

Academic English

English for Students of Mathematics and Mechanics

Supplementary Exercises

Part III
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Week 2

Reading: Unit 1¹

Listening:

Listen to the text “Warning: plagiarism” at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9IRLLy39RQ4> and mark the following statements as true (T), false (F), or not stated (NS):

1. The concept of academic honesty implies original results.
2. When you summarize the idea in your own words, references are not necessary.
3. Abundant quotations normally imply lack of analytical skills.
4. Students who plagiarize are usually expelled.
5. Before you get down to paraphrasing, make sure you understand the author’s ideas clearly.

Now make up at least 1 similar statement and let your groupmates mark it as T, F or NS.

Then answer the following question: how should someone else’s ideas be paraphrased?

Week 4:

Reading: Unit 2

Listening:

Listen to a student speaking about digital divide at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HFU2oCkqPMU>

and answer the following questions:

1. What is digital divide?
2. What types of it are mentioned?
3. What is the author’s opinion on the problem?
4. What solution does he offer?

Speaking:

What phrases for introducing your opinion do you remember?

Discuss whether the problem of digital divide is urgent and suggest a solution to it.

Week 6:

Listening:

Listen to the interview at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uDhEI2NtY5c>

and answer the following questions:

1. How many aspects of the problem does the speaker mention?
2. State each aspect as a sentence.

Writing:

Add information to each statement so that you have a summary of the interview.

¹ M.S. Korneeva, *English for Students of Mathematics and Mechanics (part three, book one)*

Week 8: Midterm test

Listening:

Listen to a lecture on game theory at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nM3rTU927io> (0.00-3.06, 10.22-32.06) and answer the questions:

1. What is game theory? Where is it employed?
2. What is the essence of the game students are playing? Play with them, choosing α or β and give reasons for your choice.
3. What term does the lecturer define? Put the definition down.
4. What is the first lesson?

Writing: Read the text “Knot theory and statistical mechanics” (part A) from Л.Н.Выгонская “Focus on Scientific English” (p.66) and discuss its structure:

1. What information is given in the introduction? How is it reflected in the body of the text?
2. What information is given in the conclusion?
3. How are ideas linked? Underline the linking devices used by the author.

Week 10:

Reading: Unit 3

Writing: Choose a problem/a topic you would like to present. Imagine you are preparing for a seminar. Search for topic-related articles by key words, randomly choose 3-4 and bring them to class. Now tell your partner your topic and give him or her the articles. The partner then should pick up the most relevant information and justify the choice.

Then look for any additional information you might need and write a 1-page paper on the problem, paying particular attention to its structure and using various linking devices.

Week 12:

Reading: Unit 4

Speaking: try to answer the following question: what makes a good speaker?

Organize the following parameters into 3 groups: content, organization, presentation (performance)

- Body-language and eye contact
- Fluency
- Proper intonation and pronunciation
- Relevant information and examples provided
- Conclusion
- Key concepts explained\defined
- A range of complex grammatical structures and academic vocabulary
- Key points emphasized
- Introduction
- Various linking devices, the transition from one point to the next is clear
- Overcame nervousness

Turn to the lecture on Game theory again. Assess the lecturer using these parameters, giving him from 3 to 0 for each.

Then prepare to deliver a presentation on the problem you have chosen. Below is a list of phrases that will help you organize your presentation.

1. SEQUENCING INFORMATION

Firstly/ Secondly/ Thirdly/ Then/ Next/ Finally ...

The first/ second/ third/ final point is ...

2. BEGINNING

I would like to speak about...

My presentation is devoted to...

I would like to concentrate on...

More formal ways of beginning (used at conferences and in writing):

I shall confine my attention strictly to...

The main emphasis of this book/presentation/report will be on...

The discussion will be centered on (the following issues).

The problem to be studied is...

3. LINKING/ ENDING A SECTION

I think that covers everything on ...

To summarize

So in my opinion/from my point of view

4. LINKING/ OPENING A NEW SECTION

Now I would like to turn to ...

This brings me to the next/final point which is ...

The next point to consider is...

More formal ways of beginning (used at conferences and in writing):

The primary (next) task is to study...

Another aspect of the problem of... concerns...

5. EXPLORING A LIST OF POINTS

Regarding ...

Concerning ...

In relation to ...

6. ADDING IDEAS

Moreover ...

However ...

Although ...

Therefore ...

7. CONCLUDING

In conclusion, I would like to say/to emphasize that...

To conclude...

8. QUESTIONS

Now if you have any questions, I would be glad to answer them.

Are there any questions?

9. ANSWERING A QUESTION

Thank you for your question ...

That's a good/ difficult/ an interesting question

Week 16:

Final Test

Presentations: assess your groupmates according to the following parameters and think of questions to them.