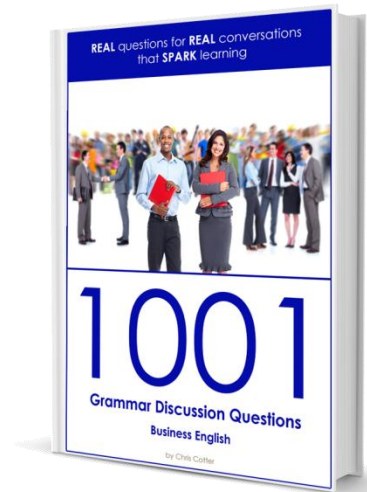
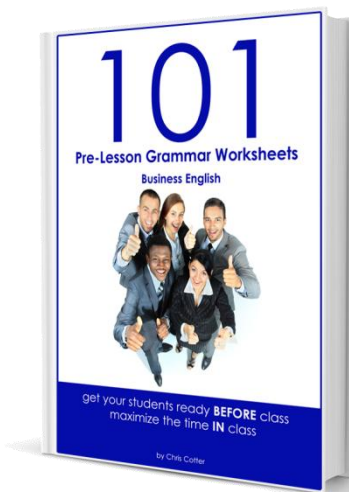


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the ARTICLE (for teachers)

Wikipedia as an Educational Tool

Wikipedia is an online encyclopedia in which anyone with an Internet connection can add new entries or amend existing ones. There are more than ten million articles in over 253 languages, a behemoth when compared to a well-established encyclopedia such as Britannica, which has only 500,000 entries. But given the fact that anyone can make changes to the content, specious and subjective information can and does appear. University professors have been inclined to forbid students from using the source, at least until now.

At the University of British Columbia, Jon Beasley-Murray allowed his students to write entries for the online encyclopedia in lieu of the usual term paper assignment. One student said it was initially daunting to work online, where anyone could watch. But she found the assignment exciting and meaningful, significantly more so than a term paper which often gets filed away forgotten once the semester ends. A second student revised his entry 1,000 times, and a third student regularly slaved away at the project until the early hours of the morning.

As a means to improve the quality of the content, Wikipedia has begun to run featured articles each day on its homepage. Featured articles "provide thorough, well-written coverage of their content, supported by many peer-reviewed publications." Of all the entries at Wikipedia, only about 2,000 have been designated for this top rank, a very small percentage of the total. It's an issue of great concern to the encyclopedia.

Beasley-Murray's class did quite well. Of the students who took up the assignment, three entries worked on by nine students made featured article status. Unfortunately, a few students had their work instantly deleted by other users. Overall, though, most agreed that it was a great learning experience.

Teacher's Notes:

* Underlined words in red typeface are the answers.

the Article (for students)

Fill in the blank with the correct word.

inclined	connection	thorough	behemoth	in lieu
designated	specious	daunting	experience	status
slaved away	amend	meaningful	reviewed	subjective

Wikipedia as an Educational Tool

Wikipedia is an online encyclopedia in which anyone with an Internet (a. _____) can add new entries or (b. _____) existing ones. There are more than ten million articles in over 253 languages, a (c. _____) when compared to a well-established encyclopedia such as Britannica, which has only 500,000 entries. But given the fact that anyone can make changes to the content, (d. _____) and (e. _____) information can and does appear. University professors have been (f. _____) to forbid students from using the source, at least until now.

At the University of British Columbia, Jon Beasley-Murray allowed his students to write entries for the online encyclopedia (g. _____) of the usual term paper assignment. One student said it was initially (h. _____) to work online, where anyone could watch. But she found the assignment exciting and (i. _____), significantly more so than a term paper which often gets filed away forgotten once the semester ends. A second student revised his entry 1,000 times, and a third student regularly (j. _____) at the project until the early hours of the morning.

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STEP ONE

Define: What does "encyclopedia" mean? Can you use it in a sentence? Can you give examples?

STEP TWO

Word Search: Find the target words (in bold) with their exact match. How long did it take to find all the words?

subjective in lieu	designated inclined	behemoth thorough	amend daunting	slaved away specious
E P L S X D D B K J D G B I A G V M F U Z V E X A E S E X D N X I K Y A M E S K T S H R I I B H T K B K A D I A C E Y X T K W C C E S X F Y N I M T H N S L A V E A W A Y G A O U N U I I R H P J W B Q I V T V Q A N J N O G A B S X S P H E I D L Z M L D U U U A E E V N D M E U F E I O O M S D J C F U X I I V K I E E R A V L W H H T U A J C D N U X O I O B V P G L U E N D G I X N H P A G Q S S P E C I O S E W U T L S A V S H U I O J D U P W F D K K				

STEP THREE

Vocabulary Match: Match the words in column A (from the article) with the best choice in column B. Use a dictionary for any words you don't know, but be sure to check your English-English dictionary, too.

a. amend	q. false
b. behemoth	r. revise
c. specious	s. in depth
d. subjective	t. instead
e. incline	u. classify
f. in lieu	v. giant
g. daunt	w. work
h. slave away	x. judgmental
i. thorough	y. tend
j. designate	z. intimidate

Wikipedia as an Educational Tool

Advanced - Vocabulary

STEP FOUR

The Article: 1) Read the article, but don't worry about the missing words. 2) Fill in the blanks with today's vocabulary, followed by all the other words. 3) Read the article again, and circle any unknown words/phrases. In pairs/groups, use your dictionaries to understand the words or phrases your circled. 4) Answer the questions to check your comprehension.

a.	Anyone with an Internet connection can contribute to Wikipedia.	T / F
b.	Wikipedia and Britannica have a comparable number of entries.	T / F
c.	Students at universities can now use Wikipedia.	T / F
d.	Wikipedia wants to improve the quality of their articles.	T / F
e.	Some students from Beasley-Murray's class had their work become featured articles.	T / F

STEP FIVE

Discuss: Write down five vocabulary words from today's article that you want to use.

a.	
b.	
c.	
d.	
e.	

Now talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Every time you use a vocabulary word, place a check next to it.

a.	What do you know about Wikipedia? Do you use the site often?
b.	Do you think Wikipedia is a useful tool for teaching? Why/not?
c.	If you were a professor, would you allow students to use Wikipedia for term papers and essays?
d.	If you were a professor, would you allow students to use information from the Internet? Why/not?

Score yourself:

10 or more times: Fantastic! Be sure to review the words at home.

6-9 times: Pretty good! You're on your way to acquiring today's vocabulary. Try writing your own sentences at home for additional practice.

5 or less times: Try harder next time! To acquire new vocabulary, you need to use the new words as much as possible.