

Editing your Writing Using Corpora

1. Getting started

- Access the COCA Corpus via SUSTech Library (Go to: <https://lib.sustech.edu.cn/> and search “BYU Corpus” under “Collections (资源导航)”, which leads you to <https://www.english-corpora.org/>. Select Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA)). You need to register first.
- Go to <https://linggle.com/>

2. Basic functions

A. Display Options (of COCA)

- LIST: Show a list of word(s) or combination of words (ranked according to their frequency)
- CHART: Show a chart comparing frequencies of a word in different genre or time.
- KWIC: Show the key word(s), i.e. search word(s), in contexts
- COMPARE: Compare two words according to their frequencies (just generally or with a certain collocate)

B. Types of queries (Search string)

| Type of search | COCA-General | Linggle |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| Specific word or phrase | evidence good time accept/receive education (/ = <i>either word</i> (no space)) are you * well (* = <i>any single word</i>) | evidence good time accept/receive education are you _ well do you * (* = <i>any # words</i>) discuss ?about the issue (? = <i>optional</i>) |
| Substring | *city (* = <i>any # letters</i>) b?t?er (? = <i>one letter</i>) | \$city (\$ = <i>any # letters</i>) |
| Lemma (forms of a word) | [be] | |
| Part of speech | ADJ eyes | adj. eyes |
| Synonyms | [=strong] | ~strong |
| Collocates (nearby words) | COLLOCATES box | |
| Compare two words | COMPARE box | |

(<https://www.english-corpora.org/queries.asp> <https://linggle.com/help/>)

Practice:

- 1) He introduced an approach to learn/to learning English in the meeting.
- 2) I would appreciate/appreciate it if I could give an early reply.
- 3) This paper examines/examined the effect of air pollution on labor supply in ...
- 4) The big data/Big data is changing the way people live their lives.
- 5) I am going to New York in/on Spring Break.
- 6) What are the most common adjectives that precede “study”?
- 7) Which is more common: “present research” or “current research”?
- 8) Imagine you have received a comment that the phrase “besides,” is not academic/formal.
Search this transition and find a replacement that can be used in your academic writing.

<https://www.english-corpora.org/pdf/english-corpora.pdf>