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In this sentence: Only about a half dozen storms generate the strong, circling winds of 75 miles per hour. I'm wondering whether "generate" can be replaced by "cause" or not. I can feel that they have some differences, but I can't tell exactly what they are... Do you know what I'm talking about? My English isn't good enough... Anyway, thank you for your help. Is this something you read or wrote yourself? We like to know the source of the text quoted in a question. The point being made is that the strong circling winds are part of the storm and are made by it. The storm rotates, and creates, or generates, circling winds. Only a few storms are powerful enough to generate 75 mph winds. If the storm "caused" the circling winds they could be somewhere else or even at a different time. Andygc, thank you for your answer! It solved my question! Besides, the sentence I quoted is from my translation homework. My teacher said that it is from an English reading book. Do you need the name of the book? Let's look at some facts: computers generate a lot of heat. Generally speaking, the faster your computer, the warmer it will run. This plays havoc with the guts of your machine. (How often should you turn off your PC? - DIGITAL LIFE) Is it correct to say "throw off a lot of heat" to mean "generate a lot of heat"? There is a difference. The statement that they generate a lot of heat is correct. What happens to that heat? Perhaps the computer throws it off, perhaps it is conducted away by something like a liquid cooling system, or perhaps the computer just gets hotter. In the given statement, the computer will run warmer because of the heat that is generated, but is not thrown off or removed in some other way. Last edited: Jun 25, 2018 Closer to the meaning "generate" heat is throw out heat. The word 'generate' is closer to 'produce'. The computers produce heat, which may cause problems, as Egmont explains. Thank you so much for the responses, everyone. You are using an out of date browser. It may not display this or other websites correctly. You should upgrade or use an alternative browser. Thread starter jossaraf Start date Feb 1, 2011 Hi everyone, I have a question about the preposition match of "generate" when I write a paper. "Moreover, it presents an approach to generate adversarial patches to targets with lots of intra-class variety and successfully hides a person from a person detector." Is it right and natural to use "to"? I am not sure. Thank you! Is it right and natural to use "to"? I am not sure. Neither am I. You probably need to provide members with a little more information about this unusual sentence if you want to get a decent answer. It is normal to talk about generating something from within another thing. Generating something to something else sounds very unusual. Are you referring to sending these adversarial patches to the targets with some sort of electronic beam or something like that? I think it's the patches that are patches to targets, i.e. the targets are being patched, and those patches are being generated, so the structure is not that something is being generated to something. Neither am I. You probably need to provide members with a little more information about this unusual sentence if you want to get a decent answer. It is normal to talk about generating something from within another thing. Thank you for your answer. It may be not well-understood because it is from an academic paper about computer science. The meaning of the sentence is that the approach generates adversarial patches - which is a term in the area and means some perturbations. And the patches are applied to (which is why I used "generate A to B") the targets, something like images, which cause image perturbations. So, in this case, which preposition should I use? Thank you! I think it's the patches that are patches to targets, i.e. the targets are being patched, and those patches are being generated, so the structure is not that something is being generated to something. Thank you for your answers. Seems here not "patches to targets". So, in this case, which preposition should I use? Thank you, Ming Bei. It might be a little clearer to say that the approach generates patches which are then applied to the targets. You might look at other research papers in this field and verify that other people are using generate X to Y. If they are, you should also be able to use the shorter expression without causing any unnecessary confusion. Thank you, Ming Bei. It might be a little clearer to say that the approach generates patches which are then applied to the targets. You might look at other research papers in this field and verify that other people are using generate X to Y. If they are, you should also be able to use the shorter expression without causing any unnecessary confusion. Okay, Thank you!