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Hello everyone, Can someone explain to me why we say Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon?butThe General Secretary of the Labour Party? What accounts for the word order of these two?Thanks in advance. Generally speaking (or speaking generally) it's the whim of the organization that establishes the name of the job or the title. If you look up both terms in Wikipedia, you will see a substantial discussion.Yours truly (or truly yours) Speaking generally, these are conflicting word orders of both mothers (or fathers) of the English language, the Romance and the Germanic branch of languages. Generally speaking, in Germanic it would General Secretary [and in German this is indeed the case, even for the UN Secretary General], while with Romanic languages Secretary General usually would be preferred. However in this case, it seems that, generally, Secretary General is preferred rather than General Secretary for most of the prestigious organisations: probably because in English most of the times there is more 'status' attributet to words going back to Romanic roots.(Check out the terms for food for that - as long as it's running around on two or four feet the Germanic term is applied, but as soon as it is served it changes its name to the Romanic root.) I haven't read the Wiki discussions. But the connotations, for me, are: Secretary General: international organisation; important personage General Secretary: national organisation especially Trade Union; down-to-earth. General Secretary: national organisation especially Trade Union; down-to-earth. Note that Nikita Khrushchev and Mikhail Gorbachev held the post of general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union(I'm not sure what that illustrates as anything other than somebody whose title was "general secretary.") Thank you all for your help. And Loob, you could have written the article on Wiki, because it sums up this way:Secretary General = international organisationsGeneral Secretary = national organisations, unions, associations, churches... Not only international organizations. As it is the case with notary public. Moon Palace, don't leap to conclusions or try to create "rules" for English usages where there are none. The titles of officials of groupswhether they are international organizations, political parties, labor unions, social clubs, or anything elseare up to the groups. There are no rules. If you once studied spanish, perhaps you will understand the difference. In the context of this language normally one should put the adjective behind the noun, so the group represents the original meaning. When one puts the adjective before the noun, sometimes it could get the new meaning unlike the original explanation of the word. Hi forum!!!! I have always used: General Manager; General Director; General Administrator But, now looking into the dictionary for a translation I found: Secretary General; Attorney GeneralI was sure it should be: General Secretary and General Attorney Why? How to know when to put General before or after the noun? Thanks in advance for your help. As usual, context is everything, but here's a start toward understanding.In your first group of examples (General Manager; General Director; General Administrator) general is an adjective describing the following noun. A general manager manages the over-all, non-specific, affairs of an enterprise. Your second group are complete titles. Here, general is a noun with a bit of the military sense of being the ultimate authority, or topmost administrator. Ban Ki Moon is Secretary General of the United Nations. Secretary General is his title and both words together make up the title.I'm smoe others can add to this. I think the general here is still an adjective, but with the "old" French word order, as found still in the above examples and in court martial. They are holdovers from an earlier era. " I was sure it should be: General Secretary and General Attorney" - you were right! It should also be Martial court, just like martial art - BUT it's not - it's court martial My view on this is as per the below example: A general secretary is just secretary who does general jobs like typing, posting mail, making coffee, doing photocopying etc. Whereas, a Secretary-General is an official title of a very senior, probably the most senior administrator of an organisation. As always...Thanks for all your suggestions!!! Do they all work in this conversation that I made up? A: Tom, how's your new job?B: Generally I love it, but the boss is a bit annoying.B: In general I love it, but the boss is a bit annoying.B: On the whole I love it, but the boss is a bit annoying.B: The second may barely be acceptable, and the third isn't. And which work in this context? I generally agree with you. Yes, Tom isn't a bright student, but he is the friendliest student I've ever known.In general I agree with you. Yes, Tom isn't a bright student, but he is the friendliest student I've ever known. Only the second and third. As kentix pointed out, "generally" describes a pattern, and "agree" doesn't indicate a pattern in those examples, it just indicates agreement with a specific statement. "I generally agree with you, but this time I don't."The past pattern is that I usually have the same opinion as you. This time is an exception. So do you like this Longman example? I can't see any pattern in it. It was generally a positive conversation. You have a valid point there. This is a slightly different use of "generally", which is often preceded by "it is" or "it was". Another example: "It's generally believed that smoking causes cancer". And would 'in general' work? In general, it was a positive conversation. And how about this Cambride example? Does it have a pattern like in every interview you take?Lack of experience will generally count against you in an interview.Would 'in general' and "on the whole" work in it? No, they wouldn't. I found these two definitions in Collins Dictionary, which may help to make this tricky language point a bit clearer. I hope:1. generally 2. in general And how about this Cambride example? Does it have a pattern like in every interview you take?Lack of experience will generally count against you in an interview. It's a pattern in all interviews taken as an average. "You" is the generic "you" representing people in general. If you study interviews and map the outcome of people with experience and people lacking experience, the result is that, more often than not (that's the pattern), the people without experience have worse outcomes. It's not every time, because sometimes other factors are more important, but it's what is to be expected in the usual circumstances. And does "overall" work in both examples? I guess it works in the first only, right? A: Tom, how's your new job?B: In general I love it, but the boss is a bit annoying.B: Overall I love it, but the boss is a bit annoying. I generally agree with you, but this time I don't.Overall I agree with you, but this time I don't. The first two answers look fine to me, with 'In general'. . . perhaps sounding a little more likely.You're right to mark the last sentence as wrong. Greetings!What is the difference between "common interest" and "general interest"?When can they be interchangeable?When can they not be interchangeable? Examples I could find:macmillandictionary.com(1a) club an organization for people who have a common interest in a particular activity or subjectMy variant:(1b) club an organization for people who have a general interest in a particular activity or subjectI doceonline.com(2a) As a foreigner and a teacher, I was the object of general interest and respect.My variant:(2b) As a foreigner and a teacher, I was the object of common interest and respect. Are (1b) and (2b) correct? If not, then why not?Thanks! They mean different things. A common interest is a set expression, meaning an interest shared by two or more people, an interest that they have in common. A similar set expression is that two or more people have a common purpose; they both/all have the same purpose.A general interest is not a set expression. Its just a random phrase that you might have occasion to use in a particular context.So your 1b does not mean the same as 1a. And 2b demonstrates a misunderstanding of the phrase common interest. A common interest is [...] an interest shared by two or more people [...]. Why is this definition of "common interest" not appropriate for "general interest" in (2a)? (2a) As a foreigner and a teacher, I was the object of general interest and respect. The speaker in (2a) represented an interest for people, i.e. the same as you wrote: "an interest shared by two or more people".Thanks. No, its not the same. A common interest is a countable use, with the specific meaning of being shared by a particular group of people. General interest is an uncountable use which is quite the opposite of specific. (2a) As a foreigner and a teacher, I was the object of general interest and respect. The speaker in (2a) was the object of general interest, i.e. represented an interest for people, i.e. represented an interest shared by two or more people. Why is this chain wrong?Thanks! Its not wrong at all. But it doesnt imply a common/shared interest. It means interest in general, fairly widespread interest. Two people can have a common interest in the shoelaces of Arctic explorers. It is an interest that they share. It is a topic that they are both interested in. The shoelaces of Arctic explorers is not a topic of general interest. It is not a topic that people in general are interested in. I read your explanation of "common interest". A common interest is a set expression, meaning an interest shared by two or more people, an interest that they have in common. A similar set expression is that two or more people have a common purpose; they both/all have the same purpose. A common interest is a countable use, with the specific meaning of being shared by a particular group of people. Also, I read your explanation of "general interest". A general interest is not a set expression. Its just a random phrase that you might have occasion to use in a particular context. General interest is an uncountable use which is quite the opposite of specific. It means interest in general, fairly widespread interest. From these explanations I draw two conclusions:I have probably understood the meaning of "common interest",but I couldn't understand the meaning of "general interest" at all.Could you please explain to me the meaning of "general interest" in more details?Thanks. Myridon explains it clearly in #7. The weather is a topic of general interest. Everyone wants to know what the weather forecast is. Everyone can talk about whether it's hot or cold. If you meet a stranger on the street, you can talk about the weather. You are not going to form a friendship with someone because they are interested in the weather. If you went on a date with someone and they talked about the weather the whole time, you would think they were boring.Not everyone likes the same football team. If you went on a date and the other person talked about your favorite football team, you would think they were interesting because you share a specific interest in the same football team. The two of you have a common interest.common - WordReference.com Dictionary of English 1 belonging equally to, or shared alike by: We all have a common objective, to stop the mayor's reelection....3 widespread; general; universal: There was common understanding that he would be promoted. In the phrase "common interest", "common" has meaning 1 (shared), not meaning 3 (the opposite of "rare"). The weather is a topic of general interest. Everyone wants to know what the weather forecast is. Everyone can talk about whether it's hot or cold. If you meet a stranger on the street, you can talk about the weather. You are not going to form a friendship with someone because they are interested in the weather. If you went on a date with someone and they talked about the weather the whole time, you would think they were boring.Not everyone likes the same football team. If you went on a date and the other person talked about your favorite football team, you would think they were interesting because you share a specific interest in the same football team. The two of you have a common interest. Therefore:The weather is a topic of general interest.A football team some people like is a topic of common interest of these people.One of the meanings of "general" from dictionary.com with an example:general of or relating to all persons or things belonging to a group or category:a general meeting of the employeesBut by your logic:Work some employees do is not a topic of general interest, because it's a topic of common interest of these employees. Hence:a general meeting of the employees - incorrect (although the dictionary says this phrase is correct)a common meeting of the employees - correct (I myself don't know whether it's correct or not)Could you help me to deal with this?Thanks! Youre trying to apply your own logic rather than taking note of how these expressions are actually used. They dont mean the same and they are not interchangeable.A competent English speaker would only call something a common interest to convey that it was an interest shared by a specific group of people. If they simply wanted to say that a certain topic was of interest to a wide variety of different people, then they wouldnt use the expression common interest because thats not what it means.If you want to discuss the words common and general on their own, it would be a good idea to start a new thread for that. Work some employees do is not a topic of general interest, because it's a topic of common interest of these employees. Hence:a general meeting of the employees - incorrect (although the dictionary says this phrase is correct)a common meeting of the employees - correct (I myself don't know whether it's correct or not)These sentences don't use 'common' and 'general' in the way that those words are used in the phrases 'general interest' and 'common interest.' One can't assume that a meaning in one idiomatic expression or context will make sense in another context. I suppose that's true to some extent in all languages. Work some employees do is not a topic of general interest, because it's a topic of common interest of these employees. Hence:a general meeting of the employees - incorrect (although the dictionary says this phrase is correct)a common meeting of the employees - correct (I myself don't know whether it's correct or not) I disagree. A general meeting is a meeting for general purposes. I have no idea what "a common meeting" is. I did a double-take at that too. But I think Roxxx was just quoting what lovil said?(Neither of those phrases makes much sense to me.) Yes, I was quoting lovi and focusing on the use of 'hence' in #11. 'A general meeting of employees' by itself is not incorrect. But the logic that 'work some employees do is not a topic of general interest' and therefore 'a general meeting of employees' is incorrect is faulty. It doesn't really mean anything because you just now invented it by substituting words. I suppose it would mean the members' interest in the topic is not specific or rather vague. They don't care about it that much or some members care about different parts of the topic. If you had a club about the weather, some people would belong because they liked tornadoes, some because they like snow, ... They don't really have an interest in common. They are just generally interested in the same general (non-specific, unfocused) topic. (1b) club an organization for people who have a general interest in a particular activity or subjectAs Newt says, it doesnt mean anything very sensible. On the contrary, it suggests a club for people who are not seriously interested in the topic or activity about which the club was formed. >> 4.31) 4.31. Los títulos, cargos y nombres de dignidad, como rey, papa, duque, presidente, ministro, etc., que normalmente se escriben con minúscula (6.9), pueden aparecer en determinados casos escritos con mayúscula. As, es frecuente, aunque no obligatorio, que estas palabras se escriban con mayúscula cuando se emplean referidas a una persona concreta, sin mención expresa de su nombre propio: El Rey inaugurar la nueva biblioteca, El Papa visitar la India en su próximo viaje. Por otra parte, por razones de respeto, los títulos de los miembros de la familia reinante en España suelen escribirse con mayúscula, aunque vayan seguidos del nombre propio de la persona que los posee, al igual que los tratamientos de don y doña a ellos referidos: el Rey Don Juan Carlos, el Príncipe Felipe, la Infanta Doña Cristina. También es costumbre particular de las leyes, decretos y documentos oficiales, por razones de solemnidad, escribir con mayúsculas las palabras de este tipo: el Rey de España, el Jefe del Estado, el Presidente del Gobierno, el Secretario de Estado de Comercio. Por último, es muy frecuente que los cargos de cierta categoría se escriban con mayúscula en el encabezamiento de las cartas dirigidas a las personas que los ocupan. Hello everyone, Can I use "in general" and "in particular" in one sentence? "I think that video games, in general, are super popular and this one in particular."Thank you so much in advance for your help. It sounds fine, but "super popular" sounds a bit childish to my ears. "Extremely popular" or "very popular" would be my preferences. No. That would mean that it was particularly, in general, popular. "I think that video games, in general, are super popular and this one in particular is super popular." Oh OK. Thank you Packard. No. That would mean that it was particularly, in general, popular."I think that video games, in general, are super popular and this one in particular is super popular." Is it ok to use super popular twice in the same sentence and short one at that!? It wouldn't be wordy? Can I say: " I think that video games, in general, are super popular and this one in particular is too."PaulQ It is not like I know English better than you hhhh, I am just asking. Thank you for your understanding and help really. Is it ok to use super popular twice in the same sentence and short one at that!? It wouldn't be wordy? If a word is the single best word to use in the sentence, then use the word as required.Note that I have used "word" three times in the above sentence. What other word would have worked as well? If a word is the single best word to use in the sentence, then use the word as required.Note that I have used "word" three times in the above sentence. What other word would have worked as well? Again, I don't know English better than you, but I would say: " If a word is the single best option to use in the sentence, then use the it as required." What do you think ? "I think that video games, in general, are super popular and this one in particular is super popular." "In particular" has to signify a difference. I'm thinking Paul made a slight mistake repeating the whole phrase but he can tell us. I would say something like:"I think that video games, in general, are super popular and this one in particular is super popular."super > very Ok thank you Kentix. "Super", when used like this sounds childish to me. I am OK with "super sonic", but not so much with "super popular". "Extremely popular" sounds much better to me. "In general" or "Generally speaking", the people live in the cities are more materialistic than tpe people live in rural areas.Are they bive us more appropriate? Thank you! They're both correct.Separately, the next part of the sentence should begin "... people who live in cities ..." If the context is formal writing, then I think "In general" is the better choice.In everyday spoken language, you will hear both. Can we use "Generally speaking" in writing? Please give us the complete sentence, in context Suppose. I'm chatting with someone and he asks me " will police come to my house" Can I say(write) "Generally speaking, police don't come on such small matters.I mean, can I use "Generally speaking" in written english. You can. But there are less wordy options. I would say "In general, police don't..." or just "Generally, police don't..." T You can. But there are less wordy options. I would say "In general, police don't..." or just "Generally, police don't..." Thanks to help anthoc, would the use of "generally speaking" be wrong? No, it is not wrong. I am just pointing out that you can accomplish the same thing in fewer words. In most, if not all contexts, "Generally" and "Generally speaking" are going to mean the same thing. I'm the 'generally' clan. The reason is as Anthox says, 'generally' could work here more succinctly.'Generally speaking' in your context doesn't even read well either. Last edited: May 17, 2019 No, it is not wrong. I am just pointing out that you can accomplish the same thing in fewer words. In most, if not all contexts, "Generally" and "Generally speaking" are going to mean the same thing. Okay, I got it thanks to help. I know a lot of way of saying the same. I just wanted to know whether it is right or wrong in written english.

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