ENGLISH FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS UNIT

KIBBITZER 15 Which Vern for the Adverb?

UNIVERSITYOF BIRMINGHAM

This Kibbitzer is based on an extract from the thesis of a Chinese-speaking postgraduate student of Social Science (c.f. kibbitzer 14).

| Original | Revision |
|---|---|
| immigrant families could contain distant relatives immigrating from their home country as a result of housing and communicating problems. | immigrant families could, as a result of housing and communication problems, contain distant relatives from their home country, |

Making it clear which adverb modifies which verb is a recurrent problem uncovered in <u>one-to one-consultations</u>. Here, it is not clear in the original whether the adverb phrase 'as a result of housing and communicating problems' modifies the verb 'contains' or the verb 'immigrating'. It took only a little discussion to establish that it was the verb 'contains' that was modified: with the adverb phrase moved to show the modification unambiguously, the phrase 'immigrating from their home country' could be simplified without loss of meaning to 'from their home country'.

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