

ChatGPT on the Virtual Linguistics Campus

There are several learning paths on the VLC:

- a. the self-directed navigation through the sections of a learning unit
- b. the sequential navigation through the sections of a learning unit
- c. the use of the "Guiding Questions" of a learning unit.

The Guiding Questions (c.) constitute sets of never more than ten content-related questions with hyperlinks that lead to the web pages where the explanations and solutions are given. Thus, one mastery principle is to be able to answer these Guiding Questions without assistance. In the "How to Proceed" sections, the questions were presented like this (Topic "Basic Concepts in Syntax"):

1. What is a [sentence](#) and what problems does the concept of a sentence evoke?
2. What is a [minor sentence](#)?
3. What are the properties of [major sentences](#) and what types of major sentences do you know?
4. What is a [phrase](#)? Give at least three examples!
5. The definition of [word classes](#) is based on paradigmatic relations. Discuss.
6. The [structuralist approach](#) towards word classes generalizes traditional concepts. Which ones?
7. Analyze the following sentence formally:

Mrs Miller regrets that many of her good old friends, who she grew up with, have moved to London.

Since the end of 2022, we have been using the option to ask language generator systems such as ChatGPT and have them answer our questions. This opens up a fourth learning path. Instead of utilising the guiding questions of a learning unit via their hyperlinks, our VLC users can now alternatively forward the questions to ChatGPT and receive their answers at least in text form. To give learners some guidance on the quality of possible ChatGPT answers, the VLC team has been submitting the guiding questions of its courses to ChatGPT over the past few weeks and has been analyzing the answers. More than 700 guiding questions were submitted to ChatGPT and the answers were scientifically evaluated on a scale from 0 (poor) to 10 (excellent). We coupled these "Recommendation Values" with the respective guiding question to provide guidance to our learners: "Is it useful to use ChatGPT (RV >= 8) or not (RV <= 3), or is it currently difficult to assess (> 3, < 8)"?

In the "How to Proceed" sections, it now looks like this:

No.	Question	ChatGPT
1.	What is a sentence and what problems does the concept of a sentence evoke?	10
2.	What is a minor sentence ?	10
3.	What are the properties of major sentences and what types of major sentences do you know?	10
4.	What is a phrase ? Give at least three examples!	6
5.	The definition of word classes is based on paradigmatic relations. Discuss.	8
6.	The structuralist approach towards word classes generalizes traditional concepts. Which ones?	6
7.	Analyze the following sentence formally: <i>Mrs Miller regrets that many of her good old friends, who she grew up with, have moved to London.</i>	10

Additionally, there is an overall Recommendation Value for the learning unit, which additionally includes the discussion of further educational options.

Recommendations for ChatGPT use: It is possible to master the whole topic via interaction with ChatGPT. However, you will miss important multimedial information, such as illustrative diagrams, interactive elements, educational video and further examples that illustrate the explanations.

Overall ChatGPT recommendation value: 7 (of 10)

In summary, we propagate the use of modern language generators and but at the same provide much needed guidance to our students.