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SAPERE ET FARI

TASK 4

Introduction

In English we have two groups of verbs that look remarkably similar: prepositional verbs and phrasal verbs. Have a look at the examples:

Prepositional verb: *depend on* ("polegać na kimś")

Phrasal verb: *give up* ("porzucić kogoś")

As you can see in the examples, both *depend on* and *give up* comprise a verb followed by a preposition.

Task

Have a look at the example sentences and try to make three observations about *give up* and *depend on*. Note that some sentences are marked with an asterisk (*), which means that they are ungrammatical.

- (1a) Lucrezia depends on her boyfriend.
- (1b) Lucrezia depends on him.
- (1c) *Lucrezia depends her boyfriend on.
- (1d) *Lucrezia depends him on.
- (2a) Lucrezia gave up her boyfriend.
- (2b) *Lucrezia gave up him.
- (2c) Lucrezia gave her boyfriend up.
- (2d) Lucrezia gave him up.

Tip: You should also pay attention to objects as nouns or pronouns.

Your observations:

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.....
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.....
.....

Based on L. Brinton, *The Structure of Modern English. A Linguistic Introduction*, John Benjamins, Amsterdam/Philadelphia 2000.

KEY

In the case of prepositional verbs (*depend on*), a verb cannot be separated from its preposition. On the other hand, phrasal verbs (*give up*) can be separated by the insertion of an object [point for this observation].

Prepositional verbs are always inseparable – this valid for both noun-objects (*boyfriend*) and pronoun-objects (*him*) [point for this observation].

In the case of phrasal verbs, when an object is expressed as a pronoun, the separation is obligatory [point for this observation].