

This Kibbitzer is based on an extract from the thesis of a Chinese-speaking student of Social Science.

Original	Revision
I composed basic information from a thorough survey of the available literature, asking the same questions about each case in order to confirm comparability.	I compiled the basic information for this study from a thorough survey of the available literature, asking the same questions about each case in order to ensure comparability.

All three of the suggested corrections are worth some attention: the one which we focussed on during the one-to-one session was the possibility of substituting another verb such for **compose**. The first task was to work out why **compose** seems inappropriate in this context. The following citations taken from *New Scientist* show typical contexts of **compose** (excluding **be composed of**):

1 f it you do not understand. So you compose a brief **question**, again on your computer,  
 2 a well-known author". Or they can compose a first **letter** home from a hapless Contin  
 3 Maurice Ravel, who composed **Bolero and other classics**, suffered an u  
 4 ece of **music** called Wines Lullaby, composed by Fujihara. The wine tasted better too,  
 5 confidence that he could not have composed less than two or three hundred **lines**". O  
 6 available telescopes and lenses to compose more pictorial **photographs**. He also on oc  
 7 ed person to control a computer or compose **music**. Breaking a beam activated a cursor  
 8 nterest, lock the focus, and then compose their **picture** - a process no quicker than

What is common to all the citations is the idea of **creation** in the sense of **invention**, whether **literary/linguistic** (1, 2, 5), **musical** (3, 4, 7), or **pictorial** (6, 8). That observation immediately shows why **compose** is inappropriate in this context, for if there is one thing which academics should **NOT** do, that is to invent their information/data!

Various possibilities occurred to us as replacements for **compose**, ranging from **collect**, to **compile**. We decided on **compile** on the basis of citations such as the following. With **information** as the object - see also citation 1 - there seems to be very little difference between **collect** and **compile**, and much the same seems to be true with objects such as **data**, **estimates**, **evidence** and **figures**:

1 led analysis of the **information** it compiles in its National Registry for Radiation S  
 2 ersity has cogently argued. He has compiled **data** on the fortunes of marine fauna ove  
 3 ished a book of emission **estimates** compiled, country by country, from available stat  
 4 fishy flavours. Yeo and Shibamoto compiled **evidence** from four comparative studies o  
 5 t represents. According to **figures** compiled by the Association of University Teacher

However, the difference in meaning between **collect** and **compile** appears with objects such as **inventory** (6), **table** (7), **plan** (8), **review** (9) and **report** (10). These cannot be used as readily with **collect** as they can with **compile**, pointing to the important feature of the latter verb that compilation involves an element of **organisation** and **arrangement** of the collected data. For that reason, we agreed that **compile** might be the better choice in this context.

6 pectorate of Pollution (HMIP) will compile an annual **inventory**. This will be include  
 7 ation of growth. In a **league table** compiled by the Philadelphia-based Institute for  
 8 ith an Asian-owned company to help compile a "**forestry management plan**" for a loggin  
 9 usly endangered in a recent **review** compiled by the conservation committee of the Eur  
 10 cury's stock in trade. The **report**, compiled by researchers at the Los Alamos Nationa