

Notice the prepositional phrases in bold in the texts below.

A

A book review



The *Guide to the Semi-Colon in English* was written by Keith Pedant **in conjunction with**¹ a team of researchers at Boredham University. **In comparison with** previous works on the semi-colon, this is a very substantial volume. **In addition to** the main text there are a number of appendices. These are **to some extent**² the most useful parts of the book as, **in line with**³ modern linguistic practice, they provide a wealth of real data. **In spite of** its potentially dry topic, the book contains many fascinating examples, in the sections dealing with the history of the semi-colon **in particular**. **With the exception of**⁴ the final chapter, this book may be of some interest to the general reader as well as the specialist but **on the whole**⁵ is mainly for those who have a professional interest in punctuation marks. If it fails **in any respect**⁶, it is **in relation to**⁷ recent changes in the punctuation of e-communication, **in terms of**⁸ the conventions of text-messaging, tweets and similar media.

¹ working together with ² notice also **to a greater / lesser / certain extent** ³ following; also **in accordance with** ⁴ not including ⁵ generally ⁶ or **in any way** ⁷ in connection with

⁸ describes which particular area of a subject is being discussed

B

A talk to a genealogy club

Chairperson: Now, **at this stage**¹ in the proceedings it's my pleasure to introduce our speaker tonight, Dr Anna Klein, the country's leading family history specialist. Anna, I'd like to welcome you **on behalf of**² all our members. Ladies and gentlemen, **in view of**³ the fact that we only have 45 minutes, I would ask you to keep any questions till the end of Dr Klein's talk. Thank you.

Anna Klein: Thank you. Er ... I should confess **from the outset**⁴ that my own interest in genealogy came about **as a result of** discovering some old letters in the attic at home. You know, I found them purely **by chance**⁵. They'd been written by some relatives who'd emigrated to Canada a hundred years or so before ... and for me, as a ten-year-old then, they were **by far**⁶ the most exciting things I'd ever read. They were, **for the most part**⁷, extremely well-written and, **from then on**⁸, I was determined to learn as much as I could about my family. **In other words**⁹, I had started out on my genealogical journey. **In some ways** I was very lucky. I was able, **so to speak**¹⁰, to get to know my family **on the basis of** the old letters and this enabled me to track down some relations living in Montreal. They, **in turn**, provided some contacts with Australian cousins and so it continued. **In the process**¹¹, I've learnt a great deal, not only about my own family, but also **as regards** how to approach tracing one's family. **In most respects**¹² it's been a thoroughly enjoyable adventure though there have been some difficult moments ...

¹ now, also **at this point** ² representing ³ because of ⁴ from the beginning ⁵ accidentally
⁶ very much ⁷ generally ⁸ since that moment ⁹ to express something differently ¹⁰ what I am saying is not to be understood exactly as stated ¹¹ while doing this ¹² considering most aspects of the experience

Common Mistake

On the one hand and *on the other hand* are used to compare and contrast two different ways of looking at an issue. Do not confuse *on the other hand* with *on the contrary*. *On the contrary* means that the previous statement is not true or not correct. *Stoneworkers use a variety of names for types of stone. Geologists, on the other hand, use names that are too technical or specialised for ordinary use.* (Not: *Geologists, on the contrary, use names...*)

Exercises

13.1 Look at the press announcements and complete the prepositional phrases with the missing words.

- 1 Professor Soltero said that, line government guidelines, the team would consult the local community as the best solution to the siting of the drilling platform. She promised that the community would be fully involved outset and that her team, turn, would inform the public at every stage.
- 2 A spokesperson for the company said that, stage, there is no proof of the side-effects of the drug, but in of the public concern, the company was withdrawing it. spite this necessary measure, she was sure that the drug would soon return to the market.
- 3 Dr Leiman said that while the hand the government wanted to encourage research, the hand they were reducing funding for universities; in words, research would inevitably suffer.
- 4 addition a new building on the campus, the team will receive a very generous grant to conduct their research. In to the university's plan, this represents an exciting and much-awaited development. particular, the new facility would attract outside investment.
- 5 the exception one study in 1986, no major research has been carried out into the problem, Dr Peters stated. The greatest need by at the moment was a concerted effort to kick-start a research programme.
- 6 Professor Karpal said that, the basis her studies so far, she was optimistic that a cure for the disease would be found. To extent, there was already cause for optimism, but, for the most, hopes had to rest on the possibility of a breakthrough in the near future.
- 7 Lauren Charles said that, whole, social conditions had improved since the report, especially terms jobs and housing for the poorer sectors. If economic and social policy had failed respect, it was in child care for the less well-off.
- 8 The professor said that he was delighted to accept the award behalf the whole university. He said that, in some, he had been the lucky one, speak, in that he had been able to work in with such a wonderful team.

13.2 Choose the correct prepositional phrases to complete the paragraph.

A bone discovered ¹by chance / to some extent in the 17th century was the beginning of the search for dinosaurs. ²By far / From then on, scientists and the public have been fascinated by these creatures. ³In accordance with / In addition to beliefs at that time, the initial discovery was thought to be the bone of a human giant. However, in 1824, a scientist, William Buckland, calculated that the bone belonged to a 12-metre flesh-eating reptile and named it *Megalosaurus*, ⁴in comparison / in the process giving us the first of the wonderful list of exotic names for dinosaurs. The 17th century discovery had, ⁵in turn / in other words, led to a series of further finds around that time. All these ⁶to a greater or lesser extent / in any respect confirmed Buckland's theories. ⁷By far / In turn the biggest dinosaur discovered to date was probably over 40 metres long. ⁸For the most part / In comparison, dinosaurs ranged from the size of a chicken to that of a giraffe. ⁹In most respects / In other words, what we know about their habits is still very limited. What we do know is at least ¹⁰by chance / to some extent based on pure speculation. ¹¹On the contrary / On the other hand, recent progress in the study of DNA is offering new possibilities for a better understanding of these creatures.



Over to you

Use a dictionary or search websites related to your studies to find an example sentence using each of these phrases: *on the one hand*, *on the other hand*, *on behalf of*, *as a result of*, *with the exception of*, *except*. Write them out and then add one more sentence for each one relating to your own studies.