

Props!

Props! stands for
Propädeutikkurs PG/PW08

Home Course members - advanced/exempt Course members - normal Dictionaries How to give a presentation

Task for Monday, June 30, 2008

Today you should just check out some of the online English grammar exercises and quizzes, e.g. [here](#), or [here](#), or [here](#). Have fun!

June 29, 2008 Posted by behrensstk | Uncategorized | | No Comments

Task for Monday, June 23

Unfortunately, only 5 students have completed (or at least published) their homework. There is lot of room for improvement!

Your task for today is: Go to these students' blogs (Yichen, Bahtiyar, Steve, Dima, Olena), read through their essays and write an "answer"-essay (=comment) in which you state to what extent you agree with their opinion. You should write at least 100 words per comment and you should relate to the arguments mentioned in the blogs. Use some of the phrases of the handout. Overall you should write at least 200 words today (2 comments or one very long comment).

In the light of recent events you should then read some articles on [plagiarism](#) and how the universities deal with [them](#). Plagiarism is not tolerated at the universities so don't ever do that. Besides the negative effects like not passing class it also means that if you don't write yourself you won't learn.

June 23, 2008 Posted by behrensstk | Uncategorized | | No Comments

Homework for Monday, June 23, 2008

Create a new post on your blog. Then write an essays about a controversial issue. You can use [these](#) or [these](#) topics or any other topic which is of interest to you. Your essay must have an introduction, a main part with pros and cons and a conclusion (see handout). Use some of the phrases from the handout. It is essential that you use your own words (remember that the final exam will be next Thursday and this is a opportunity to practise). Write at least 300 words.

June 17, 2008 Posted by behrensstk | Uncategorized | | No Comments

Task for Monday, June 16, 2008

In the next week we'll be focusing on expressing your opinion. Below are some phrases which are useful when you state your opinion in a written text:

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Categories

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RSS

Entries RSS
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Links

WordPress.com
WordPress.org

introducing a point

First of all I would like to point out...
To start with, ...
The main problem is...
the question of...

Stating something as a fact

As everyone knows
There can be no doubt that
It is common knowledge that
It is generally accepted that
It is a fact that
Nobody will deny that

expressing a personal opinion

In my opinion
It seems to me that
As far as I am concerned
I think/ assume/ feel/ fear that
I certainly think
I go along with the idea
As far as I can see
In my view
I am of the opinion that...
to me
I personally believe
I am quite sure
From my point of view
As I see it

This is your task for today: You'll be practising expressing your opinion in a more formal style. But don't worry - the topics are rather light: You can either express your opinion on an [article](#) about the Euro 08 (soccer) or those who are not interested in sports can also read an article related to [entertainment](#) or [science](#).

- 1) Read 1 article of your choice.
- 2) Create a new post on your blog. Create a link to the article.
- 3) Summarize the article in no more than 5 sentences.
- 4) Write a comment (like a letter to the editor) about this article. Use at least three of the phrases above.
- 5) Steps 1 - 4 should not take more than 50 minutes. Then publish your post.
- 6) Go to the blogs of at least three other students. Read their comments and leave a comment on your own. Use at least one of the phrases above. Publish other people's comments on your blog.

June 16, 2008 Posted by [behrensstk](#) | [Uncategorized](#) | | [No Comments](#)

Homework for Monday, June 16, 2008

Nick Leeson's bank fraud wasn't the last scandal. In May 2008 the French bank Societe Generale found out that one of its traders had been losing a lot of money with risky trades. [Read](#) about this scandal and answer the following questions (put them on your blog):

- 1) How much money did Kerviel lose for the bank? Was it more or less than what Leeson had lost 13 years ago?
- 2) What effect did the scandal have on the stock market?

Then listen to the interview with an older (and apparently wiser) Nick Leeson (on the same website). It is about 11 minutes long. Then answer these questions:

- 3) Was Leeson surprised when he heard about the French bank fraud?
- 4) Why do these scandals occur again and again - what mistakes do the banks make?
- 5) What motivation did - according to Leeson - Kerviel have?
- 6) Write a short summary of the bank scandal (in your own words again). What do you think were Kerviel's motives? What should happen to him? What should happen to his bosses?

Additional homework (for those who finished the homework in the computer room): Read about the [German bank crisis](#) and write a short summary or read about [possible solutions](#) to the problem - what does the author suggest and why does he want to disempower the bankers?

June 11, 2008 Posted by [behrensstk](#) | [Uncategorized](#) | | [No Comments](#)

Homework for Wednesday, June 11

There were some important stock market crashes in the 20th century. One of most important ones was 1929. Go to this [article](#) and answer the questions. Remember to use your own words, don't just copy and paste!

- 1) What was the "Black Thursday"?
- 2) What was the fundamental cause of the crash?
- 3) What were the effects of this crash on Germany (-> read [this article](#)).

June 9, 2008 Posted by [behrensstk](#) | [Uncategorized](#) | | [No Comments](#)

Advanced/exempt: task for June 30, 2008

This time you should work as a team. Remember to talk English during group work. Your task is to create a marketing strategy for a new product. For details see task for "normal course members" from May 26- June 2.

June 3, 2008 Posted by [behrensstk](#) | [Uncategorized](#) | | [No Comments](#)

June 2 - notification (exempt and normal course members)

Dear Props,

as you have probably heard, I can't come to school today as I can't walk due to a torn muscle fibre. But hopefully I'll be back tomorrow. Your presentations will start tomorrow, so the exempt students should come tomorrow as well.

C U tomorrow

June 2, 2008 Posted by [behrensstk](#) | [Uncategorized](#) | | [No Comments](#)

Project: Creating a marketing strategy (May 26 - June 2, 2008)

Work in groups of 2-5 students. Try to speak English during group work. Your task for the next week is to create a marketing strategy for a new product for the German market. You can either completely invent a new product or take a product which is successful in your home country but which has not yet been introduced to the German market.

Additionally to what you've heard in class, you can look up the instruments of marketing in this [article](#). More tips on how to write a marketing plan can be found [here](#).

In your marketing strategy you should consider all the "four Ps". You should determine the features of a product (what exactly is "new", how is this product different from similar products already established in the German market), the price, the place (virtual or physical, where exactly?) and the promotion (where? when? how?). All your assumptions should be realistic. You should look at competing products and customer needs (-> go to stores, ask people in the street etc.). You should also explain which group you are targeting with your strategy.

The presentation of your marketing strategies will start next Monday (June 2nd). Visual aids are a must (you can use transparencies but a Powerpoint presentation is preferred). We will vote on the best product, the best marketing strategy and the best presentation.

Good luck!

May 25, 2008 Posted by [behrensstk](#) | [Uncategorized](#) | | [No Comments](#)

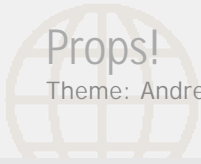
Task for Tuesday, May 20, 2008

We've talked about the differences in business etiquette in different countries. Your task for today is to compare the business etiquette of two different countries (one of those should either be your home country or Germany, the other can be any country in the world).

Google "business etiquette in...(name of country)". Read through the articles. Then create a post in your blog. Write a short newspaper article for a business magazine about the different customs in business.

May 19, 2008 Posted by behrensstk | [Uncategorized](#) | | [No Comments](#)

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