4 – How do I choose?

In the tasks below you are going to work with a language problem you have defined yourself. The problem must be defined as a choice between two or more structures and the bank of sentences illustrating the structures should be available. Characteristics of each structure in the bank should be listed and grouped according to what they refer to.

By the end of working on the tasks you will formulate the rules that help you choose between the structures and check if these rules work.

Task 1

Put down the problem you are working on filling in the template below:

I would like to understand how to choose between

1)_____

and

2)_____

when _____ (formulate the communicative aim)

Task 2

Work in groups. Use the template below to define the rules to distinguish between the structures from Task 1. You can define as many rules as you believe is necessary to make the choice.

If you worked on Part 3, the results of Task 4 could help you. In any case, check that the characteristics in your rule refer to one and the same thing (e.g., 'large' and 'small' both refer to 'size' – same, however 'heavy' and 'huge' refer to 'weight' and 'size' – different).

Rule No.1:

If I _____ <characteristics of Structure 1>, I use _____ <Structure 1>, but if I _____ <characteristics of Structure 2>, I use _____ <Structure 2>

Rule No.2:

If I _____ <characteristics of Structure 1>, I use _____ <Structure 1>, but if I _____ <characteristics of Structure 2>, I use _____ <Structure 2>

Rule No.3:

If I _____ <characteristics of Structure 1>, I use _____ <Structure 1>, but if I _____ <characteristics of Structure 2>, I use _____ <Structure 2>

Task 3

Look at the sentences in your bank. Next to each sentence, write which of the rules in Task 2 can be used to explain the choice of the structure under question. If none of the rules can explain the choice of the structure, copy a sentence below.

Sentences I can't explain:

Task 4

Reshuffle groups in such a way that each new group includes members from at least three different groups. Look at the sentences in Task 3 that other groups couldn't explain. Can any of the rules in your group help them? If so, share the rule with them.

Can any of their rules help you? If so, add it to your list.

Task 5

Get back to your old groups and agree on the final rule or several rules. Put them down below:

Final rule No.1:

If I _____ <characteristics of Structure 1>, I use _____ <Structure 1>, but if I _____ <characteristics of Structure 2>, I use _____ <Structure 2>

Final rule No.2:

If I _____ <characteristics of Structure 1>, I use _____ <Structure 1>, but if I _____ <characteristics of Structure 2>, I use _____ <Structure 2>

Share your rules with other groups and discuss if anything is to be amended.