

Extension exercises

Chapter 8: Verbs | Comments

Comparing dictionaries

Learners' dictionaries usually provide a lot of information about the grammar of words, although learners often don't know this or they may find the process of tracking it down too complicated to be worthwhile. Information usually given includes what kind of verb it is (for example, transitive (object) verb or intransitive (no-object) verb); what kind of construction follows the verb (for example which preposition); the spelling of *-ing* forms and past tense/past participle forms. Learners' dictionaries use different ways of presenting this information. Dictionaries that are not intended especially for learners who are speakers of other languages usually contain far less grammatical information.

Exploring English

Answers to this question will depend on the texts you choose. However, you are likely to find that what determines the kinds of verbs used is the topic more than the kind of text (newspaper, novel, etc.). Discussion of past or future events, for example, normally involves extensive use of auxiliary verbs (to form the tenses), and description of feelings will usually involve more state verbs and more no-object verbs than description of action.

Exploring how learners use English

Learners at this level usually have a good awareness of these factors, although for some of them this may be instinctive rather than conscious. Analytically-minded learners may welcome raising their awareness of these factors, and may use this awareness consciously in understanding and expressing themselves in English. Other learners, equally effective but less analytical, may find this kind of categorisation activity unhelpful or even confusing.