

Fall Semester 2017
Iowa State University

LING 120 - Language and Computers

Assignment 2

Submission Deadline: 23 SEP 2017, end of the day

Instructions: This assignment consists of two questions and carries a total of 10 marks. Submit your assignment as a *PDF* file and name it as: *your_first_name-your_last_name.pdf*. Late submissions are allowed, but will not be awarded full credit.

Question 1 - 4 Marks

Listed below are some of the real spelling errors made by students taking a test, for a word *learning*:

leaniong

learing

learnig

learnin

learnind

learniong

leerning

Do you think there is any theoretical explanation for these errors? (e.g., getting confused with some other word, adjacent letters on a keyboard, etc.) or are they all just random errors? For many of these does your favorite spell checker (Word, Google, Grammarly etc) suggest "learning" as the correct spelling? What were the other words the spell checker suggested?

Question 2 - 6 marks

Consider the following examples from Figure 2.14 in the textbook (and a few more):

power crd

video crd

power curd

platnuin rings

golf war

sap opera

Saddam participated in golf war.

I want to buy platnuin rings.

I went their book.

- Are all these errors of the same kind? What are the differences?
- What in your view is the most difficult error to catch among these?
- Consider three spelling and grammar checking tools (Microsoft Word, Google search textbox, Grammarly.com) and check what suggestions do they offer for these errors. Which of them is doing a better job? Why do you think it is doing a better job?