**Task 19 - nearly there**

**Making mistakes work**

**Work in progress - incomplete**

**To be done BEFORE coming to register your exam – Bring your detective/corrective work with you!**

**Checking your own progress – collocation, colligation, linking etc**

STEP 1: Convert all your Task files and any other files you have written in English (papers/reports etc for other courses) over the academic year into txt format In the case of English Tasks, you should also have the electronic version – if you don’t let me know and I can send it/them to you .

STEP 2: Download Antconc (free concordancing software). You can find the latest version for all platforms with guidance on how to download the software at: <http://www.antlab.sci.waseda.ac.jp/software.html>

Import your txt files to the concordancer.

If you have any problems, there are very simple and short demo videos on how to use AntConc on Youtube.

STEP 3: Go back to the hard copies your early tasks, including those written collaboratively, and look at the kinds of mistakes you were making. Put the key word in the AntConc search field. See if you are still making these mistakes. Sometimes the word might be very task specific, so you might not be able to see if you have ‘learnt the lesson’.

STEP 4: Look at the worksheet below which lists some of the most common errors ‘committed’ by your class as a whole. Choose the ones YOU feel you are uncertain about. Do qa quick search on AntConc. Did you make / are you STILL making these mistakes?

Go to your most recent tasks. Choose at least 8 mistakes you want to eliminate. Are they in the ‘most frequent offenders’ list?

Use one of the corpora (including Google) we experimented with in the lab in March to see if you can understand WHY you are making these mistakes. Make a note of the various forms and uses. Do a screen shot of each of your searches.

**Correcting your Tasks – “Oral Exam”**

You should try and correct ALL your mistakes, in any way which is helpful to you. You should bring both the orginal corrected work AND your corrections to the ‘oral’ exam so that I can see if you have been able to correct your mistakes.

Bring a copy of the screen shots to the “oral exam” with you (the date of the oral exam will be fixed on the day of the written exam).

If you have already seen me to go over your tasks, the “oral exam” will not take long! If you have not seen me to go over your tasks it will take around 30 minutes.

**Common Mistakes to BEWARE of**

Below are some of the most common mistakes which occurred (often repeatedly) in the most recent tasks (including the Easter Essay). I have not always given examples, but simply told you which words you need to be careful with…

Please check (using the concordancer) if you ever made these mistakes and if you are still making them! Obviously you did not all write identical tasks, so you may not have used these words and phrases. However, if they are here, it means they pose problems for many of you – so take note!

**COLLIGATION**

1. Decline / increase (*both followed by IN not for!!!)*

e.g. this shift is epitomised by the decrease of the U.S. power – *the decrease IN US power…* (*NB power is an abstract noun and therefore there should be no definite article*)

e.g. decrease of the costs in technology – *decrease IN the costs of technology*

1. Nye suggests to combine soft and hard powers (*SUGGESTS COMBINING*)
2. It entails a decrease in States’ monopoly of power, for the advantage of new players… (*TO the advantage of)*
3. Leads to rethink what power is - *leads US to rethink the meaning of power*
4. the figure of the Dalai Lama has largely contributed to instil this idea in western public opinion / the criminal act of illegal migration has contributed to slow down even more the Italian machine of justice / (*contribute to + NOUN - contributed to instilling this idea…/ to slowing down even more..)*
5. It is also important to note that the War on Drug is dealt as a matter of foreign policy, - *you deal WITH something* During the past years immigration has been dealt mainly as a matter of public order. – *During the past few years/In recent years, immigration has been dealt WITH as a matter….*
6. African countries need to prove to be capable to take advantages from this foreign race… – *triple whammy here!!! Need to prove THEY ARE capable OF TAKING advantage (note only singular) OF this foreign race…*
7. …could help reducing corruption and improving the quality of life *– this is a difficult one as both colligations exist but with different meanings. Here the focus is on the OUTCOME so we need to use the infinitive of purpose – could help (TO) REDUCE CORRUPTION AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY….*
8. China is accused by some to be a neo-colonial power -  *is accused by some OF BEING a neo-colonial power*
9. The challenge for China and West is to act as political actors with strong social responsibility, avoiding that African leaders throw away huge opportunities offered by Chinese and Western capitals -  *here it is problematic, simply correcting the colligation does not work. ’avoid’ cannot have a finite verb clause as an object, it is followed by a noun object – (e.g. Try to avoid being late on the day of the exam so we can start at 9.00 on the dot.) In this case we would have to either change the verb OR rephrase: preventing African leaders FROM throwing away huge opportunities / so that African leaders do not throw away huge…*

*The final correction should read: --* The challenge for China and THE West is to act LIKE political actors with strong social responsibility, SO that African leaders DO NOT throw away THE huge opportunities offered by Chinese and Western capital *similarly -* … should be done to prevent things like those listed above to take place – prevent …. (*FROM) TAKING PLACE and ….* to prevent any serious provision to be taken against DPKR – *prevent any serious provision against the DPKR (FROM) BEING TAKEN*

*Use PREVENT and not impede…*

e.g. state should impede that fundamental resources are… *THE state should prevent BASIC RESOURCES FROM BEING….*

1. On condition that the respect of human rights … [improves] –*respect FOR something or somebody*
2. Funds […] should be spent in social infrastructures / continue to spend for drugs more than any other nation – *spent/d ON….*
3. The legalisation of soft and hard drugs could […] contribute to the end of the drug war -  *note there is a difference in meaning between ‘the end’ and ‘ending’: in the first case the action would only affect the final moments of the process which is already going to conclude, in the second the action would play a role in stopping the phenomenon. In this case, clearly the second use is intended, and so ENDING.*
4. Will not be sufficient on the long run – *IN the long run*
5. Regardless from its social class – *regardless OF its social class*
6. The Bosnian population feels to have been abandoned by its own leaders for a long time. – *The Bosnian population feels it has been abandoned by its own leaders……*
7. Judges and courts […] should not fear to punish local political leaders for their crimes – *should not fear punishing local…* Several women fear so much to have a second child - *fear having a second child so much*
8. Providing grants to the regime responsible for the internal conflict that caused millions of deaths and displaced. – *providing the regime responsible for the internal conflict that caused millions of deaths and displaced persons WITH funds /* social networks provide people an appealing shop window *- social networks provide people WITH an ….*
9. Start abiding to the local laws – *BY*  The ruling elite […] was composed by lamas, aristocrats and feudal landowners / The Security Council is composed by 15 members…– *composed OF*
10. …new actors have difficulties to emerge – *new actors find it difficult to emerge/have difficulties emerging*
11. with the precise aim to be sold to the black market – *aim OF BEING SOLD to the black market*
12. …the Venezuelan penal code, that … allows to convict a person to up to 30 months for defamation against the president -  *allows a person TO BE CONVICTED….*

*..i*t allowed to repatriate irregulars skipping the control of a judge – *it allowed clandestine immigrants who were not under a judge’s jurisdiction to be repatriated*

1. Which offer would Ukraine benefit the most. – *which offer would Ukraine benefit the most FROM.*
2. A comprehensive strategy that balances the need of […] immigration policy – *balances the need FOR AN* […]  *immigration policy*
3. The Italian state pays also the procedure of repatriation – *the Italian state pays FOR the procedure….*
4. Calling people from those territories “Little Russians” and expressly prohibiting from printing the word “Ukraine”. – *expressly prohibiting THEM from printing….*
5. In order to avoid the risk to have a second child … *the risk OF HAVING a second…*
6. …compel them to this brutal work, profiting on it. – *compel them to DO this brutal work, profiting FROM it*
7. *…*a British hostess, who felt discriminated for her Christian faith… - *a British AIRWAYS FLIGHT ATTENDANT, who felt discriminated AGAINST BECAUSE OF her Christian faith…*
8. In addition to be ineffective…. – *in addition to BEING ineffective…*
9. In exchange of money – *in exchange FOR money*
10. we are following the changes of our society / – *the changes IN our society*
11. The society discusses about homosexual marriage – *Society discusses homosexual marriage…*
12. … immigration poses a major challenge on the EU… -  *poses a major challenge FOR the EU*
13. I will answer to this question… *- I will answer this question…*
14. only if we understand the reasons of the failure of the system, we can change it – *only if we understand the reasons FOR the failure of the system, CAN WE change it (see below in the word order section for an explanation of the inversion)*
15. They paid particular **attention on** the question of Veto power – *PAID ATTENTION TO*
16. The US is worried of Chines economic growth – *WORRIED ABOUT*
17. It could have been worth to listen to – *worth LISTENING TO*
18. He showed the example of an attack to a nuclear plant – *he GAVE the example of an attack ON a nuclear plant*
19. With a sentences that sounded more as a wish than a prediction – *SOUNDED MORE LIKE a wish than a prediction (NB to look like, to sound like, to feel like, to taste like, to smell like)*
20. Countries need to change their way to think – *their WAY OF THINKING*

**COLLOCATION**

1. Compare the meaning and use of overcome, overtake, overwhelm, supercede

e.g.s of mistakes in your work:

To be able to totally overcome the US, China for instance…. (*this means China will conquer the US and subjugate the US to its power!!!*)

China is not likely to supersede the US very soon. (*this means the US is outdated) and China is more up to date – the US is obsolete – new versions of the iphone supposedly supersede older versions*)

1. The gap between the US and Chinese economies has been reducing - *NARROWING*
2. Anti-drug policies have been submitted only to small formal changes – HAVE BEEN *SUBJECTED TO/HAVE UNDERGONE*
3. Nye continues asserting that the US is not subject to an absolute decline – *GOES ON TO ASSERT – continues asserting means that he does not stop asserting but keeps repeating what he is saying again and* again
4. A remark has been done – *you MAKE a remark*
5. While great efforts have been done – *you MAKE an effort*

**ARTICLES/DETERMINERS**

1. power transition is intended as the move from a set of countries to another (ONE)

*similarly*  A set of problems, valid for all the above-mentioned points… *ONE set of problems*  there would be at least a country in the world without it – *there would be at least ONE country in the world without it. (when we want to haighlight a particular example of something then we use the number ONE rather than the indefinite article)*

1. On 10 May 2011, few months after his book … was published (*this means that not enough months had passed – you are emphasising how few months they were – you need to say A FEW MONTHS if you are simply referring to an indefinite number and not emphasising the insufficient quantity)*

*A GOOD example of the use of ‘few’ (without the indefinite article = not enough) comes from one of your very first tasks where one of you said*: “it’s difficult to find something to do, there are FEW places for students, apart from some bars”

1. Only for the 20% of the total world production *NO COMMENT*
2. In the last years *Here you need to introduce a determiner or change the adjective – In the last few years OR In recent years*

e.g. The massive media campaign conducted by the Dalai Lama in the last decades has led to… *in the last FEW decades…*

*Similarly with ‘next’ e.g.* Over the next decades – *over the next FEW decades…*

1. *AVOID ‘part of’ ‘the most part of’ ‘a big part of’ - say ‘a few’ ‘some’ ‘many’ ‘most’*

e.g. It is quite evident that Chinese export enables part of poorer people to buy manufactured goods that otherwise would be too expensive. *– People is not a collective noun in English but a plural form so you cannot have ‘part of’ - SOME poorer people…..*

Cannabis is just one of the drugs […] and not even the one returning the biggest part of profit – *generating/making the most profit*

1. Labelled as the “land grabbing” – *this is an abstract concept and so there should be no article*
2. Most of the traffic routes are between Mexico and USA. - *…Mexico and THE USA*
3. Nor will it be prone to face the huge flows of refugees which would result from such implosion – result from such AN implosion.

**LEXIS (WRONG WORD OR WORD FORM) make sure you understand the difference between these easily confused words:**

1. touched vs touched on – *the first is physical or emotional the second means ‘mentioned’ or ‘talked about’*
2. speech / talk / lecture
3. next vs near - *“next” refers to one of a series of things or events which is about to happen (the next train to arrive at platform one) “near” means at some not very distant point in time*
4. power diffusion to non-governmental organisations could result both negative and postiive -  *we have done this several times so you SHOULD know how to correct this!!!*
5. Vs affirmeded vs sustained vs maintained vs held etc and definitely NOT upheld when you are talking about someone’s ideas

e.g. Nye claimed the necesity to rethink the concept of power *(you usually claim something is true – here Nye is calling for people to do something – not declaring he thinks the need is true)*

e.g. in order to defelop its soft power, the lecturer upheld, China should first soften internally (to uphold means to support NOT to propose/suggest)

e.g. Some opponents around the world affirm that civil unions… – *some opponents round the world claim that civil unions…*

1. On 10th May […] RSA to present his last book (*Mr Nye is neither dead, nor has he declared he will not be writing any more books. Last = final. Latest = most recent)*
2. In terms of power politics, the challenge of this century proves to be working with others, rather than over others (*evidence x proves outcome y – in this sentence we have neither evidence nor outcome)*
3. Despite Nye’s arguable unconcern towards the European Union *(LACK OF CONCERN??? – but I think what is meant here is DISREGARD)*
4. Rise vs raise – *you STILL haven’t understood that rise is intransitive and so* ***cannot*** *be followed by a noun!!*

e.g. would rise more and more the pressure on the government

e.g. homicides alarmingly increased regardless of a raise in the level of security

e.g. the legalisation of cannabis in **THE** US […] rose new questions… (NB you need an article with US!!!)

10. As a consequence of the unbalanced deal, most of the Chinese Companies do not contribute to local employment - *do not use this word, it is used in a very limited number of phrases. You really need to rephrase to say that it is not reciprocally beneficial or equitable – or it is rather one-sided. ‘Unfair’ has connotations and should not be used either as it is a judgement.*

11. corrupt vs. corrupted The laissez-faire […] of the corrupted Mexican police forces contributed…. *The use of the past participle means that the police are the object of the verb – so the subject is someone else and therefore it is not necessarily their fault they are this way. What is needed is the adjective from the same root, i.e. CORRUPT*

12. assure/ensure/guarantee

e.g. which widens and assures cartel’s power – *GUARANTEES THE cartel’s power*

e.g. The growth of economics alongside with social reforms granted by the EU will ensure people better social conditions. – *The growth of the economy alongside social reforms facilitated by/introduced thanks to the EU will ensure people RECEIVE better social conditions / GUARANTEE better social conditions for people*

13. thanks to this small group, this market achieves gaining for 29$ billion per year – this market EARNS/MAKES (?AHIEVES EARNINGS??) OF $29 per year.(note the position of the currency sign BEFORE the number).

14. China declares to be interested in collaboration with Western countries… *China declares it is interested*

15. The new government is still failing in complying with – *failing TO COMPLY WITH*

If Ukraine fails in meeting the parameters… - *if Ukraine fails to meet the …*

16. force them working in various military camps – *force them TO WORK in various…*

17. the “Bossi-Fini” act resulted very difficult – *the B-F act TURNED OUT TO BE/PROVED TO BE*

*18.* no possibility to confront our ideas with others – (*here both the word is wrong and the colligation) - … possibility OF COMPARING… /* The possibility to increase the number of permanent seats – *OF INCREASING*

similarly possibility to have narrow relations – *possibility OF HAVING CLOSE relations*

*19. check the difference in meaning of ‘relation’, ‘relations’ and ‘relationship’ – in your Easter essays you often confused relation (family member) with ‘relations’/’relationship’*

20. it should be reminded that prostitutes are not only women – *it should be REMEMBERED/RECALLED that…*

21. without being pressured to respect determined rules – *without being PUT UNDER PRESSURE to respect CERTAIN rules*

22. Check out the use of base, bases and basis. E.g. of incorrect choice: …opposed these rules on the base of two arguments – *on the BASIS of*

23. Nye exposed his view on two concepts which he has recently developed – *Nye illustrated his view…. (NB you usually EXPOSE A SCANDAL)*

NUMBER

1. Evidence, proof, research, damage, information, news are ALL uncountable

e.g. As a strong evidence of the impact of the information revolution (*evidence is uncountable*)

e.g. because of the lack of transparency and the few information disclosed (*information is uncountable and so you have to use LITTLE*)

e.g. provoking great damages for the Africans – causing great DAMAGE

e.g. I have produced some significant proofs of this statement…PROOF

1. The US are suffering a relative decline / The US have to develop and go further (*The US is a single nation and therefore singular*)
2. One of the main concern of Chinese leaders is to establish…. – *one of the main CONCERNS*
3. Utensils, electric goods and other sort of manufactured products – *other SORTS*
4. China is also gocusing on different sectors investing in the real estate, banking, finance, insurance, logistic and reail sector among other. (*double whammy) …SECTORS AMONG OTHERS.*
5. Western aid will not be only a political mean of influence / a punitive measure could be used as a propagandist mean to convince citizens that… – *MEANS (this word may end in ‘s’ but it is not plural)*
6. However, one of the greatest problem….. ‘*One of the + superlative is always followed by a plural noun. One of the greates PROBLEMS*
7. Please note that when we speak of narcotics and other illegal substances we use drugs in the plural. The drug war is singular because in this case it is an adjective. Many of you used ‘drug’ in the singular incorrectly.
8. …the great challenges that the entire humanity faces – *that the WHOLE OF humanity faces (humanity is uncountable and abstract and so you can’t use whole)*
9. since the aftermaths of WWII – *AFTERMATH (never used in the plural)*

SYNTAX/WORD ORDER

1. it involves more directly US and China (*The object should immediately follow the verb – and remember to use the definite article with US*)
2. students or colleagues can virtually meet at any moment to discuss *topic = they nearly meat but not quite (virtually = nearly) can meet virtually = they meet online (virtually means not physically). This is because adverbs of manner qualify verbs when they come AFTER the noun, otherwise they are qualifying adverbs (expressing the opinion of the speaker). Compare “Badly done!!” (an admonition) with “Done badly” (a statement of fact).*
3. Governments not only should facilitate the equal access to university. – *Not only should governments facilitate equal access to university (‘only’/’not only’ at the start of a cluase requires inversion)*

*Similarly -* But only in 2013 they were esteemed to be approximately 43.000 – *only in 2013 WERE THEY ESTIMATED TO BE approximately 43,000 – (REMEMBER TO USE CORRECT PUNCTUATION WITH NUMBERS!!!!!)*

**MISCELLANEOUS**

1. no/any more vs no/any longer (*avoid the former when refering to something which has ceased to be*)

e.g. the Church’s concept of marriage is no more valid -  *is NO LONGER valid*

e.g. It implies that power is not anymore a prerogative of states – *power is NO LONGER THE PREROGATIVE of states*

1. Despite that, hope has a chance. *(‘that’ here is used to refer to the previous idea explained in a couple of sentences – the correct demonstrative to use is THIS because it is an idea you have just explained and so “close” to us*)

e.g. the current renaissance of Africa is partly due to China’s “commitment to a winwin partnership with Africa”. But is it truly so? *THIS (we are referring to the previous IDEA not an object.)*

1. SUCH – you need to revise the way this is used

e.g. not ready or mature enough to control such a powerful instrument like social networks - even if separated by a phrase, such is always followed by AS. Note also that control is used incorrectly here.

1. *Watch out for how you use* ‘Besides’. *It should be avoided in formal written English anyway as it is too informal, but if used at all it must ALWAYS be used as part of a noun phrase, you cannot use ita s a stand alone linker.*

*e.g. of* ***incorrect use:*** Besides, it is debatable whether the US is willing to start military intervention in order to stop Kim Jong-un's violations.

*e.g. of* ***good use* -** Besides the sale of drugs, cartels are also increasingly involved in prostitution,

1. Now, world’s leaders speak equally of …. – *first of all if you use the genetive you need the definite article, otherwise you have to use ‘world’ as an adjective (Now, world leaders). The aspect of the verb is also wrong as we are talking about now, contrasted with the recent past so we use the continuous form*
2. And soon after declared bankrupt – *and soon after was declared bankrupt (to be declared bankrupt)*
3. Moreover, cartels are independent and competing entities and they brutally fight between them not over costumers [sic] or suppliers but over ports and trade routes. – *here we have problems of word order, spelling, preposition and pronoun. The phrase should read ‘they fight (amongst) each other brutally’*
4. The demonstrations gathered people with different ethnic origins – *FROM different ethnic origins*
5. Do not use the personal pronoun ‘we’ in essays UNLESS there is more than one author (e.g. group work). So you should never use ‘we’ in essays!!!
6. After that he had evaluated the benefits…. – *after he had evaluated OR after evaluating*
7. The conclusions are worth of note *– The conclusiones are WORTHY of note*
8. The rise of China will threat the US – *will THREATEN the US*
9. The idea shared by several European young citizens to strength the European Union – *the idea shared by several YOUNG EUROPEAN CITIZENS TO STRENGTHEN the EU*