market (SM) access?	Yes	Yes	Partial	Yes, but	No	No	No
Free labour mobility?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Limited	No	No	No
Part of SM rules?	Yes	Yes	Partial	Yes	No	No	No
Say in SM rulemaking?	Yes	No	No	Partial	No	No	No
Bound by ECJ SM decisions?	Yes	Yes	Partial	Yes	No	No	No
Duty-free access in goods?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Market access for services?	Yes	Yes	Partial	Yes	No	Partial	No
Part of EU commercial policy?	Yes	No	No	Yes, Possibly	Yes	No	No
Part of EU agricultural policy?	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Contribution to the EU budget?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No

## Media & discussion

<http://bruegel.org/2016/11/brexit-the-way-forward/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZLJ68StusmA>

Figure source:

<http://bruegel.org/2016/10/beyond-hard-soft-and-no-brexit/>