Language in use I: knowledge of language

1 Defining the usage-based approach
In your own words, provide a definition of the usage-based thesis in twenty words or fewer. Make sure you include each of the following expressions in your definition: utterance, grammar, use, usage event.

2 Grammar and language change
The view advocated by cognitive linguists such as Langacker is that a grammar sanctions language use: the conventional symbolic units that make up a language license new and ongoing language use. Adopting this hypothesis, and in particular the brief discussion of partial sanction, attempt an explanation as to how Langacker’s usage-based approach accounts for language change.

3 Dived versus dove
In standard British English the past tense of the verb (to) dive is dived. In many North American varieties, the past tense form is dove.

a. Can you explain this difference in terms of the usage-based thesis developed in Chapter 5?
b. In particular, why might two major English-language speaking communities have evolved different past tense forms? Consider this in terms of the role of frequency effects discussed in section 2.5.
c. How would you go about investigating and testing the hypotheses you have come up with?