IN EXERCISES A-C I HAVE PROVIDED AN EXAMPLE OF MORE INFORMAL PHRASING – OBVIOUSLY NOT THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE. IN THE REMAINING EXERCISES, THE ERRORS HAVE BEEN CORRECTED

A. All the following connectors are taken from your INFORMAL emails to your friends. These connectors are far too formal for this register. What are the far more informal alternatives for each connector, make any other changes needed to make these sentences more friendly?

1. Moreover, most of the professors are really good in expressing themselves in English.

*Most of the profs are good at lecturing in English, as well.*

2. Furthermore, I think that getting familiar with specific situation as writing an academic paper….

I *also think getting used to stuff like writing papers…..*

3. Firstly…. Secondly…… Lastly……

4. thus enabling each student to build his/her own career, which can be more focused on the legal

or on the economic level according to personal ambitions and competences

*so we can all do what kind of course we want, with more legal or economic subjects depending on where we’ve come from and where we want to go*

5. in order to properly understand all the other classes.

*So we don’t have problems understanding the other courses*

6. In addition, the train service isn’t efficient at all.

*The train service is inefficient as well / The train service isn’t efficient, either.*

7. However, I am very optimistic and happy to be here!

*But I’m looking on the bright side and am happy I’m here.*

8. although I have to study, I always manage to join these parties …

*even if I have to study a lot, I never miss a party*

9. Nevertheless, the first week I spent there was quite stimulating

*even so, the first week there was quite exciting*

10. I have never talked to you about my Master. Thus let me talk about that!

*I’ve never told you about my MA, so here I go.*

11. For what concerns the course,

*As for the course*

B. Look at the following sentences from your work, try to rephrase them in a less formal way (there may be some mistakes in syntax/lexis – you can correct these as well!):

1. …in such a way that from one hand students have the possibility to work in an international dimension both in public and private organisations, and on the other hand to acquire a more specific knowledge…..

*so students have both the chance to work in international organisations and to learn much more on the specific subjects they are studying*

2. So I was pressed for time and did not manage to carry out my intentions.

 *I was pressed for time and didn’t manage to do what I wanted*

3. Tell me more about your free time and your work.

*What’s new with you?*

4. Today I’m going to inform you about my Master program and life in Trento

*Now I’m gonna tell you about the MA and life in Trento*

5. the possibility to interact with them is one of the things that I love the most of the course.

*One of the best things is being with the foreign students*

6. it could offer me the most suitable bases to reach these aims.

*It’ll help me get where I wanna go*

7. I am very happy that you successfully graduated in law.

*Well done you on graduating / I’m chuffed you finally graduated (they presumably know what they graduated in!! )*

8. This degree seems really suitable for my aspirations.

*This course seems spot on for what I want to do*

9. As you may already know,,,,

*You probably know,,,*

10. This can obviously be a very important added value at this time….

*This is a great bonus/plus factor*

11. Thank you very much for your email of the 4th October.

12. It offers an infinity of cultural and entertainment initiatives but the education provided in Trento is higher grade.

*There’s loads of stuff going on and the course is really great*

13. As I anticipated you the last time we met, I’m currently involved in a 2-year Mater’s Degree in Trento.

*I already told you I’m doing an MA in Trento*

14. so I’m currently the new guy of a top floor apartment … whose current tenants are a 30-year old lawyer and her noisy little cat.

*So I’m now the new guy in a top floor flat, currently occupied by …….*

C. And some of you sign off in a rather formal way,

Which of these are too formal? ALL OF THEM

Best wishes,

It was a pleasure to write to you. Let me know when you are available for a proper chat on Skype.

I look forward to hearing from you

Best regards

MORE INFORMAL ARE.

Ttfn

Bye

Hugs

Love

Keep in touch

Etc….

D. In the following phrases, there is incorrect use of lexis, can you correct the sentences?

1. I think that in this way we are prepared to *do group work* with people that we don’t know / we are supposed to do *a lopt of group work*. / work in groups

2. My classmates are very *friendly*…

3. Have you solved your *latest* problems with……

4. My room mates have already *taken* me to almost all the bars that, in their opinion, I needed to know to be able to *spend* a decent Saturday night.

5. But *up to now* / *so far* I can’t really complain

6. Sometimes I wish my parents *had raised me* in a foreign country; I would be perfectly bilingual free *from* *effort /effortlessly /without effort*

7. So, as you can *understand* this degree course is very challenging

8. We spent a lot of time together and had the opportunity to *get to know* each other.

9. my fellow students come *from* all over the world and they *all have a very solid background*

10. I do hope I’ll improve my English and learn many things *as far as* international relations are concerned

11. (we spent some good time) *we’ve already had a good time* together already and it seems we’ll be a good work team

12. there are so many assignments we have to do in a group

13. …how it has developed throughout history, what is the current situation and *what* are the *prospects/expectations* for the future.

E. You all have problems with the difference between ‘as’ and ‘like’. In the following sentences say whether as and like are used correctly or not.

1. getting familiar with specific situation *like* writing an academic paper…

2. concerned with different matters *like* law, political science, economics…

3. I felt as *if I were on* my first day of school

4. I’ll stop *seeing* myself always *as* a “beginner

F. And a few more colligations you keep getting wrong

1. I’m very impressed *with* the highly challenging approach to the study which makes me more and more fascinated *with* what I’m studying.

2. Hope to hearing from you

3. What I miss *from* last year is that I can’t speak English every day…

4. I was afraid *of not having* the proper skills and knowledge to attend these courses

5. I have already *got to know* my classmates and they are great!

6. they have not only helped me with the University bureaucracy, but also have introduced me other people *to me*.

7. please *remind* me to look for some more uncultured friends

8. public institutions provide *students with* all the necessary tools to its students.

9. the only thing you should care *about* is the unconceivable rudeness of young bikers,

10. I’m sure that by focusing on a *highly* specialised, academic English , I’ll stop *seeing* myself always *as* a beginner!

11. Everybody seems to be polite and helpful, willing to *make* new friendships and to *meet* new people.

12. Do you think *you’ll* come here *to* Italy during winter?

13. I hope to *have* an experience abroad.

14. I hope you are *as* happy *with* your master*’s* as I am.

15. Professors ask for our opinion and they consider us as graduated students able to put in practice what we learned before.

16. can now be satisfied *with* how I manage to live alone and to *get* on with my studies.

17. But let me stop *talk*ing about me! What about you?

Some of you DID use less formal languages such as:

so far,

 I’ve tons of things to tell you

Hey XXXX, how are you doing?

Figure out how to

By the way,

Anyway,….

And trust me, this is great: nothing to do with…..