Answers Unit 8

1. Some useful websites are:

   www.thetext.co.uk (Forensic Linguistics Institute)
   www.iafl.org (International Association of Forensic Linguists)
   http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/247839.stm (report of a murder case where forensic linguistics played a major role)

2. Final devoicing:
   unionss - unions
   gif - give
   boolss - pools

   /w/ - /v/:
   voarking - working

   Substitution of dental fricative by alveolar stop:
   odder - other

   Neutralisation of voicing contrasts in consonants in initial and medial position:
   gabidalists - capitalists
   sobbress - suppress
   drosts - trusts
   boolss - pools
   gompines - combines
   dake - take

   Different vowel quality:
   sobbress - suppress
   voarking - working

   Unclear:
   righdt - right

   Some of the features described above are typical of a German accent in English, i.e. final devoicing, the substitution of /w/ by /v/, the substitution of a dental fricative by an alveolar stop, and also the exaggerated pronunciation of the diphthong in *voarking*. The consistent neutralisation of voicing contrasts in initial and medial position is, however, overdone somewhat.

3. Here is a sample of errors from the translation above:

   critic > Kritik, false friend

   settle the deep cracks > wrong collocation: from *die tiefen Risse*

beseitigen?

promote for sth. > promote sth., from German *werben für?*

gets > will get/is going to get

occasions > opportunities; unawareness of semantic restrictions of *occasion?*

4. Apart from "possibility", "Möglichkeit" has a second meaning "Gelegenheit" in German which translates as "opportunity" into English. The learner producing the first example is unaware of this meaning and uses *possibility*.
   In the second example, interference from the German construction *Möglichkeit etwas zu tun* is clearly visible. The learner reproduces the German construction instead of using the correct English one *possibility of combining…*

5. Collect your own examples…

6. Native speaker (BrE) pronunciation: [ðə vɜːbəl wɪt ɪn gəʊldsmiθs vɪkə əv weɪkfiːld wɜːks veri wel]

   German accent: interference: [sə vɜrbəl vɪt ɪn gɔltsmis vɪkə əf vækfiːlt vørks veri vel]

   German accent: hypercorrection: [ðə wɜːbəl wɪt ɪn gəʊldsmiθs wɪkə əv weɪkfiːld wɜːks weri wel]

   * Words from the Continental period <u>are showing</u> early borrowing by corresponding forms in other Germanic dialects, or by their phonological form.

   It is likely to be hyper-correction. While learners sooner or later acquire the expanded forms of verbs, not least because of their frequency, the complex restrictions on the use of the progressive continue to pose a challenge even to advanced learners.

7. Here are some errors found in the examples:

   has participated: interference from German use of present perfect ("Perfekt") to denote definite past time; *already* as a direct translation of the German particle *schon* - sounds less than natural as

English *already* does not cover the focus-particle use of German *schon* ("even back in his school days..."), but merely the temporal-adverbial ones.

has taken ... a year ago: interference from German use of present perfect to denote definite past time, although the English sentence sets a time frame which clearly situates the action in the completed past.

reach a goal: interference from German "ein Ziel erreichen", which translates as "achieve/pursue a goal".

8. Try the search terms "recommendation letter", "letter of recommendation", or "reference letter" for your internet search.

9. German digital corpora can be found on the following websites:

   www.ids-mannheim.de
   www.dwds.de

   For English, there is a host of language corpora to choose from. A list of English-language corpora can be found here.

10. Version A stays close to the original not only in its meaning, but also in details of sentence structure. This makes for less fluent reading. Version B displays a much more natural style, without losing any significant meaning – the better compromise between faithfulness and readability.