

Increase of* or *Increase in: What's the difference?

Lesson Objectives:

1. Understand the syntactic use of ***increase*** in the field of finance.
2. Use the *Hong Kong Financial Services Corpus* as a tool for inductive learning.
3. Practise writing skills.

Length: approx. 30 mins

Target students: Advanced Secondary School Learners; Learners of English for Specific/Academic Purposes

Activity 1

You will use the **HKFS Corpus** and identify the difference between ***increase of*** and ***increase in***.

Follow the steps below:

1. Go to <http://rcpce.engl.polyu.edu.hk/index.html>
2. Click on **Part-of-speech** (2nd column) for the **Hong Kong Financial Services Corpus**
3. Go to the search box and enter the word '*increase*' followed by ^nn. It will need to look like this [increase ^nn]. The acronym nn means that you are using the word *increase* as a noun.
4. Look at the first 20 results: why is the noun *increase* followed by the prepositions *in* or *of* and what is the difference?
5. Read the first 20 results and discuss in pairs.

Activity 2

The following statements have been retrieved and adapted from the HKFSC.

Spot the errors with the use of the prepositions **in** and **of** after the word *increase*.

1. New office premiums (excluding Retirement Scheme business) amounted to HK\$ 25,097 million, representing an **increase in** 23.5% over 2002.
2. Full year shareholders' earnings of Cdn\$ 378 million were up 11 per cent over 2001. The quarter's **increase in** earnings reflects the continued favourable claims experience in Group Benefits, expense efficiencies in the Individual Wealth Management and Group Benefits businesses, and contributions from the acquisition of Zurich Canada.
3. The **increase of** administrative expenses was also attributable to an **increase in** total salaries and benefits for our administrative personnel to RMB12.3 million in 2003 from RMB7 .1 million in 2002.
4. Net revenues were also significantly higher in debt underwriting, primarily due to a significant **increase of** leveraged finance activity and, to a lesser extent, an **increase in** investment-grade activity.
5. After including profits from property investments made by associated companies and adjusting for number of shares repurchased, earnings per share for 2003 amounted to HK53.9 cents. Earnings per share for 2004 amounted to HK54.2 cents, an **increase of** 0.6 per cent over 2003.

Activity 3

Read the following statements and re-write them by using the word *increase*.

- 1- The Group's profit, attributable to shareholders, rose by 1% to HK\$ 508 million (1999/2000: HK\$ 503 million) in 2003.

- 2- Commercial Banking's pre-tax profits increased by 14 per cent to US\$ 596 million as a result of lending and deposit growth.

- 3- Personal loans (reported under the 'Other' category) rose by 16.8 per cent, reflecting PFS's continued efforts to expand its consumer finance business.

- 4- The highest profit was recorded in the third quarter of 2005 when the average daily turnover value on the Stock Exchange reached the peak at \$ 20.6 billion as opposed to \$15.6 billion in the previous year.

