

# SKELL observation tasks

## *trump, trump up, trump card, Donald Trump*

There are four SKELL printouts and a set of questions for each. Look at the sentences on the printouts and make the following observations. Read all the questions for your printout before you start looking for answers. Use the sentence numbers from the printout when doing the tasks. As you explore these questions, do you get a sense of connotations?

### **Trump up**

This is usually a phrasal verb, but it is also used as an adjective.

#### Verb

1. Is it used in the passive and the active voice?
2. What are some typical subjects and objects of the verb?
3. When it is passive, is there an agent? (by ...)
4. Do the objects come between the verb and the particle?
5. Do these nouns belong to any specific fields?
6. What tense is the verb used in mostly?
7. When it is passive, is there an agent? (by ...)

#### Adjective

8. Is *trumped up* hyphenated?
9. Is it used predicatively? e.g. *sth is trumped up*
10. Is it used attributively? e.g. *trumped up + noun*

### **Donald Trump**

1. What does DT do? (the verbs when he is subject)
2. What are some objects of these verbs?
3. What is DT? (the complements of *be*)
4. Is his current political status referred to?
5. Are the words that describe him positive, negative or neutral?

### **Trump**

1. What parts of speech can you observe in the word, *trump*? Write N V Aj etc. beside some sentences.
2. Who or what *trumps* who or what? Are these nouns common, abstract or proper?
3. Mark the words that refer to a card game.

### **Trump card**

1. Which sentences simply say what *trump card* means?
2. Mark the words that refer to a card game.
3. Find the sentences whose main verb is *be*.
4. In these sentences, is *trump card* mostly the subject or the complement?
5. List some of the complements. Are they common, proper or abstract nouns? Are they positive or negative things?
6. Find some sentences which contain transitive verbs.