



Academic Writing Podcast 10 – Fixed Expressions

Sample Text

At a recent conference, an expert from the World Bank recommended raising the retirement age in Russia in order to support the country's pension system. The expert cited **a wide range of** indicators showing that by 2050, the Russian workforce may shrink to one-third of its current size. **With respect to** demography, this decline in the working population is predicted by declining birth rates and relatively poor health among adults in their 50s and 60s. Currently, the Russian retirement age is 55 for women and 60 for men, **with the exception of** employees in certain industries who are eligible to retire at younger ages. **As a rule**, other countries have dealt with their shrinking workforce by raising the retirement age, so that the pension system stabilizes as the proportion of workers to pensioners increases. However, it is **not clear to what extent** Russia can raise the retirement rate for men, since the male life expectancy is just 62 years. Retirement age is one illustrative example of the **variety of ways** in which the world will have to make policy decisions responding to demographic changes¹.

Glossary

1) a wide range of (sources)

a variety of things of a particular type

- The hotel offers **a wide range of** facilities.
- There is **a full range of** activities for children.
- This material is available in **a huge range of** colours.
- The articles cover **a wide range of** topics from the best experts in the field from school to home to future planning

2) it's not clear to what extent ...

a phrase to show uncertainty

- It is **not clear to what extent** the findings may be applicable to foreigners.

¹ Based on the Moscow Times article <http://www.themoscowtimes.com/news/article/world-bank-recommends-raising-retirement-age/451247.html>



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- It is **not clear to what extent** teachers incorporate the notion of having fun in their teaching.
- It is still **not clear to what extent** a new program will be realized.

3) in a variety of ways

a phrase to talk about several different sorts of the same thing

- Patients describe their cough **in a variety of ways**, such as dry, chesty, occasional or persistent.
- Internet is a valuable tool for today's teachers that can be utilized **in a variety of ways** in the classroom.
- We receive data from Institutional Research **in a variety of ways**.
- These two questionnaires have been used in various types of research and have been investigated **in a variety of ways** (e.g., Bagby, Parker, Joffe, Schuller, & Gilchrist, 1998)

4) with respect to

a particular aspect or detail of something

- *syn* in respect of; (more neutral) with regard to
- The two groups were similar **with respect to** child's age, and season of enrollment but different in the number of observations.
- The tobacco use management system is currently polarized **with respect to** its goal: reduce tobacco use versus reduce tobacco harms.
- Our data analysis revealed that the athletes did not differ **with respect to** age, or performance on the visual search tasks.

5) as a rule

a habit; the normal state of things; what is true in most cases

- As a result of wars throughout history, **as a rule**, the less-advanced civilization is destroyed or enslaved.
- Ad agencies **as a rule** have shorter deadlines and pay less for the same assignment.
- Podcasts are short, **as a rule**.
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6) with the exception of

except; not including

- All his novels are set in Italy **with the exception of** his last.
- The same samplers were used throughout the study **with the exception of** one that failed and had to be replaced.
- All scales demonstrated acceptable internal reliability ($\alpha > .70$) **with the exception of** positive peer norms ($\alpha = .45$).
- This research did not identify differences in implementation, **with the exception of** alternative water supplies for hospitals.²

²Voices: Imanni Wilkes Burg and Zhenya Bakin