

## Existence vs. Presence

This Kibbitzer is based on a point that appeared twice within a morning's consultations, in the work of two students with similar language backgrounds, but very different fields of study. The first is a Turkish-speaking civil engineer from Tabriz in Iran, who has to use to use Farsi for all his professional work:

Original	Revision
The <b>existence</b> of chlorite mineral (1 - 8%) may explain this behaviour.	The <b>presence</b> of chlorite mineral (1 - 8%) may explain this behaviour.

The second student is researching Medieval Islamic Philosophy. His first language is also Turkish.

Original	Revision
They argue that in the <b>existence</b> of all determinants, namely full power, definite will, proper time and conditions, and the disappearance of all hindrances, the act necessarily occurs.	They argue that in the <b>presence</b> of all determinants, namely full power, definite will, proper time and conditions, and the removal of all hindrances, the act necessarily occurs.

The central point here is that in these students' **second** languages of academic study (Farsi and Arabic respectively) the standard translation for both **presence** and **existence** is *vujud*. This helps to explain the difficulty they had in distinguishing between these two words in English, in which **existence** is the general term ("Philosophers argue about the existence of God") and **presence** is the local term ("When he prayed he believed that he was in the presence of God"). The following sentence citations illustrate the difference between the two terms:

1. Michel Dutang, began looking for alternatives to chlorine after studies linked its **presence** in drinking water to cancer.
2. Looking at the question from an economic standpoint, the key justification for a continued British **presence** in the Middle East was access to oil.
3. Clement V (1305~14) went so far as to decree that even the **presence** of Muslims on Christian soil amounted to "an insult to the Creator".
4. Calculations seemed to show that it was difficult to explain how galaxies would form in the **presence** of large numbers of neutrinos.
5. The most striking feature of the frog retina is the **presence** of "bug-detectors": that is, fibres in the optic nerve which are stimulated by small dark moving objects on the retina.
6. The individual organism is something whose **existence** most biologists take for granted.
7. Gary Goldstein, one of Dalitz's collaborators, says he is "quite confident" that they have discovered the **existence** and the mass of the quark.

8. Moral pluralism asserts the **existence** of a multitude of incompatible but morally valuable forms of life.
9. This view holds that the cosmos has been generated and may be destroyed, and that men similarly first came into **existence** at a definite time.
10. Opposing pressure groups were already in **existence** and preparing for the campaign: in favour, the Divorce Action Group; and against, such groups as Family Solidarity, Women in the Home, and the Knights of Columbanus.

Here is a short test. What is the missing word in the following sentence citations?

1. A few scientists had predicted the \_\_\_\_\_ of black holes for more than 200 years, but most scientists did not take black holes seriously.
2. Some people are more likely to develop these complications and can be identified by demonstrating the \_\_\_\_\_ of a particular tissue-type in their body make-up.
3. This difference has not so far been accounted for, but could in part be attributable to the \_\_\_\_\_ of additional HeLa cell proteins in the complex.
4. The rules of Equity are only a sort of supplement or appendix to the Common Law; they assume its \_\_\_\_\_ but they add something further.
5. At present, inspectors can only detect the \_\_\_\_\_ of harmful bacteria in organic waste by taking a water sample back to the laboratory, separating out solid matter containing microorganisms, and culturing it in a Petri dish.
6. He guessed that the molecules were shaped like balls – an unusual configuration – and set about gathering evidence. Five years passed until the \_\_\_\_\_ of these molecules, nicknamed buckyballs, was confirmed.
7. In its 18 months of \_\_\_\_\_, Classic FM's blend of music has gained a weekly audience of 4.5 million.
8. With those he attacks he shares the premise that all that we are directly aware of are ideas, which have no \_\_\_\_\_ apart from a perceiving mind.
9. Just as the \_\_\_\_\_ of salmon in Scottish rivers can be used as an indicator of a waterway's health, butterflies signal the health of Madagascar's forests.
10. Sussex police said that the \_\_\_\_\_ of armed officers in the area was part of their normal counter-terrorist patrols.

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