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Seeing the glass half full: Using a learner corpus for development of writing skills

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Outline

- Why the glass half-full?
- What is a corpus? (and what you can get from it)
- How can you use a corpus in a writing class?
- Online resources for independent learning



What is your first reaction to this text?

Many corporations benefit a lot from the telecommuting, from employees' perspectives, firstly, in this way, the time spend on transportation could be saved, that means the staffs would get more time to cope with the projects and documents which are related to work, the productivity could be boosted to a great extent. At the same time, more time staying at home help employees keep work-life balance and strengthen the band between families. For the employer, at first, they cut down enormous expense on the workplace renting, electric charge, water charge, etc., and more budget could be turn to the welfare of the staffs', it is a reasonable way to attract more talent staffs.





Q.1

STUDENT

LUYJID29N

JOIN ROOM



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This used to be mine...

My writing
sucks...

Many corporations benefit ~~a lot~~ from ~~the~~ telecommuting, ~~ffrom the~~ employees' perspectives, ~~firstly, in this way~~, the ~~time~~ spent on transportation could be saved, ~~T~~that means the staffs would ~~get~~ more ~~time~~ to cope with the projects and documents which are related to work, ~~Thus, the~~ productivity could be boosted to a great extent. At the same ~~time~~, more ~~time~~ staying at home helps employees keep work-life balance and strengthen the ~~boand~~ between families. For the ~~employer~~, at first, ~~they~~ cut down enormous expense on ~~the~~ workplace renting, electric charge, water charge, etc., and more budget could be turned to the welfare of the staffs', ~~I~~it is a reasonable way to attract more talented staffs.

Sorry...



Paragraph Structure

Cohesive devices

Supporting details

Elaboration of ideas

Instances of academic lexis

Evidence of complex structures
(passive voice, hedging)

Punctuation

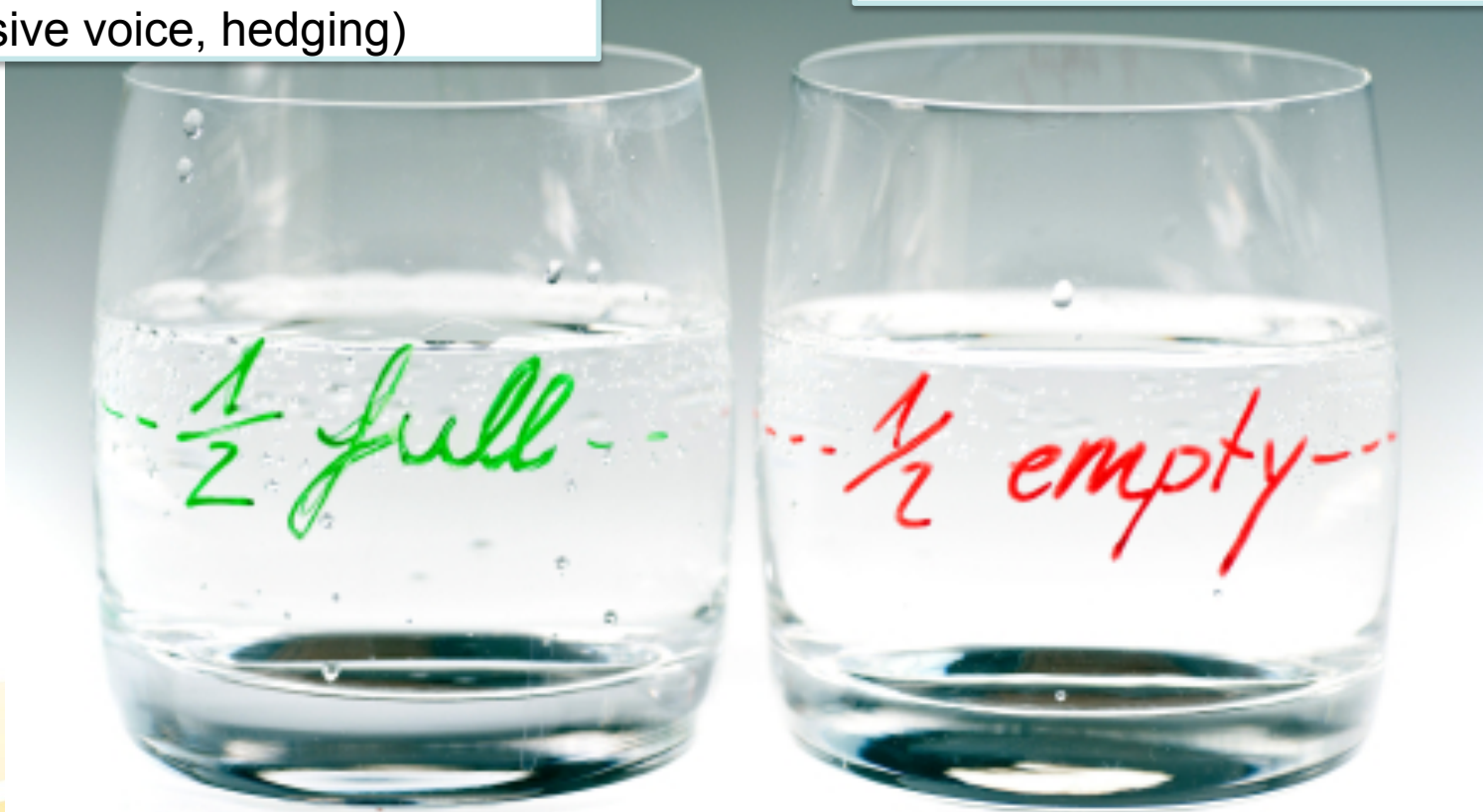
Use of articles

Verb forms

Subject + verb agreement

Instances of non-academic lexis

Plural forms



Compare it to this model

Telecommuting offers the possibility of significant economic benefits. By reducing the demand for mass transit, telecommuting minimises the cost of expanding expensive transportation infrastructure. Fewer cars on the road may also lead to a reduction in pollution and traffic accidents. This will help to alleviate the negative economic consequences associated with urbanisation. Furthermore, both employers and teleworkers themselves can benefit from valuable cost savings too. The reduced need for office space, higher staff retention rates as well as lower work-related travel expenses all contribute to a strong financial argument in favour of telecommuting.

But can we measure the difference?

% of academic lexis

- in this student sample?
- in the previous model?



Q. 2-3



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Free Photoshop PSD file download
Resolution: 1200x1024 px
www.psdgraphics.com

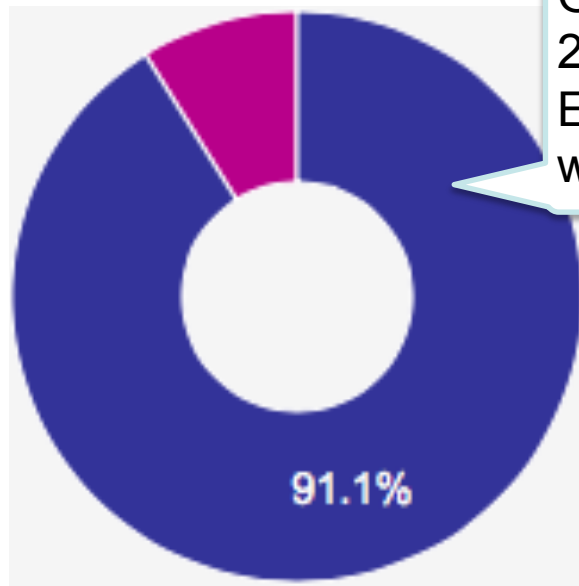
Three ways about it

- New General Service List (Brezina & Gablasova 2013)
2500 most frequent English words
- Academic Word List (Coxhead 2000)
most frequent words in academic corpus
not in the GSL 2000
- Readability Test Tool
years of education required to understand a text
word length (syllables, letters)
sentence length



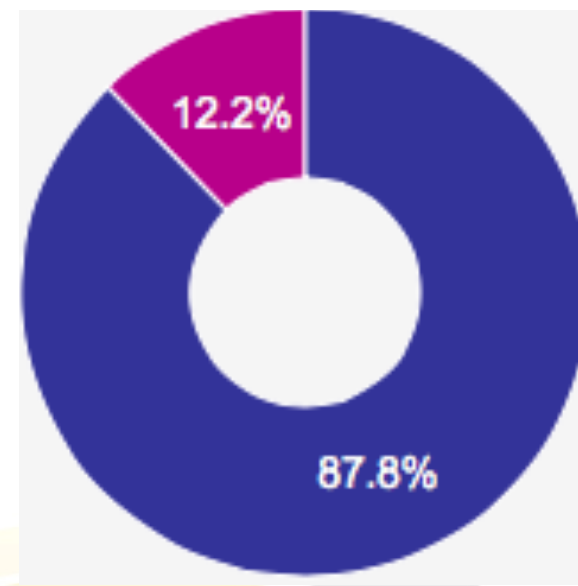
The New GSL

Student sample



GSL
2500 core
English
words

model

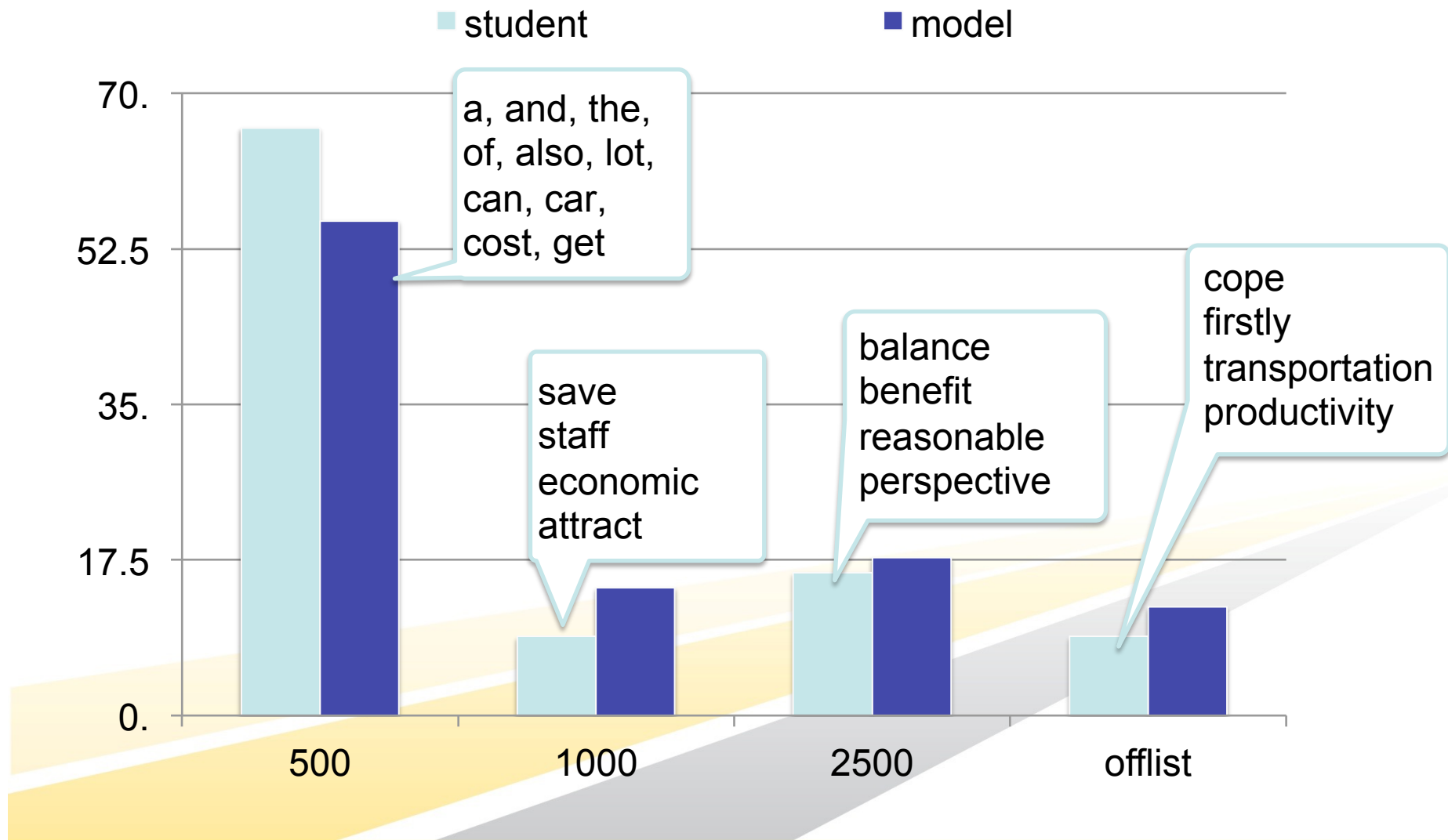


<http://corpora.lancs.ac.uk/vocab>



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A bit more detail



Academic Word List

#Word Types: 18
#Word Tokens: 25

8.6%

#Word Types: 9
#Word Tokens: 10

1	2	trend
2	1	access
3	1	affect
4	1	approach
5	1	benefit
6	1	enormous
7	1	furthermore
8	1	undertake
9	1	welfare

6.1%

1	4	economic
2	3	benefits
3	2	benefit
4	2	positive
5	1	approach
6	1	contribute
7	1	financial
8	1	flexible
9	1	furthermore
10	1	infrastructure
11	1	major
12	1	potential
13	1	professional
14	1	promote
15	1	pursue
16	1	rigid
17	1	transit
18	1	trend



The Readability Test Tool

The Model

This page has an average grade level of about 15.

It should be easily understood by 20 to 21 year olds.

The Student's

This page has an average grade level of about 14.

It should be easily understood by 19 to 20 year olds.

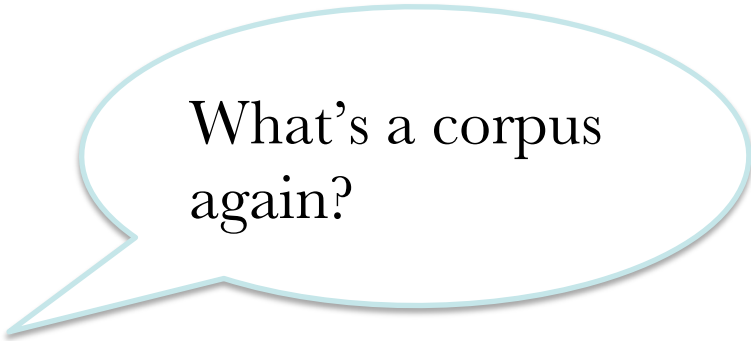


Text Statistics

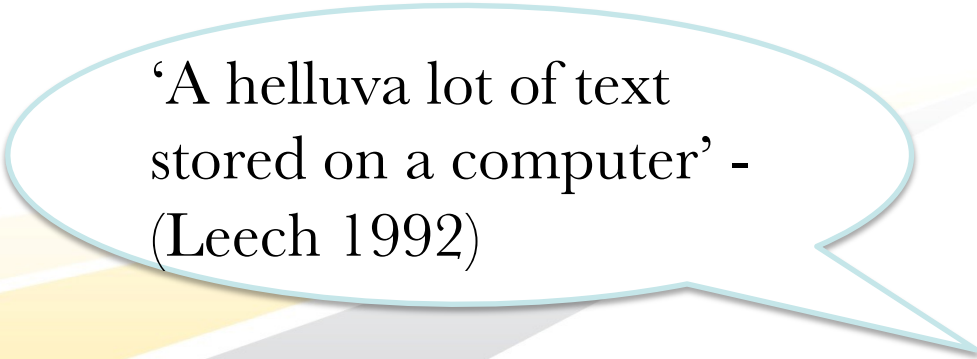
	Model	Student's
N° of sentences	17	11
N° of words	321	275
N° of complex words	92	51
Percent of complex words	28.66%	18.55%
Average words per sentence	18.88	25
Average syllables per word	1.89	1.57

But can I measure progress?

- Yes, with a Learner Corpus



What's a corpus
again?



‘A helluva lot of text
stored on a computer’ -
(Leech 1992)



The UEEC4 Corpus

- Writing Practice from UEECxx to UEECx (~300 words each)
- Entry 5.5 IELTS
- collected via email
- stored in separate week folders



What else?

‘A concordancer makes the invisible visible’
(Tribble 1990)



AntConc

A freeware corpus analysis toolkit for concordancing and text analysis.

[\[AntConc Homepage\]](#) [\[Screenshots\]](#) [\[Help\]](#)

Downloads:

- [Windows \(3.4.4\)](#)
- [Macintosh OS X 10.7-10.10 \(3.4.3\)](#)
- [Macintosh OS X 10.6 \(3.4.1\)](#)
- [Linux \(3.4.3\)](#)
- [Older versions](#)

<http://www.laurenceanthony.net/software.html>



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What kind of information do you think you can obtain from a concordancer?

Free Photoshop PSD file download
Resolution: 1024x1024 px
www.psdgraphics.com



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Corpus Files

10.9.2_alina_energy.txt
10.9.2_Bingqian_energy.txt
10.9.2_Bred_energy-2.txt
10.9.2_coca_energy-2.txt
10.9.2_Evelyn_energy-2.txt
10.9.2_Fan_energy.txt
10.9.2_Isaac_energy.txt
10.9.2_Jeremy_energy.txt
10.9.2_Juno_energy-2.txt
10.9.2_Lambert_energy.txt
10.9.2_listingvi_energy.txt
10.9.2_mohammed_energy-
10.9.2_shaymaa_energy.txt
10.9.2_shi_energy.txt
10.9.2_Simo_energy-2.txt
10.9.2_Torres_energy.txt
10.9.2_vickey_energy.txt

Total No.

17

Files Processed

Concordance

Concordance Plot

File View

Clusters/N-Grams

Collocates

Word List

Keyword List

Word Types: 885

Word Tokens: 4806

Search Hits: 0

Rank	Freq	Word	Lemma Word Form(s)
1	280	the	
2	221	of	
3	169	energy	
4	125	in	
5	123	coal	
6	110	and	
7	110	to	
8	98	is	
9	81	that	
10	76	a	
11	71	australia	
12	62	for	
13	55	diversification	
14	54	be	
15	51	sources	
16	49	economy	
17	45	it	
18	44	as	
19	42	by	
20	41	can	
21	37	will	

Search Term ☒ Words ☐ Case ☐ Regex

Hit Location

Advanced

Search Only

0

Start

Stop

Sort

Lemma List

☐ LoadedSort by ☐ Invert Order

Sort by Freq

Clone Results



Corpus Files

10.9.2_alina_energy.txt
 10.9.2_Bingqian_energy.txt
 10.9.2_Bred_energy-2.txt
 10.9.2_coca_energy-2.txt
 10.9.2_Evelyn_energy-2.txt
 10.9.2_Fan_energy.txt
 10.9.2_Isaac_energy.txt
 10.9.2_Jeremy_energy.txt
 10.9.2_Juno_energy-2.txt
 10.9.2_Lambert_energy.txt
 10.9.2_listingvi_energy.txt
 10.9.2_mohammed_energy-
 10.9.2_shaymaa_energy.txt
 10.9.2_shi_energy.txt
 10.9.2_Simo_energy-2.txt
 10.9.2_Torres_energy.txt
 10.9.2_vickey_energy.txt

Total No.

17

Files Processed

Concordance

Concordance Plot

File View

Clusters/N-Grams

Collocates

Word List

Keyword List

Concordance Hits 169

Hit	KWIC	File
1	Energy	10.9.2_alinc
2	To start with, the diversification of energy resources will play a vital role	10.9.2_alinc
3	Although black coal is the essential energy in this country currently, it is	10.9.2_alinc
4	there is no doubt that using renewable energy like wind, sun, hydro, wave, geo	10.9.2_alinc
5	Another related cause of investing in energy diversification is for economy. I	10.9.2_alinc
6	From economics and society, the demand for energy resources showed a continuous up	10.9.2_alinc
7	As Wu et al (2009) points out, primary energy resources like coal are recogniz	10.9.2_alinc
8	. As a result, exploiting a mix of energy resources is indispensable. Like	10.9.2_alinc
9	the benefits of the diversification of energy resources in Australia is perhap	10.9.2_alinc
10	els, which could satisfy this country's energy demand for a long time. If govern	10.9.2_alinc
11	and invests resources in research new energy, undoubtedly it makes little sen	10.9.2_alinc
12	onmental impacts caused by traditional energy could be reduced as far as to	10.9.2_alinc
13	een pointed out, the diversification of energy resources is costly and not nece	10.9.2_alinc
14	There are several advantages of energy diversification. Nicholls(2009) :	10.9.2_Bingc
15	on. Nicholls(2009) suggests that clean energy is beneficial to the economic g	10.9.2_Bingc
16	Harding(2008), who is the supporter of energy diversification, claiming that	10.9.2_Bingc
17	ould strive for the promotion of clean energy rather than that of fossil fuels	10.9.2_Bingc
18	so in favor of the diversification of energy resource. They predict that the	10.9.2_Bingc
19	ation, state security, and security of energy supply. Those suggestions have d	10.9.2_Bingc
20	have demonstrated the superiorities of energy diversification. On the other h	10.9.2_Bingc
21	alia absolutely satisfies the national energy needs. Replacing coal with renew	10.9.2_Bingc
22	ow needs. Replacing coal with renewable energy may affect the development of Au	10.9.2_Binac

Search Term ☒ Words ☐ Case ☐ Regex

Search Window Size

energy

Advanced

50

Start

Stop

Sort

Kwic Sort

☒ Level 1 1R ☒ Level 2 2R ☒ Level 3 3R

Clone Results



10.9.2. alina_energy.txt
10.9.2. Bingqian_energy.txt
10.9.2. Bred_energy-2.txt
10.9.2. coca_energy-2.txt
10.9.2. Evelyn_energy-2.txt
10.9.2. Fan_energy.txt
10.9.2. Isaac_energy.txt
10.9.2. Jeremy_energy.txt
10.9.2. Juno_energy-2.txt
10.9.2. Lambert_energy.txt
10.9.2. listingvi_energy.txt
10.9.2. mohammed_energy-
10.9.2. shaymaa_energy.txt
10.9.2. shi_energy.txt
10.9.2. Simo_energy-2.txt
10.9.2. Torres_energy.txt
10.9.2. vickey_energy.txt

Files Processed

Keyword List

Hit	KWIC	File
46	economics and society, the demand for energy resources showed a co	10.9.2_alinc
47	et al(2009) point out, the demand for energy resource will increas	10.9.2_Bred_
48	reasons such as this, using coal for energy is suitable for Austr	10.9.2_Bred_
49	however, continuing to consume coal for energy production can remain	10.9.2_Isaac
50	ives from the continuity of demand for energy resources is using a	10.9.2_shayn
51	. al. (2009) point out, the demand for energy is far more than the	10.9.2_Simo_
52	mental friendly. Coal and fossil fuels energy industry have already	10.9.2_Fan_e
53	Australia has generated energy by primary coal consu	10.9.2_Isaac
54	ital reasons. The use of multiple green energy promotes Australia's	10.9.2_Isaac
55	of coal to diverse use of green energy. There are some attit	10.9.2_Isaac
56	of coal by the diversification of green energy resources may result	10.9.2_Isaac
57	implement and predominated use of green energy resources to prepare	10.9.2_Isaac
58	fossil fuels. First and foremost, green energy provides sustainable	10.9.2_Lambe
59	onomy can be created by advancing green energy sources. Furthermore,	10.9.2_Lambe
60	green house. With the use of green energy, carbon dioxide emiss	10.9.2_vicke
61	and are sufficient to meet the growing energy needs for a signific	10.9.2_coca_
62	coal energy is still the most important energy source in Australia,	10.9.2_Fan_e
63	Another related cause of investing in energy diversification is fo	10.9.2_alinc
64	major benefit of the diversification in energy sources is a reductio	10.9.2_mohan
65	g reason for Australia to diversify its energy sources. As a result,	10.9.2_coca_
66	10.9.2_Juno_ energy There are a number of	10.9.2_Juno_
67	economy increasing rapidly. Likewise, energy diversification still	10.9.2_Fan_e
68	Australia the black coal as a main energy source which support	10.9.2_vicke
69	Due to depletion in many energy sources throughout th	10.9.2_mohan
70	expend coal mine, which means that mix energy is necessary to supp	10.9.2_Evely
71	means more types of energy or mix energy should be use to powe	10.9.2_Torre
72	alia absolutely satisfies the national energy needs. Replacing coal	10.9.2_Bingc
73	coal in Australia can satisfy national energy demands beyond 21st c	10.9.2_listi
74	and invests resources in research new energy, undoubtedly it makes	10.9.2_alinc
75		10.9.2_Bred_

Clone Results

Corpus Files

10.9.2_alina_energy.txt
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 10.9.2_Bred_energy-2.txt
 10.9.2_coca_energy-2.txt
 10.9.2_Evelyn_energy-2.txt
 10.9.2_Fan_energy.txt
 10.9.2_Isaac_energy.txt
 10.9.2_Jeremy_energy.txt
 10.9.2_Juno_energy-2.txt
 10.9.2_Lambert_energy.txt
 10.9.2_listingvi_energy.txt
 10.9.2_mohammed_energy-
 10.9.2_shaymaa_energy.txt
 10.9.2_shi_energy.txt
 10.9.2_Simo_energy-2.txt
 10.9.2_Torres_energy.txt
 10.9.2_vickey_energy.txt

Total No.
17
Files Processed

Concordance

Concordance Plot

File View

Clusters/N-Grams

Collocates

Word List

Keyword List

Concordance Hits 169

Total Plots 0

HIT FILE: 1 FILE: 10.9.2_alina_energy.txt



No. of Hits = 13

File Length (in chars) = 2328

HIT FILE: 2 FILE: 10.9.2_Bingqian_energy.txt



No. of Hits = 9

File Length (in chars) = 1590

HIT FILE: 3 FILE: 10.9.2_Bred_energy-2.txt



No. of Hits = 14

File Length (in chars) = 2334

HIT FILE: 4 FILE: 10.9.2_coca_energy-2.txt



No. of Hits = 13

File Length (in chars) = 1999

HIT FILE: 5 FILE: 10.9.2_Evelyn_energy-2.txt



No. of Hits = 6

File Length (in chars) = 1620

HIT FILE: 6 FILE: 10.9.2_Fan_energy.txt



No. of Hits = 11

File Length (in chars) = 1488

HIT FILE: 7 FILE: 10.9.2_Isaac_energy.txt



No. of Hits = 18

File Length (in chars) = 3364

HIT FILE: 8 FILE: 10.9.2_Jeremy_energy.txt



No. of Hits = 6

File Length (in chars) = 1602

HIT FILE: 9 FILE: 10.9.2_Juno_energy-2.txt



No. of Hits = 9

File Length (in chars) = 1926

Search Term



Words



Case



Regex

Plot Zoom

energy

Advanced

x1



Start

Stop

Corpus Files

10.9.2_alina_energy.txt
 10.9.2_Bingqian_energy.b
 10.9.2_Bred_energy-2.txt
 10.9.2_coca_energy-2.txt
 10.9.2_Evelyn_energy-2.t
 10.9.2_Fan_energy.txt
 10.9.2_Isaac_energy.txt
 10.9.2_Jeremy_energy.txt
 10.9.2_Juno_energy-2.txt
 10.9.2_Lambert_energy.tx
 10.9.2_mohammed_energ
 10.9.2_shaymaa_energy.t
 10.9.2_shi_energy.txt
 10.9.2_Torres_energy.txt
 10.9.2_vickey_clean%20ei

Total No.

15

Files Processed

Concordanc

Concordance Plo

File View

Clusters/N-Gram

Collocate

Word Lis

Keyword Lis

Total No. of Cluster Types 29

Total No. of Cluster Tokens 155

Rank	Freq	Range	Cluster
1	37	12	energy sources
2	19	6	energy resources
3	12	8	energy sources in
4	12	8	energy sources in australia
5	8	7	energy is
6	7	4	energy diversification
7	7	6	energy source
8	7	6	energy sources is
9	4	3	energy resources is
10	3	3	energy can
11	3	2	energy needs
12	2	2	energy demand
13	2	2	energy diversification is
14	2	2	energy economy
15	2	2	energy for

Search Term



Words



Case



Regex



N-Grams

Cluster Size

energy

Advanced

Min. 2

Max. 4

Start

Stop

Sort

Min. Freq.

Min. Range

Sort by



Invert Order

Search Term Position

Sort by Freq



On Left

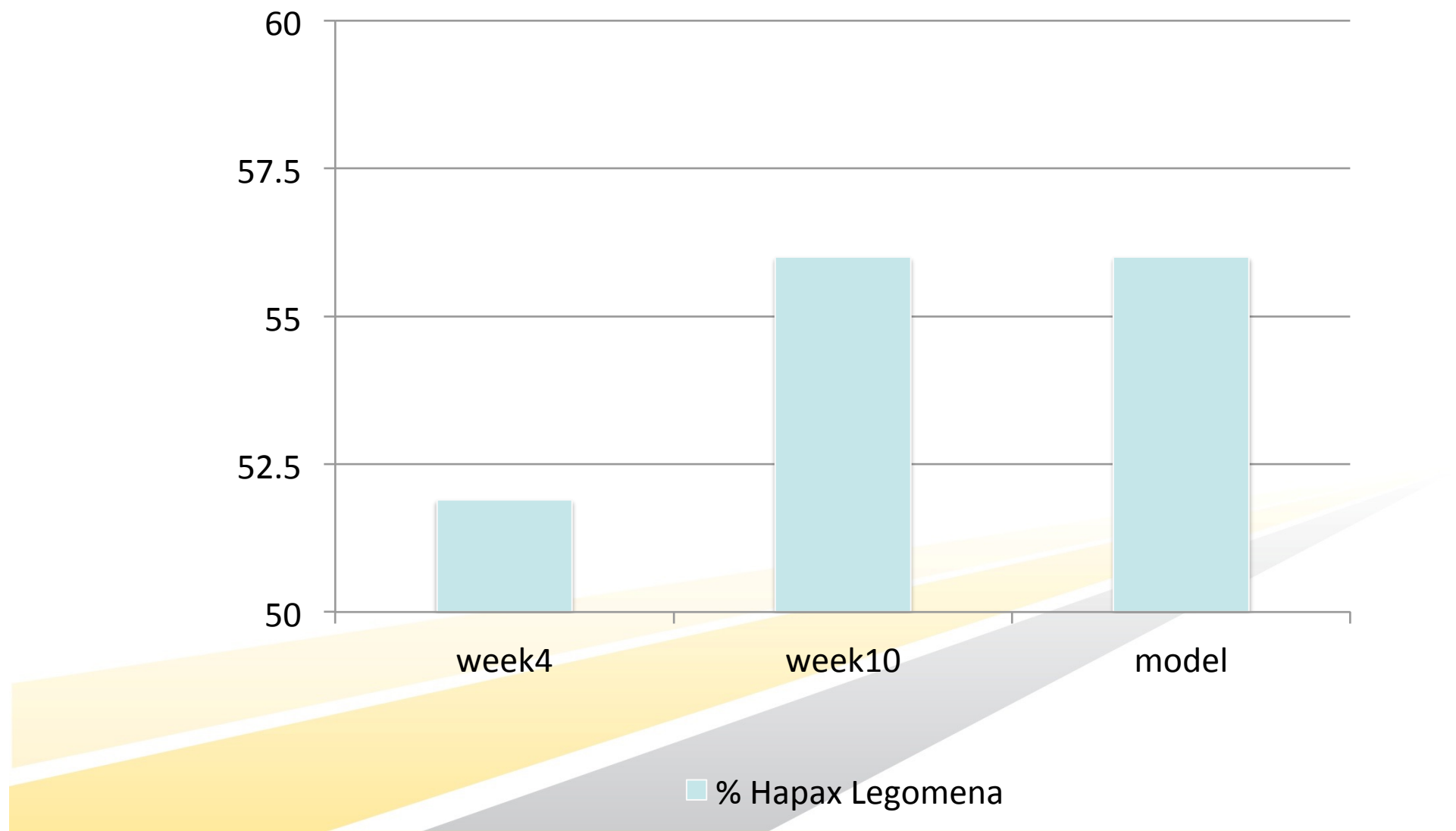


On Right

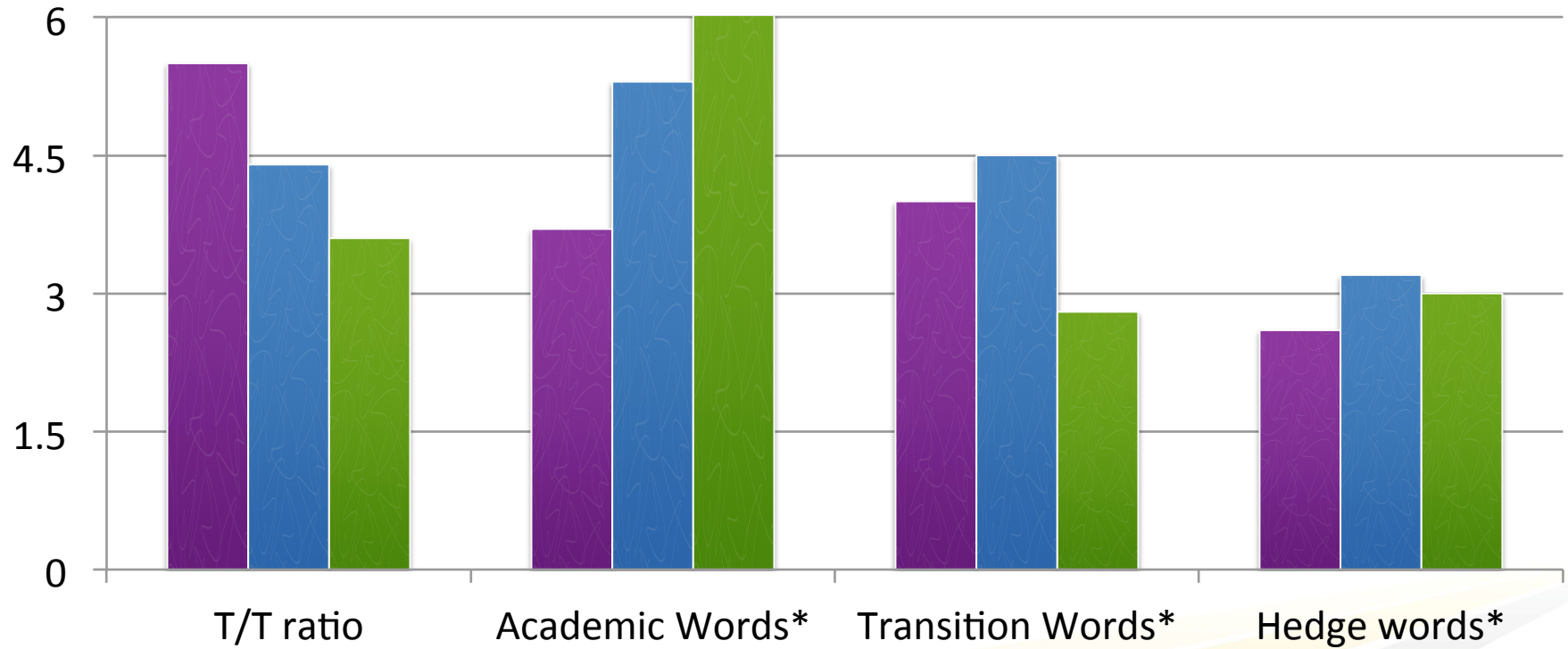
Clone Results



Words that appear only once



Features of Academic Writing



■ week4

■ week10

■ models

*per 100 words



What other lists would you create to measure students' academic language skills?

- cause & effect language
- reporting verbs
- non-academic language
- Abstract nouns



Q. 4



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Not a bag of words...

Passive voice?

- Wild cards: be|is|are|was|were|been
- 88 concordance lines
- $88/17$ (#texts) = 5.17 instances per text

So what?



How can I use these data to help my students?

1	environmentalists considerate that if satellites	are abolished, fraction of satellites is the biggest
2	. At the same time, some poverty countries	are argued that it is not necessary to
3	astronauts may be died. These space programs	are thereby seem to be a waste of
4	9, about 19,000 pieces of debris larger than 5 cm	are tracked, while an estimated 300,000 pieces lar
5	the innovations which created from space industry	are widely use in people's daily life.
6	of technology and medicine, those problems may	be addressed in the future so that the
7	will discuss whether the space exploration should	be advocated or not. It will examine the
8	is one of the first organs can	be affected because of the reduction in exercise.
9	some people claim that more money should	be allocated in this field of science in
10	time, opponents allege that harmful effects may	be caused by space technologies. Firstly, economis
11	d stability. Personally, space exploration should	be continue for long term consideration. Torres.



How can I use these data to help my students?

		v or x
environmentalists considerate that if satellites	are abolished, fraction of satellites is the bigge	
the same time, some poverty countries	are argued that it is not necessary to	
tronauts may be died. These space programs	are thereby seem to be a waste of	
ut 19,000 pieces of debris larger than 5 cm	are tracked, while an estimated 300,000 pieces	
iovations which created from space industry	are widely use in people's daily life.	
hnology and medicine, those problems may	be addressed in the future so that the	
iscuss whether the space exploration should	be advocated or not. It will examine the	
is one of the first organs can	be affected because of the reduction in exercise.	
some people claim that more money should	be allocated in this field of science in	
opponents allege that harmful effects may	be caused by space technologies. Firstly, econom	
tability. Personally, space exploration should	be continue for long term consideration. Torres.	



Looking at text development - Theme

There can be some positive influences brought by the space exploration.

To begin with, the innovations and inventions generated during the projects have changed human's life.

For instance, the material invented and used on the 'moon boot' has been widely applied at present to improve shock absorption and provide superior stability and motion control.



Compare the following sets of concordances

From your writing

cial violent. However, this essay will argue that the violent video games do not contribute t
are insufficient evidences to demonstrate that the violent video games could cause the v
For instance, the number of people who played the violent video games in United States ha
introduced such as radio, movies and television, the violent video games have been made.
or societies try to control the student players, the violent video games still the most popul

From the Web

end to sales of **violent video games** to minors", Freedom Forum,
Retail employees who sell **violent video games** to minors would face
to its armpits in **violent video games** , violent books and magazines,
More ». Study says that **violent video games** can improve vision. Mar.
that goes on about **violent video games** , it's nice to hear,



What is the pattern for the use of 'not only' at the beginning of a sentence?

1:	Not only	is it important to hit all the right nutritional notes,
2:	Not only	that, but even when I try to open AcroRd32.exe in
3:	Not only	did it include a prohibition on employing firkas [the fourth
4:	Not only	do the Americans tolerate this bloodshed, but at least one
5:	Not only	would he win the presidency by a comfortable margin, but
6:	Not only	should we keep passengers from sitting next to a terrorist,
7:	Not only	were the objects of his strenuous art pleasing to look
8:	Not only	do we get to hear the spin-doctor coaching candidates received
9:	Not only	did the Bush Administration out a covert intelligence officer working
10:	Not only	does it provide plenty of different, age-appropriate fun for babies



A bottom-up approach

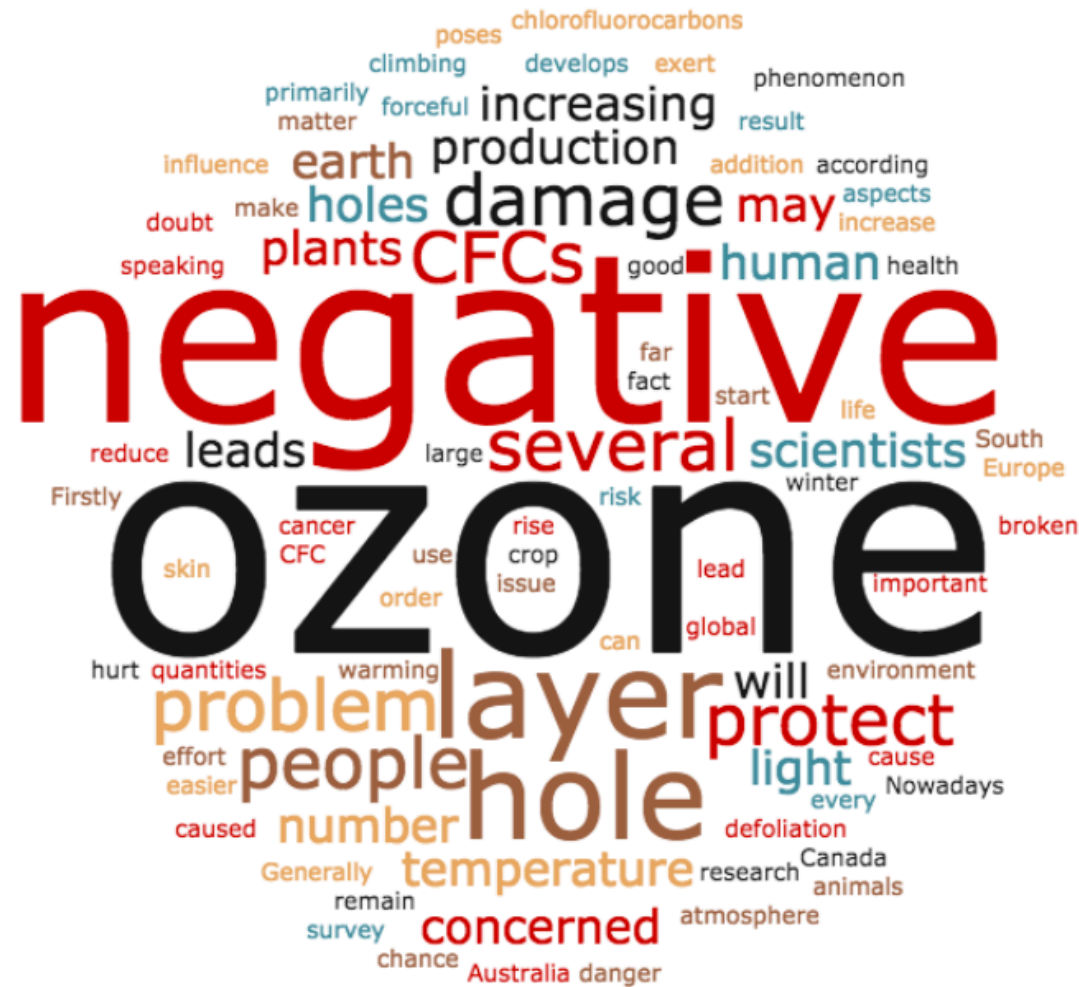
- Identify examples and non-examples
- Compare and contrast with output from authentic corpora
- Elicit grammatical patterns from examples
(e.g. Passive voice= to be + verb-ed)
- Identify colligation (word + grammatical form e.g. due to + NG)
- Guess the missing word (search term)
- Identify shades of meaning (e.g. claim)
- Disambiguate synonyms (citizens vs humans)



What can my students do independently to improve their writing?



An image worth a thousand words...



<http://www.wordclouds.com>



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Find a synonym, but which?

Synonyms for negative

☐ Common

adj bad, contradictory

adverse

denying

opposing

cynical

gloomy

disallowing

recusant

detrimental

pessimistic

disavowing

refusing

dissentient ★

unfavorable

dissenting

rejecting

nugatory

weak

gainsaying

removed

privative

abrogating

impugning

resisting

repugnant

annulling

invalidating

against

resistive

anti

jaundiced

antagonistic

unaffirmative

con

naysaying

balky

unenthusiastic

contrary

neutralizing

colorless

uninterested

contravening

nullifying

counteractive

unwilling





“adverse effects”

Google Search

I'm Feeling Lucky



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Vocabulary: Other words for 'negative' +

	impact	effect	consequences
detrimental	> 530K	<3.3 M	225K
deleterious	180K	<3 M	215K
adverse	4.4 M	22 M	2 M

Google

"adverse effects"

Web

Images

News

Videos

About 21,300,000 results (0.39 seconds)



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But is it academic?



☒ Articles (☒ include patents) ☐ Case law

Stand on the shoulders of giants



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English ↔ Spanish

á é í ó ú ü ñ

más papista que el papa



▼ Dictionary Spanish-English

más que *adv* — rather *adv*

papista *adj* — papist *adj*

Papa *prop.n m* — Pope *n*

papa *f* — potato *n* · spud *n*

[...]

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▼ External sources (not reviewed)

Este Parlamento no debe ser más papista que el Papa.

↳ europarl.europa.eu

This House really should not try to be more Catholic than the Pope.

↳ europarl.europa.eu

[...] europeas de acuerdo en esta liberalización, yo no voy a ser más papista que el papa y, por tanto, mañana votaré a favor.

↳ europarl.europa.eu

[...] are in agreement on uncoupling, I will not be more catholic than the Pope, and I shall therefore be voting in favour tomorrow.

↳ europarl.europa.eu

Esto significa que el Parlamento sería más papista que el Papa, porque la propia Comisión Europea, basándose en las estadísticas [...]

↳ europarl.europa.eu

This means that Parliament would be more royal than the king, because the European Commission itself, on the basis of the [...]

↳ europarl.europa.eu

Lo que ocurre es que, en este caso, la Comisión ha sido más papista que el Papa y -como ha puesto de relieve el Sr. Fernández Martín- más librecambista que las propias multinacionales.

↳ europarl.europa.eu

The problem is that in this case the Commission has been more papist than the Pope and, as Mr Fernández Martín has pointed out, more in favour of free trade than the multinationals themselves.

↳ europarl.europa.eu

Are we being more Catholic than the Pope?

- How much passive voice?
- Can we use 'I'?
- How about 'a lot' or 'bad'?



Reducing Bias in Language

Acknowledge participation.

When you write about the roles of individuals in an experiment, use language that portrays them as active participants, rather than passive recipients of the experiment.

For example, choose phrases such as the following:

- The students completed the survey *instead of*
The survey was administered to the students.
- The children viewed objects on the screen *instead of*
The children were shown several on-screen objects.
- We collected data from the participants *instead of*
The participants were run.

Write about the people in your study in a way that acknowledges their participation but is also consistent with the traditions of the field in which you are working. Thus, although descriptive terms such as *college students*, *children*, or *respondents* provide precise information about the individuals taking part in a research project, the more general terms *participants* and *subjects* are also in common usage.



"will argue"

Scholar

About 508,000 results (0.07 sec)



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STUDENT

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"will argue"

Scholar

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Essay
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I will argue

We will argue



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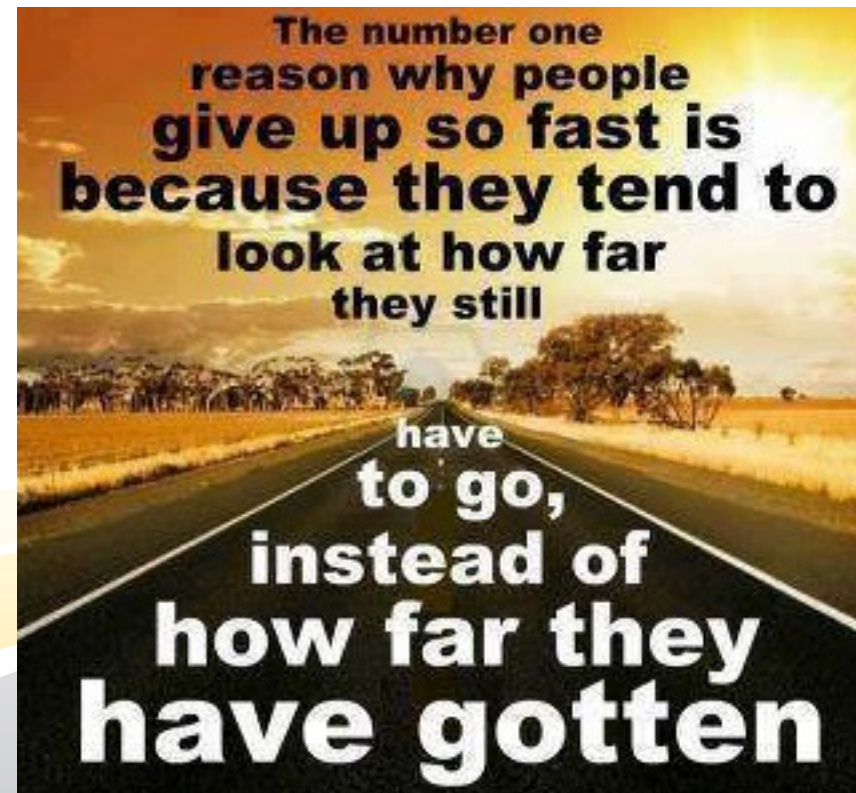
HELEN SWORD



Coda



Language Development



Thank you!



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Seeing the glass half full: Using a learner corpus for development of writing skills

Alexandra García

I. What is your first reaction to this text?

Many corporations benefit a lot from the telecommuting, from employees' perspectives, firstly, in this way, the time spend on transportation could be saved, that means the staffs would get more time to cope with the projects and documents which are related to work, the productivity could be boosted to a great extent. At the same time, more time staying at home help employees keep work-life balance and strengthen the band between families. For the employer, at first, they cut down enormous expense on the workplace renting, electric charge, water charge, etc., and more budget could be turn to the welfare of the staffs', it is a reasonable way to attract more talent staffs.



- How academic is the lexis in this text? Can you offer a percentage?
- How about the following model?

Telecommuting offers the possibility of significant economic benefits. By reducing the demand for mass transit, telecommuting minimises the cost of expanding expensive transportation infrastructure. Fewer cars on the road may also lead to a reduction in pollution and traffic accidents. This will help to alleviate the negative economic consequences associated with urbanisation. Furthermore, both employers and teleworkers themselves can benefit from valuable cost savings too. The reduced need for office space, higher staff retention rates as well as lower work-related travel expenses all contribute to a strong financial argument in favour of telecommuting.
(from UEECx, Assessment Details)



What kind of information do you think you can obtain from a concordancer?



How do you think you can use concordance lines in a writing class?

1	environmentalists considerate that if satellites	are abolished, fraction of satellites is the biggest
2	. At the same time, some poverty countries	are argued that it is not necessary to
3	astronauts may be died. These space programs	are thereby seem to be a waste of
4	9, about 19,000 pieces of debris larger than 5 cm	are tracked, while an estimated 300,000 pieces lar
5	the innovations which created from space industry	are widely use in people's daily life.
6	of technology and medicine, those problems may	be addressed in the future so that the
7	will discuss whether the space exploration should	be advocated or not. It will examine the
8	is one of the first organs can	be affected because of the reduction in exercise.
9	some people claim that more money should	be allocated in this field of science in
10	time, opponents allege that harmful effects may	be caused by space technologies. Firstly, economis
11	d stability. Personally, space exploration should	be continue for long term consideration. Torres.



What is the purpose of the following activity?

Compare the following sets of concordances

From your writing

violent. However, this essay will argue that the **violent video games** do not contribu
insufficient evidences to demonstrate that the **violent video games** could cause the
instance, the number of people who played the **violent video games** in United States
introduced such as radio, movies and television, the **violent video games** have been made.
or societies try to control the student players, the **violent video games** still the most popul

From the Web

end to sales of **violent video games** to minors", Freedom Forum,
Retail employees who sell **violent video games** to minors would face
to its armpits in **violent video games** , violent books and magazines,
More ». Study says that **violent video games** can improve vision. Mar.
that goes on about **violent video games** , it's nice to hear,



Have you ever approached the teaching of grammar in this way?

What is the pattern for the use of 'not only' at the beginning of a sentence?

1:	Not only	is it important to hit all the right nutritional notes,
2:	Not only	that, but even when I try to open AcroRd32.exe in
3:	Not only	did it include a prohibition on employing firkas [the fourth
4:	Not only	do the Americans tolerate this bloodshed, but at least one
5:	Not only	would he win the presidency by a comfortable margin, but
6:	Not only	should we keep passengers from sitting next to a terrorist,
7:	Not only	were the objects of his strenuous art pleasing to look
8:	Not only	do we get to hear the spin-doctor coaching candidates received
9:	Not only	did the Bush Administration out a covert intelligence officer working
10:	Not only	does it provide plenty of different, age-appropriate fun for babies

What else you can do:

- Identify examples and non-examples
- Compare and contrast with output from authentic corpora
- Elicit grammatical patterns from examples
- (e.g. Passive voice= to be + verb-ed)
- Identify colligation (word + grammatical form e.g. due to + NG)
- Guess the missing word (search term)
- Identify shades of meaning (e.g. claim)
- Disambiguate synonyms (adverse vs. injurious)

Free Online resources

	What you can do with it	Where you can get it
AntConc	Obtain frequency lists, concordance lines, word clusters, key words and collocates	http://www.laurenceanthony.net/software.html
General Service List	Analyse the lexis of a text to determine what percentage of it belongs to the core 2500 English vocabulary list	http://corpora.lancs.ac.uk/vocab/

Readability Test Tool	Identify how many years of education are required to understand a text. Calculate text statistics such as # of sentences.	http://www.webpagefx.com/tools/read-able/
WebCorp	Obtain concordance lines for a word or expression from the whole Web	http://www.webcorp.org.uk/live/
Synchronic English Web Corpus	Obtain concordance lines for a word or expression from the whole Web – Sort concordances by adjacent words	http://wse1.webcorp.org.uk/cgi-bin/SYN/index.cgi
Google scholar	Find out whether an expression is regularly used in academic texts	https://scholar.google.com.au/
Linguee	Find in-context translations for short expressions (Chinese available but not Arabic)	http://www.linguee.com/
BNCweb	Concordance lines from the British National Corpus (can be sorted)	http://bncweb.lancs.ac.uk/bncwebSignup/user/login.php
MICUSP	Michigan Corpus of Upper Level student Papers. Retrieve paragraphs containing search term. Search can be filtered by text type, student level and/or discipline	http://micusp.elicorpora.info/
Academic Word List	research based list of most common academic words (not in the GSL)	http://www.victoria.ac.nz/lals/resources/academicwordlist/awl-headwords
Wordcloud	obtain a visual representation of word frequency from a text	http://www.wordclouds.com
Stylish Academic Writing	By Helen Sword. Corpus Describes effective and not so effective academic writing based on corpus research	Ebook available from most university libraries