

Confirming Lexical Accuracy

Use the English-English dictionary or the Internet to confirm whether the phrase that you're considering using is accurate English.

The English-English dictionary

Try to find the phrase as an entry or sub-entry.

An example of how you can confirm your lexical in the dictionary:

Is it correct to say "I will go with condition of you go too"?

Look up the entry *condition* in the dictionary. Look for a sub-entry that means what you want to say. In Collins COBUILD, sub-entry #6 is *on condition that*. Check the grammar: the verb is in the simple present form. ("When you agree to do something on condition that something else happens, you mean that you will only do it if this other things happens or is agreed to first.") This means that the verb can be used with its tenses; if the context is in the past, for example, we can use simple past tense.

Then, look at the sample sentence: "He has agreed to come on condition that there won't be any press or publicity." Another sample sentence shows the verb in another tense: "They could use the land for a year and a half on condition they handed it back cleared of weeds."

The Internet: British National Corpus (BNC) or Collins Concordance

In the "query" box, type the phrase that you are considering using. If you type in "with condition of," the BNC or Collins Concordance will tell you that there is no such language. So you know it's wrong.

BNC: <http://sara.natcorp.ox.ac.uk/lookup.html>

Collins Concordance: <http://www.collins.co.uk/Corpus/CorpusSearch.aspx>

Don't use Google or Yahoo or another search engine. Many non-native speakers have sites on the Internet, and their English may not be correct.