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Is it appropriate to use the phrase 'critique on something, in terms of a critical discussion on a certain topic or theory?' For example, "The goal of this research project is to employ the theory Adam's Fallacy as put forward by Duncan Foley (2008) in his book Adam's Fallacy, by analyzing its application among critics on Smith's pin factory model." Situating it among contemporary critiques on capitalism, as well as showing the fallacy's significance in the modern corporate life, is this correct? Or should it be "critique on that subject." Or a book on... or an essay on... But a critique of isn't wrong, whereas the other examples can't take of. (By the way, you may not have noticed the rule that you should state the source of your quotation - I suppose you didn't compose it yourself?) Hello, there! I heard someone said native speakers only say "in the bookcase" rather than "on the bookcase". Also, native speakers only say the phraseology "on the bookshelf" rather than "in the bookshelf". Is it true? If it is true, could you clarify it for me? I am unclear. Thanks for your clarification. It depends on whether you're thinking of bookcases/bookshelves as containers or as flat things. If I put something on a single shelf, I would use 'on'. If I set something on top of a low bookcase, I would again use 'on'. However, if I'm talking about the whole item as a container for books, I would say that there are lots of books in the bookcase. Thanks for your prompt clarification, Franzl. So is it possible to say I put all the books in the bookshelf. ? Thanks again! Thanks a lot! Franzl! It does not sound good to me. I would put things on a shelf, and not in a shelf; a shelf is thought of as a surface, rather than as any kind of container. A bookcase, on the other hand, is a piece of furniture which contains shelves, and you may put books in the bookcase by placing them on the bookcase's shelves. You may also place things on top of the bookcase if that is a level surface. In this picture, the items are on the shelf. As the shelf is not enclosed in anything else, to say "in the shelf" would be very odd; it would suggest that the items were actually imbedded in the wood of the shelf. In this picture of a bookcase, the books are in the bookcase; they are on shelves. In addition, a clock and a vase are on the bookcase. Last edited: 18. 06. 2009 I agree with GWB. The question of whether to use 'in' or 'on' is a frequent one in this forum. In many cases, it can be clarified by asking oneself whether something is 'in' or 'ON' top of something else. The physical locations possible limit the uses of these prepositions when one of those extra words in mind, even if they are not written! For a virtual space such as this forum, it is not critical because there is only one meaning possible and no ambiguity will arise from either. In the bookshelf sounds a little strange for a book, while "There are woodworms in the bookshelf and it will collapse soon" is OK I'm thinking "in" (inside of) a bookcase (a piece of furniture), "on" (on top of) a bookshelf (a flat slab of wood or metal). Have I missed the point? It just doesn't seem that hard. Thanks a lot for your clearifications. I am clear. Sir, I want to know that..... The books are.....the bookshelf.( use preposition... in,at,on) Please tell me that which is the correct ans. and also want to know that is the use of " in the shelf" incorrect ? The books are \_\_\_\_\_ the bookshelf. (use preposition: in, at, on) Please tell me which is the correct answer. Is the use of " in the shelf" incorrect? Welcome to the forum, Indr. A shelf is a single, horizontal surface. Do you think you could put books in it? OK, a nuance but I think it makes sense: If you have a bookshelf that has multiple shelves and you put a book on the top of the bookshelf, that would be ON the bookshelf. If you put the book in one of the shelves, that would be IN the bookshelf. Something with multiple shelves is usually called a bookcase, with the shelves often enclosed with top and sides and sometimes a glass door. bookcase - WordReference.com Dictionary of English You can put a book on a single shelf, or you can put it in the bookcase or you can put it on the top of the bookcase (that's not considered a shelf). Here's a bookcase with several shelves. I've been wondering, for quite some time, what the difference is between these three words and I hope you can aid me in this quest. Last edited: Jan 23, 2010 Hello Dubbuidub - welcome to WordReference I don't use any of these a great deal. Innate seems to be more about people/creatures and qualities they are born with (the "nate" giveaway). I can't immediately think of inherent/intrinsic differences - I assume you've checked dictionaries and there's little point in quoting definitions. Have you thought to look in a dictionary? Hi Dubbuidub - welcome from me too Try clicking the "in context" button on the entry for inherent etc in the WRP English definition dictionary. That'll take you (via Google News) to examples of the words in context. OK If something is inherent it is something essential or permanent. It has been and always will be a feature of whatever you are describing. If something is intrinsic, it's inherent. They are synonyms in their general meaning, and I had to struggle a bit to find sentences where you could not replace one with the other. Inherent also has a legal meaning, but intrinsic doesn't. Innate is a synonym for inborn and can mean natural. Its meaning overlaps the other two. As panjandrum suggested, it applies to animate rather than inanimate objects. 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With this response, I believe the question has been resolved. Intrinsic means inherent, but also essential, while inherent just means inborn in something with it's importance not being described. Inherent, to me, does not necessarily mean "inborn". It could be called a constructed characteristic, such as a procedure that is inherently safe. It couldn't be called a procedure that is innately ("inborn") safe. Inherent, to me, does not necessarily mean "inborn". It could be a constructed characteristic, such as a procedure that is inherently safe. It couldn't be called a procedure that is innately ("inborn") safe. I know inherent also applies to inanimate things, but inborn was the only word I could come up with. Thank you, I now thoroughly understand innate, but the difference between inherent and intrinsic still perplexes me a little bit. 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