



## Video 8 – Real Grammar: different from or to?

In one of the previous videos about real grammar, I talked about how choosing the right preposition can be quite a challenge for learners of English.

Let's have a look at the word different. It's another common case where people disagree about which preposition you should use. For example, consider these two sentences:

"These results are completely different **from** the ones we got last week."

or

"These results are completely different **to** the ones we got last week."

Which one do you think sounds more natural: 'from', or 'to'?

Traditionalist will tell you that 'from' is the only correct answer here and that 'to' is simply wrong. But what does the evidence in our corpus tell us? Well, it shows that "different from" is used almost three times as often as "different to".

But both 'to' and 'from' are very common, and "different to" shouldn't be regarded as incorrect. Incidentally, "different *than*" is also sometimes used, mainly by speakers of American English, and this isn't incorrect either.

So if anyone tells you you're using the wrong preposition, tell them to have a look at the evidence first and to check the Macmillan Dictionary.

If you'd like to know more about this topic or other real grammar questions, have a look at the Macmillan Dictionary Blog.