

TESOL

#ACTA2014 Meeting the Challenge
International TESOL Conference

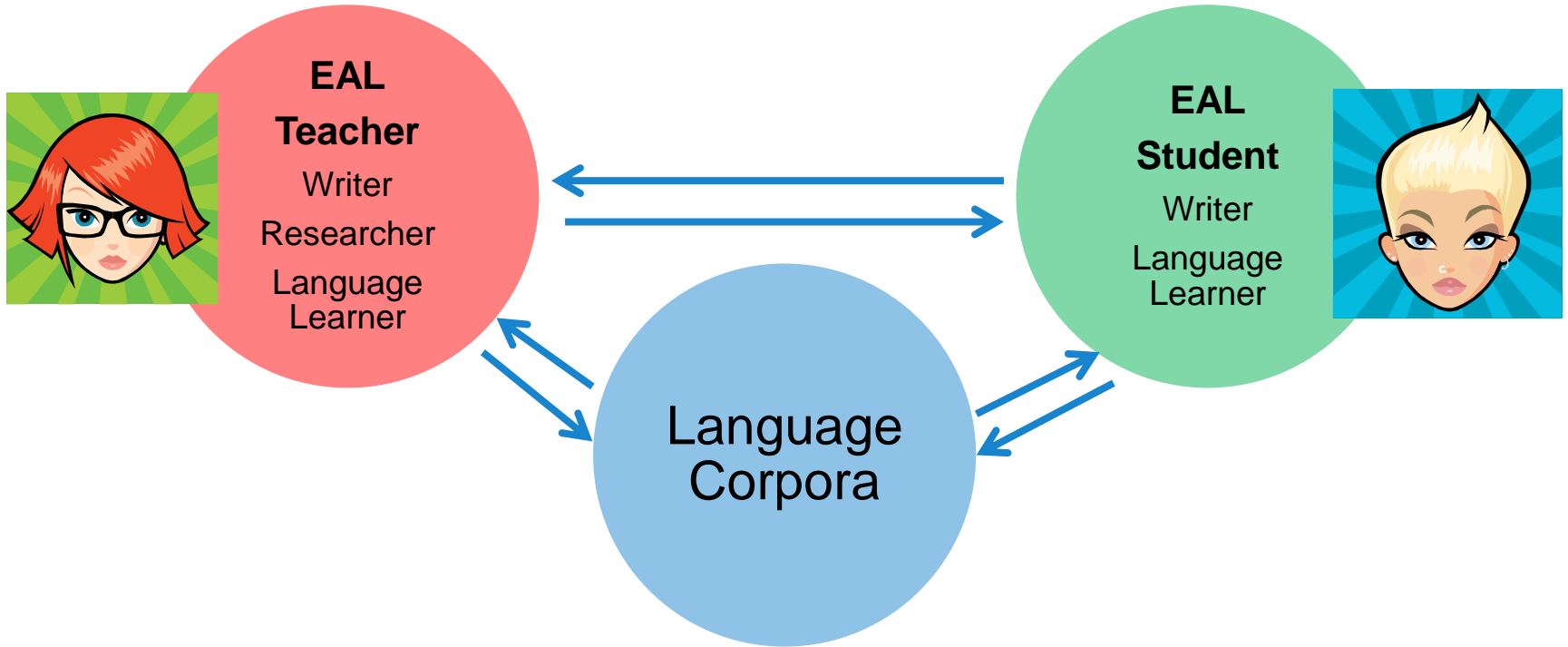


30 September - 3 October 2014
Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre
www.tesol.org.au/ACTA-Conference

USING CORPORA IN LANGUAGE LEARNING AND TEACHING

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THE SCENARIO



CORPUS.BYU.EDU/

corpus.byu.edu

corpora, size, queries = better resources, more insight



Overview

Corpora

Size, speed, queries
Insight into variation

History / updates

FAQ / questions

Researchers

Publications

Register

Modify profile

Related resources

Full-text data

Word frequency

Collocates

N-grams

WordAndPhrase

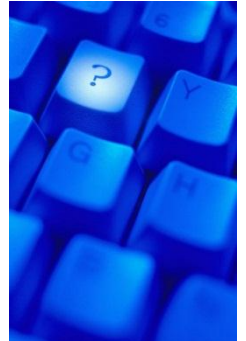
Academic vocabulary

Created by [Mark Davies, BYU](#). [Overview](#), [search types](#), [researchers](#), [publications](#), [corpus-based resources](#).

English	# words	language/dialect	time period	compare
Global Web-Based English (GloWBE)	1.9 billion	20 countries	2012-13	
Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA)	450 million	American	1990-2012	* * * * *
Corpus of Historical American English (COHA)	400 million	American	1810-2009	* *
TIME Magazine Corpus	100 million	American	1923-2006	
Corpus of American Soap Operas	100 million	American	2001-2012	*
British National Corpus (BYU-BNC)*	100 million	British	1980s-1993	* *
Strathy Corpus (Canada)	50 million	Canadian	1970s-2000s	
Other languages				
Corpus del Español	100 million	Spanish	1200s-1900s	*
Corpus do Português	45 million	Portuguese	1300s-1900s	

USING A CORPUS TO ANSWER QUESTIONS OF LANGUAGE USE AND ACCEPTABILITY

- frequency
- boosters and hedges
- collocations and synonyms
- analysing texts



'EQUIPMENT' OR 'EQUIPMENTS' ?

"equipments" is wrong ... "equipment" is an uncountable noun. Perhaps the things you have read with the word "equipments" were written by non-native speakers of English? Or perhaps you've seen "equipment's"?

“ Equipment, like furniture, is uncountable. You have to say something like: "pieces of equipment" or "items of equipment" or "pieces of furniture" or "items of furniture" to make plurals. “

“Equipments is used in the automotive industry a great deal to talk about optional elements for a car offer ... Also used in the military, as explained earlier. It is incorrect, but is slipping into common usage, and will be an accepted term soon, I think.”

'EQUIPMENT' OR 'EQUIPMENTS' ?

What does a learner dictionary say?

(Macmillan Dictionary)

equipment - definition ★★★



NOUN [UNCOUNTABLE]  Pronunciation /ɪ'kwɪpmənt/

- 1 the tools, machines, or other things that you need for a particular job or activity

camping/lifting/safety equipment

piece of equipment: *A computer is the most important piece of equipment you will buy.*

FREQUENCY ACROSS REGISTERS

1) EQUIPMENT 2) EQUIPMENTS

CORPUS.BYU.EDU/COCA/

1)

SECTION	ALL	SPOKEN	FICTION	MAGAZINE	NEWSPAPER	ACADEMIC
FREQ	31098	3937	3581	8438	7314	7828
PER MIL	66.97	41.20	39.60	88.30	79.74	85.96
SEE ALL SUB-SECTIONS AT ONCE						

2)

SECTION	ALL	SPOKEN	FICTION	MAGAZINE	NEWSPAPER	ACADEMIC
FREQ	42	16	1	1	0	24
PER MIL	0.09	0.17	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.26
SEE ALL SUB-SECTIONS AT ONCE						

A CORPUS ALLOWS USERS TO MAKE THEIR OWN JUDGMENTS

A corpus

- captures the changing nature of language
- encourages ‘noticing’ and ‘awareness-raising’
- allows for searches that are difficult to make in textbooks or teachers’ examples

LEARNERS OFTEN FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BOOST OR HEDGE STATEMENTS BY ADDING CERTAIN VERBS OR ADVERBS.

(Wu, Witten and Franken 2010, p. 95)

Hedges: may, might, probably, seem, tend

Boosters: very, extremely, significantly, clearly, obviously, of course, far, full, consistently, never

HEDGES

Which of the two statements not only communicates the idea but also expresses the writer's attitude?

- The commitment of social workers to practice principles and values today is stronger than it was ten years ago.
- It may be said that the commitment of social workers to practice principles and values today is stronger than it was ten years ago.

STUDENT WRITING SAMPLE

According to theorists empowerment is a process, an outcome or both (Everett, Homstead & Drisko 2007; Maton 2008; Onyx & Benton 1995). In the sector empowerment is considered to be a process although Humpage (2005) sees it as an outcome. Kimberley argues that “empowerment can be enabled, not bestowed” (p. 2).

Where would you use boosters or hedges?

EXPLORING AND MANIPULATING THE CORPUS

Collocations	Phrase-frames*
Adj + Noun (adj + theorists)	it is * that
Adv + Verb (*ly + sees)	it may be * that
Adv + Verb (*ly + argues)	it is *ly * that
	*ly argues that

*O'Donnell, Römer & Ellis 2013, p. 87

COMPILING LISTS OF PHRASE-FRAMES

It is * that

IT IS POSSIBLE THAT

IT IS CLEAR THAT

IT IS LIKELY THAT

IT IS TRUE THAT

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT

IT IS UNLIKELY THAT

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT

IT IS EVIDENT THAT

IT IS OBVIOUS THAT

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT

IT IS APPARENT THAT

It may be *ed that

IT MAY BE ARGUED THAT

IT MAY BE NOTED THAT

IT MAY BE CONCLUDED THAT

IT MAY BE ASSUMED THAT

IT MAY BE EXPECTED THAT

IT MAY BE OBJECTED THAT

IT MAY BE SPECULATED THAT

IT MAY BE SUGGESTED THAT

IT MAY BE INFERRED THAT

IT MAY BE PRESUMED THAT

IT MAY BE SUPPOSED THAT

IT MAY BE RECALLED THAT

*ly argues that

CONVINCINGLY ARGUES THAT

CORRECTLY ARGUES THAT

PERSUASIVELY ARGUES THAT

RIGHTLY ARGUES THAT

COGENTLY ARGUES THAT

CLEARLY ARGUES THAT



COLLOCATIONS

As Doll (1986, p. 16) has neatly framed this **fundamental** shift in thinking about reality, the Newtonian universe which was conceived of as “simple, spiritual and uniform” has been replaced in our understanding with one that is “complex, temporal and multiple”.

COLLOCATIONS ACROSS DISCIPLINES

General Acad

MAJOR
SIGNIFICANT
DRAMATIC
FUNDAMENTAL
CULTURAL
POLITICAL
SOCIAL
IMPORTANT
GRADUAL
ECONOMIC
RADICAL

Acad - Edu

SIGNIFICANT
MAJOR
FUNDAMENTAL
POSITIVE
ALL-VOLUNTEER
NEGATIVE
TRADITIONAL
DRAMATIC
CULTURAL
RECENT
BIG
EDUCATIONAL

Acad - Hum

DRAMATIC
MAJOR
CULTURAL
FUNDAMENTAL
HISTORICAL
NEW
RADICAL
SUDDEN
DIACHRONIC
BASIC
GENERAL
GRADUAL

Acad – Scie

MAJOR
FRACTIONAL
FUNDAMENTAL
SUSTAINABLE
GREATER
SPECTRAL
APPARENT
GLOBAL
SMALL
SUBSTANTIAL
ENVIRONMENTAL
INDUSTRIAL

EXPANDING LEARNERS' VOCABULARY

Learners tend to reuse particular words throughout their essays because of limited vocabulary knowledge.

Searching the corpus for synonyms
[=important]



SYNONYMS

CONTEXT	FREQ
IMPORTANT [S]	60702
SIGNIFICANT [S]	44755
CENTRAL [S]	21641
CRITICAL [S]	20969
KEY [S]	17896
MAIN [S]	14963
ESSENTIAL [S]	10807

EXPLORING SYNONYMS OF [=STRONG] ACROSS REGISTERS

Newspapers

SEC 1: 91,717,452 WORDS

	WORD/PHRASE	TOKENS 1
1	SPICY	1062
2	BEEFY	109
3	BURLY	188
4	TOUGH	10031
5	STRAPPING	102
6	PIQUANT	85
7	PUNGENT	236
8	HOT	11786
9	BRAWNY	60
10	DAZZLING	503
11	STALWART	187
12	WELL-BUILT	28
13	STURDY	477
14	FIRM	14927

Academic

SEC 2: 91,066,191 WORDS

	WORD/PHRASE	TOKENS 2
1	EFFECTIVE	21588
2	PERSUASIVE	918
3	CONCENTRATED	2299
4	DEEP-SEATED	228
5	ROBUST	1551
6	COMPELLING	2211
7	RESILIENT	446
8	CONVINCING	1245
9	DURABLE	549
10	POWERFUL	9654
11	MUSCULAR	601
12	CLEAR-CUT	346
13	CLEAR	19901
14	STRONG	18076

USING THE CORPUS TO ANALYSE TEXTS

<http://www.wordandphrase.info/analyzeText.asp>

In class, students learn in different ways while learning they bring their interest and personal background. Democratic classroom helps students to make their own choices about their learning styles. Students are free to choose their learning environment in which they found themselves comfortable. In democratic classroom student and teachers work together to set the new standards for learning and assessing the world. Wolk in his book 'A democratic classroom' (1998) describes the challenges and benefits of democratic learning environment. Wolk taught eighth grade at The Foundations School in the Chicago Public School where he himself sets up a democratic classroom in maths, social studies and English language.

[HTTP://WWW.WORDANDPHRASE.INFO/ANALYZETEXT.ASP](http://www.wordandphrase.info/analyzetext.asp)

SEE LISTS	FREQ RANGE	1-500	501-3000	> 3000	ACAD	HELP
	109 WORDS	70 %	27 %	4 %	24 %	

In class, students learn in different ways while learning they bring their interest and **personal background**. **Democratic classroom** helps students to make their own **choices** about their learning **styles**. Students are free to **choose** their learning **environment** in which they found themselves **comfortable**. In **democratic classroom** student and teachers work together to set the new **standards** for learning and **assessing** the world. Wolk in his book 'A **democratic classroom**' (1998) **describes** the **challenges** and **benefits** of **democratic learning environment**. Wolk **taught eighth grade** at The Foundations School in the Chicago Public School where he himself sets up a **democratic classroom** in **maths**, social studies and English **language**.

ANALYSING TEXTS

In class, students learn in different ways while learning they bring their interest and personal background. Democratic classroom helps students to make their own choices about their learning styles. Students are free to choose their learning environment in which they found themselves comfortable. In democratic classroom student and teachers work together to set the new standards for learning and assessing the world. Wolk in his book 'A democratic classroom' (1998) describes the challenges and benefits of democratic learning environment. Wolk taught eighth grade at The Foundations School in the Chicago Public School where he himself sets up a democratic classroom in maths, social studies and English language.

ANALYSING PHRASES: KEY WORD IN CONTEXT (KWIC)

010) recommended a nurturing ,	democratic classroom	and integrated curricula that reflect the connectivity
the themes related to building a	democratic classroom	and the categories related to these themes . 1 . Themes
are enthusiastic about building a	democratic classroom	and they are always searching for new ways to achieve thi
ng fair is an important finding for	democratic classroom	applications . This finding from this study shows parallelis
1988) . The teachers who build a	democratic classroom	are those who apply democratic classroom methods in the
al educator Ira Shor describes the	democratic classroom	as one where # the teacher leads and directs this curricul
these ideas by suggesting that a	democratic classroom	can be attained quickly and simply . On the other hand ,
education should be practiced in	democratic classroom	contexts in line with democratic principles . This study fou
for this study is the application of	democratic classroom	discipline in their classrooms . In this study , interviews a
and that the teacher who builds a	democratic classroom	has a duty to provide shared decision-making , equality ,

AFFORDANCES OF LANGUAGE CORPORA

- Finding appropriate vocabulary, for example useful collocations and phrase-frames using topic-related and discipline-specific words
- Increasing learners' vocabulary and use of a greater variety of expressions and structures throughout their writing
- Enabling learners to understand the meaning, grammar and usage of a word
- Enabling learners to find their own voice by using boosters or hedges

AFFORDANCES OF LANGUAGE CORPORA

- Teachers and students can move from easy to more complex corpus searches as an independent learning strategy to notice and explore language.
- A corpus is a ‘particularly productive context’ (Wu et al. 2010 pp. 83-84) which provides exposure to a word in different contexts, both lexical and grammatical.
- Challenges: superabundance of choice can be overwhelming but ...

INCIDENTAL LEARNING

...isn't each trip to the library a wonderful encounter of books waiting to be discovered on their shelves?

On your visits to a library, how often have you ended up borrowing the books to the left or right of the one you came looking for?



REFERENCES

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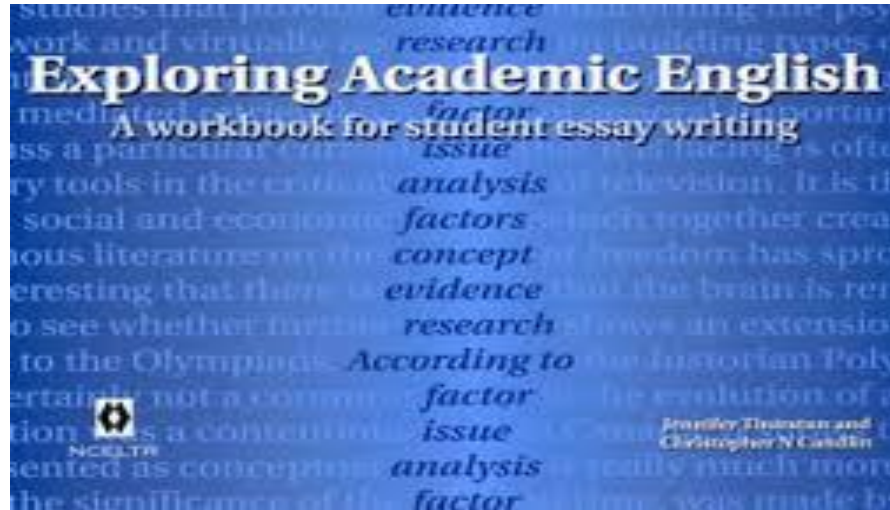
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A GREAT RESOURCE



...area at this time. I may market it elsewhere. **Thank you** very much for your time and consideration.
...ons about the essay, please let me know. **Thank you** very much for your time. I look forward to hearing
...king with you this morning about the referenced project; **thank you** for giving me the opportunity to b
...of today. My Social Security number is 123-45-6789. **Thank you** very much! Best, Kelly James-Enger
...r for collection and will involve my attorney. **Thank you** for your prompt attention to this matter. I look
...rom Maryland poet Patricia Valdata: pre-formatted table Another example, titled " **Thank You**, Lew, " c
...: * If you are a guidance counselor or teacher, visit: **52;67337;TOOLONG **Thank you** for your help
...l.). " Evidence based practice links. " **Thank you** can't? Yes you can! The teacher librarian's toolkit for e
...n other occasions, teachers simply used verbal reinforcements such as " **Thank you** for following direct
...unin, 1970). Something as simple as saying, " **Thank you** for making a wise choice, " may have a pow
...Name Phone Number: () # **Thank you** for your time and willingness to complete this study. Please ret
... " Oh, well, never mind then. But **thank you** very much! " # Our employees and volunteers in Haiti a
...se -- don't want their children to be " saved " **thank you** very much, and they are equally determi
...ot that it took too long) * **Thank you**, Mrs. R., for teaching us this stuff. * Learn music
...obtaining the list of eligible entries for us. **Thank you** Bob and Margaret! PTDA appreciates you! # Please
...basic rules of " always say please and **thank you**, " or the high level skills of good parents, politicians,

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