

Exploring Corpus Data

Instructions: Complete the following tasks with your partners using the COCA database.

Task 1: Text Search

Go to BBC News ([CLICK HERE](#)) and choose a random story. Select all of the text of the article and copy it (right click or Ctrl+C). Then in COCA (<https://www.english-corpora.org/coca/>), click the Analyze Entire Texts Button.



Paste your text in the box and click SEARCH. On the right side of the page you will see a chart with vocabulary words from your text organized by frequency. High frequency words are very common and low frequency words are less common and they represent new words you might need to teach your students. Fill in the chart below with a few examples from each category.

Low Frequency	Mid Frequency	High Frequency
• ... • ... • ...	• ... • ... • ...	• ... • ... • ...

Now look at the text you pasted in COCA on the left side of the screen. You will see that some of the words are highlighted. You can click them to learn more about these words.

Click an interesting NOUN and complete the following info.

- What are some topics it is associated with?
 - ...

- Are any of the topics similar or are some of them quite different?
 - ...
- What are some of its collocations (words that are frequently associated with it)?
 - **Noun:** ...
 - **Verb:** ...
 - **Adj:** ...
 - **Adv:** ...

Now click the back arrow until you return to your original text. Click SEARCH and now select an interesting VERB and do the same thing.

- What are some of its collocations?
 - **Noun:** ...
 - **Verb:** ...
 - **Adv:** ...

Task 2: Look at the four phrasal verbs below. Think of a brief definition for each one and write it in the chart. Also, think of a few words and phrases that could commonly come after this phrasal verb in a sentence.

Phrasal Verb	Definition	Words or Phrases that Follow It
End Up		
Show Up		
Figure Out		

Now you will use the corpus of TV scripts and subtitles to analyze the different ways these phrasal verbs are used in spoken context and answer the questions below. Go to www.english-corpora.org/tv.

In the search bar look for the phrasal verb “end up”. Select the KWIC option. That means Keyword in Context. You will see the phrase in the context of hundreds of different sentences. This will allow you to see how it is used and what other words are commonly used with it.



ListChartCollocatesCompareKWIC

End up

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Keyword in Context (KWIC)

Reset

☐ SectionsTexts/VirtualSort/LimitOptions

KWIC

200

End up: Look at the phrases that commonly follow End Up in a sentence.

- What are some common verbs that follow it?
 - ...
- What structure is the verb in?
 - ...
- Look for examples of prepositions that follow End Up. Read the words that come after the preposition. Now write your own original sentences using the phrases below.
 - “**end up in**” ...
 - “**end up with**” ...
 - “**end up on**” ...

Show Up: Look at the prepositions that commonly follow Show Up in a sentence. Read the examples then create your own unique example for each of the patterns below.

- What can we “show up with”?
 - ...
- What can we “show up to”?
 - ...
- What can we “show up at”?
 - ...
- What can we “show up for”?
 - ...

Figure Out: Look at how figure out is used in the different sentences.

- What question words can follow “figure out”?
 - ...