

## Hypothesising

### Exam spot

The essay that you have to write in Part 1 of the Writing test often involves an element of hypothesising. This language is, of course, also useful for other pieces of writing you may have to do as well as for Part 3 of the Speaking test.

- 1 Look at the phrases in boxes A and B. What grammatical structures can you identify? Match the boxes to headings 1 and 2.**

- 1** Formal writing and formal speech  
**2** Neutral speech and informal writing

**A**

I wonder if ...    Suppose ...    What if ...  
Just imagine ...    If only ...

**B**

Let us imagine ...  
Let us consider ...  
Let us suppose ...  
Let us assume ...  
If we were to ...  
Were we to ...  
If we had ...  
Had we ...  
If I may speculate for a moment, ...  
Speculating for a moment, ...  
Let us take a hypothetical case: ...  
On the assumption that ...  
Provided (that) ...  
Allowing for the fact that ...  
Given (that) ...

### Corpus spot



The *Cambridge English Corpus* shows exam candidates often make mistakes when hypothesising. Correct these sentences written by exam candidates.

- 1 I was wondering you could make it in July?
- 2 Imagine you would have to live with no central heating. My grandmother used to. It was a pretty tough life.
- 3 Suppose she takes the job in Moscow, how we would manage without her?
- 4 The best way to prepare for the driving test is to assume yourself as a driver.