

Practice Unit 4

1. Pick out the inflected forms in the following sentences:

John works for IBM.

These days, my mother reads a lot of historical novels.

We liked it there a lot last year, but this year we are looking for a cheaper hotel.

Can you identify the person to whom you handed the parcel?

2. Replace the bold-printed passages in the following sentences by more analytical constructions:

*He's the **politest** person that you can imagine.*

*I find the **book's cover** very misleading.*

3. Replace the bold-printed passages in the following sentences by more synthetic constructions:

***The children of John's sister** are joining us for part of the trip.*

*The door is now even **more narrow** than before.*

4. The discussion in Unit 4.3 in the book has assumed that, unlike *merest*, the superlative *utterest* is not current in present-day English. Test this assumption by:

(a) consulting major dictionaries, such as the *Oxford English Dictionary* (OED) or *Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language*;

(b) consulting reference grammars such as Greenbaum/Quirk's *Student's Grammar of the English Language* or Huddleston/Pullum's *Student's Introduction to English Grammar*;

(c) consulting standard reference corpora of present-day English such as the Freiburg-Lancaster-Oslo/ Bergen corpus (1 million words) or the British National Corpus (100 million words).

(d) Consulting the World Wide Web as the "corpus of last resort"? What do you make of the evidence you find? Which cautions would you recommend when using evidence from the World Wide Web?

5. Classify the following clauses into simple sentences (i.e. those consisting of one clause only) and complex sentences (those consisting of at least two clauses). Group the clauses which you have identified into the finite, non-finite and verbless categories described in Unit 4:

Long live the Emperor!

Down with the Emperor!

I don't want you to be present at my birthday party.

Living in Scotland, you pick up one or two words which would not be used South of the Border.

Would you believe it?

He just upped and left.

I arranged for an old friend of mine to meet me at the airport.

Students wishing to take the exam before the end of the summer term must register by 30 April.

The committee's report was not expected to be published before the elections.

6. On the basis of the analysis of *evler* and *evlerimde* given in Unit 4.2 in the book, gloss the meanings of the Turkish words *evlerde*, *evim*, *evde* and *evimde*.
7. Consult a dictionary of linguistics or a reference work on linguistic typology for a good example of a language of the polysynthetic type. Give one example of a word in this language and provide a gloss along the lines of that given for Turkish *evlerimde* in Unit 4.2 in the book.