



Usage questions from 2008

08:1

1. I've observed native speakers use *which* to refer back to human beings. Have you noticed this phenomenon?
2. Which preposition should I use after the noun *dislike*, *of* or *for* ?
3. When is "go" used to translate Swedish "bli"?
4. In commentaries on the DVD for the American sit-com *Seinfeld* there was a note about New Yorkers *standing on line* rather than *in line* . How frequent is this usage?

08:2

1. What is the difference between *fun* and *funny*? Can you say *very fun*?
2. How do you put abbreviations such as *CD* in the plural?
3. Is *the exact same* a frequent and/or accepted alternative to *exactly the same*?
4. Is the structure *would like for X to...* frequently used in modern English?
5. Should I use a singular or a plural verb with phrases like *10% / a third / the majority of the population is/are over 65*?
6. I have heard many native speakers repeating the verb *is* in sentence openings like *The problem is is that...* . Can this be recommended to learners?

08:3

1. Is it possible to use the plural noun *researches*?
2. Is it acceptable to use a plural and say *one in three teachers think this important* instead of the singular *one in three teachers thinks this important*?
3. I sometimes hear a verb in the singular being used with *everybody/everyone* nowadays? Is this usage accepted among native speakers?
4. I haven't seen any articles on prepositional variation in *GramTime News* for a while. It would be interesting to hear a little about which of the following structures predominate and whether you find any regional or stylistic differences in the corpora: *in control of* or *in control over*, *speak to* or *speak with*, *please with*, *pleased at* or *pleased about*, *impressed with* or *impressed by*, *available for* or *available to* and *X years ago* or *X years back*.
5. Which preposition would I use after the verb *protest* - *against*, *about*, *at* or no preposition at all?
6. Which is the correct (or the most common) usage: *to expound* or *to expound on/upon*?

1. Is the noun *advice* ever used as a countable noun?
2. How frequent is the form *most* as an alternative to *almost*?
3. What is the difference between *until*, *till* and *'til*?
4. I have heard the phrase *He took ill* in American English. Shouldn't it be *He was taken ill* instead?
5. Is the word *impopular* every used in English, or is *unpopular* the only correct word?

[Hem](#)

[In English](#) 

[Internt](#)

Studera vid Linnéuniversitetet



Nu har Högskolan i Kalmar och Växjö universitet blivit Linnéuniversitetet! Besök oss på Lnu.se.

Växjö universitet, 351 95 Växjö

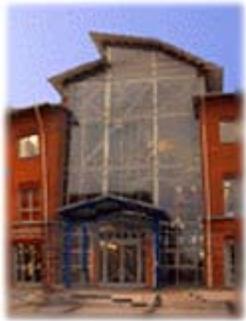
Telefon: 0470-70 80 00. Fax: 0470-832 17Uppdaterad/kontrollerad 2010-01-01

Institutionen för humaniora

[In English](#) 

[Utbildning](#) | [Forskning](#) | [Samverkan](#) | [Organisation](#) | [Publicering](#) | [Kalendarium](#)

[Hem](#) ▶ [Publicering](#) ▶ [GramTime News](#)



@GramTime News 08:1 @

February 2008

Welcome to the thirty-eighth issue of GramTime News, the electronic newsletter on English usage from Växjö University!

Editor-in-chief: [Hans Lindquist](#), PhD

Managing editor: [Maria Estling Vannestål](#), PhD

Contributing editor: [Magnus Levin](#), PhD

Editorial

Dear readers,

The good thing about being a contributor to a newsletter on usage like GTN is that people ask us questions, and after answering those questions we know more than we did before. So thanks a lot for sending us questions!

This issue's queries are based on observations made in a novel by Joyce Carol Oates and a DVD edition of the Seinfeld show, among other things. Maria goes into detail about the *go* + adjective construction and also shows that we should keep referring to humans by means of *who* rather than *which*.

Magnus tells us about the old New York meaning of *on line*, which is quite different from the modern Internet meaning, and uses considerable effort to investigate the difference between *dislike of* and *dislike for*, only to find

that there is hardly any difference at all. But finding no difference is also a result, as we sometimes have to say to disappointed students working on their term papers.

There is of course a web tip as well. This time it is about describing Sweden in English – something most of us have to do now and then.

Maria keeps making our own web page more user-friendly – we hope you like it!

Hans Lindquist

Editor-in-chief

Contents

GramTime News has a new structure - to simplify your reading! Please click on the links below to go to the following sections.

[Usage questions and answers](#)

[Web tip](#)

[The GramTime Project: Grammatical Trends in Modern English \(general information\)](#)

[GramTime Publications](#)

Practical information

Would you like to get in touch with the editors to get more information, ask usage questions, give comments and tips etc.? Please send an e-mail to gramtime@hum.vxu.se. We cannot give you personal replies to usage questions, but if we find your question of interest to the public and if we can answer it, it will be discussed in the newsletter.

If you want to read back issues of GramTime News, search our archives etc., please go to

<http://www.vxu.se/hum/publ/gtn/>

If you want to subscribe to the newsletter, please send an e-mail to

gramtime-request@listserv.vxu.se

with the following message: subscribe.

The next issue

We plan to distribute the next newsletter in June 2008.

• UPP

Institutionen för humaniora

Besöksadress: Pelarplatsen 7. Postadress: 351 95 Växjö

Telefon: 0470-70 80 00. Fax: 0470-75 18 88

Uppdaterad/kontrollerad 2008-02-27

Institutionen för humaniora

[In English](#) 

Utbildning | Forskning | Samverkan | Organisation | Publicering | Kalendarium

[Hem](#) ▶ [Publicering](#) ▶ [GramTime News](#)



@GramTime News 08:2@

June 2008

Welcome to the thirty-ninth issue of GramTime News, the electronic newsletter on English usage from Växjö University!

Editor-in-chief: [Hans Lindquist](#), PhD

Managing editor: [Maria Estling Vannestål](#), PhD

Contributing editor: [Magnus Levin](#), PhD

Editorial

Dear readers,

In this issue there are two web tips: one about an easy-to-access American corpus which makes it possible for everyone to become a brilliant corpus linguist, and one about a language-teaching portal which makes it possible for everyone to become a perfect teacher. Not bad, eh?

And what can be more fun to teach than English grammar? Some constructions always make me feel uneasy: should it be *the majority of the population is or are*? It turns out that both alternatives are OK, according to Magnus. Then Maria tells us about two constructions which are common in informal American English and may well be on their way into British English as well: *the exact same* and *would like for X to*. She also finds support for

using the plural form *CDs* rather than *CD's* – if nothing else it saves ink. Finally Magnus deals with a phenomenon with a slightly dubious and suggestive name: ‘repeated copula’. More fun than football?

The conclusion is, is that the GramTime team would like for you to have a great summer in the exact same way as we will ourselves. Now, did I get that right?

Hans Lindquist
Editor-in-chief

Contents

GramTime News has a new structure - to simplify your reading! Please click on the links below to go to the following sections.

[Usage questions and answers](#)

[Web tips](#)

[Alphabetical index, archive of back issues etc.](#)

[The GramTime Project: Grammatical Trends in Modern English \(general information\)](#)

[GramTime Publications](#)

Practical information

Would you like to get in touch with the editors to get more information, ask usage questions, give comments and tips etc.? Please send an e-mail to gramtime@hum.vxu.se. We cannot give you personal replies to usage questions, but if we find your question of interest to the public and if we can answer it, it will be discussed in the newsletter.

If you want to read back issues of GramTime News, search our archives etc., please go to

<http://www.vxu.se/hum/publ/gtn/>

If you want to subscribe to the newsletter, please send an e-mail to

gramtime-request@listserv.vxu.se

with the following message: subscribe.

The next issue

We plan to distribute the next newsletter in September 2008.

Institutionen för humaniora

Besöksadress: Pelarplatsen 7. Postadress: 351 95 Växjö

Telefon: 0470-70 80 00. Fax: 0470-75 18 88

Uppdaterad/kontrollerad 2008-06-24

Institutionen för humaniora

[In English](#) 

[Utbildning](#) | [Forskning](#) | [Samverkan](#) | [Organisation](#) | [Publicering](#) | [Kalendarium](#)

[Hem](#) ▶ [Publicering](#) ▶ [GramTime News](#)



@GramTime News 08:3@

October 2008

Welcome to the fortieth issue of GramTime News, the electronic newsletter on English usage from Växjö University!

Editor-in-chief: [Hans Lindquist](#), PhD

Managing editor: [Maria Estling Vannestål](#), PhD

Contributing editor: [Magnus Levin](#), PhD

Editorial

Dear readers,

The apple harvest is over and it is time to reap the fruits of Magnus' and Maria's hard toil in the corpus vineyard. I think it looks like a good, full-bodied vintage. Mostly traditional GramTime flavours: a base of fruity prepositions, tinges of agreement and a spicy, unconventional and perhaps unexpected plural as a long aftertaste. Consume now or within the next few years with a cup of coffee and a Danish. And then blog about it.

Cheers,

Hans Lindquist
Editor-in-chief and sommelier

Contents

[Usage questions and answers](#)

[Web tip](#)

[Alphabetical index, archive of back issues, subscription etc.](#)

[The GramTime Project: Grammatical Trends in Modern English \(general information\)](#)

[GramTime Publications](#)

Practical information

Would you like to get in touch with the editors to get more information, ask usage questions, give comments and tips etc.? Please send an e-mail to gramtime@hum.vxu.se. We cannot give you personal replies to usage questions, but if we find your question of interest to the public and if we can answer it, it will be discussed in the newsletter.

If you want to read back issues of GramTime News, search our archives etc., please go to

<http://www.vxu.se/hum/publ/gtn/>

If you want to subscribe to the newsletter, please send an e-mail to

gramtime-request@listserv.vxu.se

with the following message: subscribe.

The next issue

We plan to distribute the next newsletter in December 2008.

● UPP

Institutionen för humaniora

Besöksadress: Pelarplatsen 7. Postadress: 351 95 Växjö

Telefon: 0470-70 80 00. Fax: 0470-75 18 88

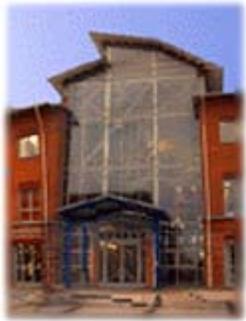
Uppdaterad/kontrollerad 2008-10-20

Institutionen för humaniora

[In English](#) 

[Utbildning](#) [Forskning](#) [Samverkan](#) [Organisation](#) [Publicering](#) [Kalendarium](#)

[Hem](#) ▶ [Publicering](#) ▶ [GramTime News](#)



@GramTime News 08:4@

December 2008

Welcome to the fortyfirst issue of GramTime News, the electronic newsletter on English usage from Växjö University!

Editor-in-chief: [Hans Lindquist](#), PhD

Managing editor: [Maria Estling Vannestål](#), PhD

Contributing editor: [Magnus Levin](#), PhD

Editorial

Dear readers,

There is an American saying of disputed origin that goes “It ain’t over till the fat lady sings”, which could be paraphrased “It’s not over till it’s over”, meaning ‘Don’t give up’. When you get this late fall edition of GTN the fall semester should be over, but we have not given up – on the contrary! First of all, Magnus looks into the use of “until”, “til” and “till”, small words that confuse native speakers and learners alike. He also guides us to different ways of saying that you have been affected by ill health – useful phrases at this time of the year unfortunately.

In our series on uncountable nouns that can be countable after all, Maria has reached “advice”. She also investigates “most” in the sense of ‘almost’, as in “He studies grammar most every evening”. Finally, she discovers that a word that ought (I think) to be perfectly OK in English – “impopular” – in fact turns out to be

extremely unpopular.

Those of you who are teachers and have planned to ruin some of the Christmas break with lesson planning can heave a sigh of relief: Our web tip this time supplies you with ready-made lessons en masse, including 6,430 discussion questions!

We wish you all a restful and happy festive season!

Hans Lindquist
Editor-in-chief

Contents

[Usage questions and answers](#)

[Web tip](#)

[Alphabetical index, archive of back issues, subscription etc.](#)

[The GramTime Project: Grammatical Trends in Modern English \(general information\)](#)

[GramTime Publications](#)

Practical information

Would you like to get in touch with the editors to get more information, ask usage questions, give comments and tips etc.? Please send an e-mail to gramtime@hum.vxu.se. We cannot give you personal replies to usage questions, but if we find your question of interest to the public and if we can answer it, it will be discussed in the newsletter.

If you want to read back issues of GramTime News, search our archives etc., please go to

<http://www.vxu.se/hum/publ/gtn/>

If you want to subscribe to the newsletter, please send an e-mail to

gramtime-request@listserv.vxu.se

with the following message: subscribe.

The next issue

We plan to distribute the next newsletter in March 2009.

Institutionen för humaniora

Besöksadress: Pelarplatsen 7. Postadress: 351 95 Växjö

Telefon: 0470-70 80 00. Fax: 0470-75 18 88

Uppdaterad/kontrollerad 2008-12-21