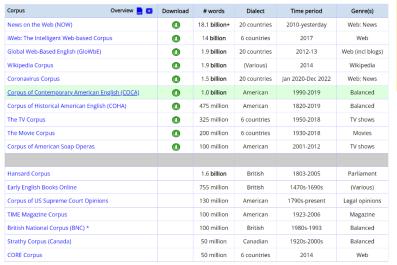
A corpus (plural: corpora) is simply a highly structured collection of texts, which allows researchers to carry out extremely sophisticated searches to see what is happening in the language (for example between genres, dialects, and over time) in ways that would never be possible with other simple search engines like Google. Corpora also allow learners and teachers to easily find a wide range of data on words, phrases, and grammatical constructions – far beyond what would be found in a textbook or dictionary.



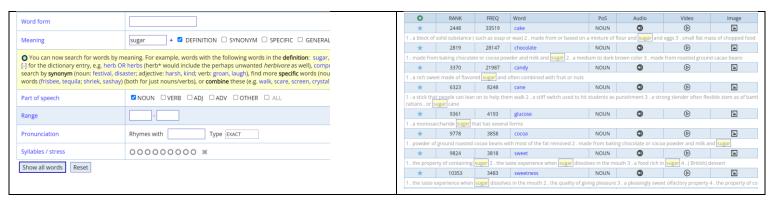
The corpora from English-Corpora.org are **used more than** any other corpora – with more than 85,000 users each month. Limited, basic access is free, but hundreds of universities have purchased **academic licenses** for expanded access, especially by classes. The corpora are used by:

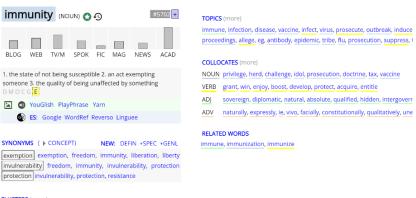
- ➤ Tens of thousands of **researchers** from universities throughout the world, for thousands of publications
- > Hundreds of thousands of learners and teachers
- Many **companies**, especially in the fields of technology (e.g. Google, Microsoft, Amazon, IBM, Adobe, Intel, Samsung), as well as language teaching (e.g. Duolingo, Grammarly, Merriam-Webster, Sketch Engine, Oxford University Press)

Teaching and learning 🗹 🔼

The corpora from English-Corpora.org (especially the one billion word Corpus of Contemporary American English; COCA) are the focus of **almost every book on corpora** and language teaching in the last 10-15 years (examples: 1 2 3 4 5).

Teachers and learners can search for words by word form, part of speech, frequency (1-60,000), meaning (for example, words in a definition), synonyms, more specific or more general words, and even pronunciation.





And then they can see **detailed "word sketches"** for each of the top 60,000 words in English, including definition, frequency by genre (for example, academic or spoken), synonyms, more specific and more general words, collocates (nearby words), related topics (which appear anywhere in the text), clusters (2, 3, 4 word strings), concordance lines, and links to external resources like dictionary entries, pronunciation, images, videos, and translations to 100+ languages.

immunity immunity from a immunity to a immunity for a immunity in a immunity indo a immunity challenge a immunity against a immunity a immunity a for immunity a have immunity a wins immunity a for immunity a have immunity a wins immunity a for immunity a have immunity a wins immunity a for immunity and immunit



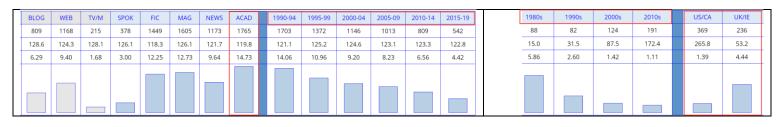
Students can enter entire texts that they have written, and then quickly and easily highlight phrases in the text to find related phrases in COCA, which will allow them to edit their writing to make it sound more natural.

They can also **enter entire texts from the Web,** to find the **keywords** in the text (to understand better what it's about), and also **click on any word or phrase** in the text to see a wide range of information, such as in the "Word Sketches" section above.

Writing (assisting non-native writers and speakers, including professors writing for publication)

Thousands of professors (from a wide range of academic fields) use the corpora on a regular basis, to help improve their writing and edit papers for publication. This is because the corpora provide information on "nuances" in English that aren't available in standard dictionaries or style guides.

To give a simple example, the following chart (left) from COCA shows that the word **seldom** (as in "they seldom go there anymore") is used much more in formal genres like academic, and that it is decreasing in frequency over time. The data from the 325 million word TV Corpus (right) also shows that seldom is decreasing over time, and that it is much more common in British English than in American English. In other words, in American English seldom sounds very formal, quite old-fashioned, and somewhat British. Again, this is the type of data that a dictionary or style guide could probably never provide.



a lot of NOUN several NOUN BLOG WEB TV/M MAG BLOG SPOK FIC NEWS ACAD WEB TV/M FIC MAG NEWS ACAD 22676 11015 19548 31754 31039 82365 27185 3537 24727 4023 15313 17372 26951 119.8 128.6 124.3 128.1 126.1 118.3 126.1 121.7 128.6 124.3 128.1 126.1 118.3 126.1 121.7 119.8 246.90 182.50 242.35 652.99 93.09 155.03 223.30 29.53 167.43 199.00 31.41 121.40 146.82 213.74 238.50 258.11

Or suppose that someone is writing an academic paper, and she wants to know which sounds more formal – a lot of NOUN or several NOUN. In less than one second, she can search through one billion words in COCA and see that several NOUN is much more common in academic writing.

				ALL		BLOG			SPOK		MAG		ACAD
со	MPELI	LING AR	GUMENT	340		86	71	23		8	34	27	49
STF	RONG	ARGUN	IENT	331		83	57	3	54	8		25	63
РО	WERF	JL ARG	UMENT	148				2	28	4	17		41
PEF	RSUAS	IVE ARG	UMENT	137		21	23	12		5			31
GR	EAT A	RGUME	NT	76		23	19			3	4	1	4
SO	LID AR	GUMEN	NT	54		20	12	4	5	2	7		4
EFF	ECTIV	E ARGU	MENT	39				2	12			2	
SO	UND A	RGUMI	ENT	51		21	16	1	2		1	3	7
					_								
1	1991	ACAD	TheologStud				Q	● C	can	be b	rought	to bear	in exam
							_						

And finally, suppose that someone wants to know which synonyms of strong sound better with argument in academic English. Strong argument is possible, but compelling argument or powerful argument are also common in academic English, while great argument or solid argument is common in less formal English (like on the web). The writer can click on any of these phrases to see the phrase in context.

In summary, the corpus data allows non-native speakers and writers to easily and quickly examine the frequency and use of words, phrases, and grammatical constructions in ways that are not possible anywhere else, including any other online corpora.

Research 🗹

As mentioned, the corpora from English-Corpora.org provide a much wider **range of searches** (and are much **faster** and easier to use as well), which has resulted in **thousands of academic articles** that are based on the corpora. At the most basic level, users can see the frequency of words or phrases by section – as with genres in COCA \square (see above, with =*strong argument*), or time period in COHA \square (475 million words of historical English), or dialect in GloWbE \square (two billion words from 20 countries).

COHA: ADJ society

	ALL	1820	1830	1840	1850	1860	18	1960					2010
AMERICAN SOCIETY	1382	2	14	28	18		3	147	105	166	157	124	74
HUMAN SOCIETY	817	15	39	64	39	49	6	29	34	31	22	13	17
HISTORICAL SOCIETY	670	27		11		20	3	19	29	34	89	67	
MODERN SOCIETY	595	3	5	8		42	4	35	33	23	43	13	
ROYAL SOCIETY	540	6	15	20		59	2	19	8	24	20	15	
CIVIL SOCIETY	525	21	19	35	18	65	2	6	3	14	56	85	147
GOOD SOCIETY	388		41	34	41	41	4	14	2	11	11	8	10
MEDICAL SOCIETY	352	17		1	5	6	- 1	39	32	24	13	11	5
GREAT SOCIETY	347	1	1	3	1	2	1	136	39	33	68	14	17
DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY	338			1	2	13	1	56	37	41	46	20	16
CIVILIZED SOCIETY	318	15	43	35	19	16	9	19	9	8	18	9	9

GloWbE: *ism

TOURISM	66231	2862	3177	7376	3290	4237	3871	3564		922	1706	2138	2
CRITICISM	62753	14465	3646	15809	3165	4984	2298	3018	1841	2200	1148		
MECHANISM	44354							3275	1737		1178		
TERRORISM	42215	8783	1912	6845	732	2102	882	2941	5427	5530	1570	317	4
JOURNALISM	41483	10282	2879	10441		3954		1695	998		929		3
CAPITALISM	37344	9466	2269	10261	1944	2835	1551				874		2
RACISM	36556	11535		8545	1860	2988		797	1082	579	332	503	8
BUDDHISM	21816	1830	310	1437	351	757	390	1791	9064	324	829	846	1.
AUTISM	20350	7250		5285	1590	2211	264	715	76	58	274	73	
SOCIALISM	19851	6427	792					746	292	284	536	192	1
OPTIMISM	15144	2950	1251	3767	767	990				375	324	347	
NATIONALISM	14409	1523	880	3053	1022	851	270	1033	1474	887	773	143	1

Researchers can also see the overall frequency of a word, phrase, or **grammatical construction**, as with the "like construction" (and he's like, no way") in COCA and GloWbE in the charts below. Hundreds of papers on syntactic variation and change have been published – based on data from the corpora from English-Corpora.org – have been published in the last 10-15 years.

COCA: genres and time periods since 1990											Glo	Wk	E:	20 E	Eng	lish	-sp	eak	king	со	unt	trie	S										
BLOG	WEB	TV/M	SPOK	FIC	MAG	NEWS	ACAD	1990-94	1995-99	2000-04	2005-09	2010-14	2015-19	US	CA	GB	IE	AU	NZ	IN	LK	PK	BD	SG	MY	PH	НК	ZA	NG	GH	KE	TZ	JM
329	263	2257	3156	126	699	394	46	140	393	639	1145	1780	2581	897	264	599	95	163	63	51	12	22	20	69	38	47	22	39	57	41	34	33	54
128.6	124.3	128.1	126.1	118.3	126.1	121.7	119.8	121.1	125.2	124.6	123.1	123.3	122.8	386.8	134.8	387.6	101.0	148.2	81.4	96.4	46.6	51.4	39.5	43.0	41.6	43.2	40.5	45.4	42.6	38.8	41.1	35.2	39.6
2.56	2.12	17.62	25.02	1.06	5.54	3.24	0.38	1.16	3.14	5.13	9.31	14.43	21.03	2.32	1.96	1.55	0.94	1.10	0.77	0.53	0.26	0.43	0.51	1.61	0.91	1.09	0.54	0.86	1.34	1.06	0.83	0.94	1.36
				_																													

And in the **NOW Corpus**, they can even see the frequency by year, month, and day. (NOW grows by about **5-7 million words** *each day*.) For example, researchers could see the frequency of *fake news* increases markedly right after the US elections on 8 November 2016. **No other corpus provides this level of detail**, and that is why researchers have used the NOW Corpus to look at a wide range of phenomena ., including politics, economics, entertainment, and other cultural and societal shifts.

fake news in 18.1 billion word NOW Corpus (updated daily with 5-7 million words

of new data)

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	16-09	16-10	16-11	16-12	16	6-11-08	16-11-09	16-11-10	16-11-11	16-11-12	16-11-13	16-11-14	16-11-15
89	95	4887	25776	29398	69	81	1697	2811		7	8	56	61	17	59	130	188
429.4	512.5	1,531.3	1,746.5	1,569.1	146.8	151.9	145.8	141.7		5.5	5.2	5.2	5.9	5.0	4.5	4.7	4.3
0.21	0.19	3.19	14.76	18.74	0.47	0.53	11.64	19.83		1.3	1.5	10.8	10.3	3.4	13.2	27.8	43.6

Researchers can even see the frequency of **collocates** (nearby words) in different genres, time periods, and dialects. This can signal **differences in meaning or usage**, such as with *gay* changing from "happy" to "sexual orientation" in COHA (historical), or changing collocates of *food* in the 1800s and 1970s-2010s. Similar searches can compare meaning in genres (such as in COCA) or in different countries (GloWbE). All of this allows researchers to carry out one fast, simple search to see a wide range of **information on culture and society**, and this data has resulted in hundreds of academic papers on these topics.

COHA: collocates of gay, 1820s-2010s

				1840										1940							
LESBIAN	258						1										1	7	70	81	98
GAY	216		4	2	2			8	8	6	2	4	22	24	4		8	8		34	38
RIGHTS	216																6	20	49	60	81
MARRIAGE	205			-1		1	1					1					1		8	85	107
BRIGHT	185				14		23				4	12	12		12	8	6	3			-1
FLOWERS	154	5	13		17		20	16	7				7	5	6	-1	3		-1		
LAUGH	138	2		5					7			8		4	4	5	3				-1
GRAVE	132	6	15	14		14	8			18	9	5	4	-1	1					-1	
COLORS	125	3	6	3	9	12			10	5			6	17	8	5	6	1			
LAUGHTER	90								3					4	2	3	2	3	-1		-1
GALLANT	87	7	11	12	4		7		6	6	1	9	4	-1	1						
BISEXUAL	83																	8	10	15	50
BRILLIANT	74	3	8	6	10	8	7		3	5	4	3	3	5	4						

COHA: *ADJ food*, 1800s (left) vs 1970s-2010s (right)

COTIN 17 100 JOSEP 1000 (1010) 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10													
SEC '	1 (1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 186):	129,254,741 W	ORDS	SEC 2	(1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010): 162	2,104,741 WORD	os						
	WORD/PHRASE	TOKENS 1	TOKENS 2		WORD/PHRASE	TOKENS 2	TOKENS 1						
1	SPIRITUAL FOOD	26	1	1	FAST FOOD	281	0						
2	MENTAL FOOD	27	2	2	CHINESE FOOD	221	0						
3	COARSE FOOD	25	2	3	REAL FOOD	110	1						
4	INTELLECTUAL FOOD	20	0	4	MEXICAN FOOD	96	0						
5	LIGHT FOOD	12	1	5	AMERICAN FOOD	68	1						
6	UNWHOLESOME FOOD	18	0	6	FREE FOOD	78	0						
7	CHOICEST FOOD	- 11	1	7	ITALIAN FOOD	77	0						
8	DAINTY FOOD	16	0	8	ORGANIC FOOD	67	0						
9	INSUFFICIENT FOOD	18	2	9	CANNED FOOD	44	1						
10	WHOLESOME FOOD	62	7	10	LOCAL FOOD	56	0						
11	DAILY FOOD	93	11	11	FROZEN FOOD	52	0						

<u>Virtual corpora</u> A feature that is extremely useful for both researchers and language learners is the ability to create custom-designed "corpora within a corpus". These <u>Virtual Corpora</u> can be created with just a few clicks in just a few seconds, and can then be used anytime in the future.



For example, users can create Virtual Corpora **based on a given word or phrase** (for example, *hypoglycemia*, *investments*, *basketball*, or *nuclear energy*), or based on **information about the texts** (for example, works by a particular author, or subtitles from a given TV show, or related Wikipedia entries, or something as complex as articles from the *Guardian* newspaper in England from 1 Sep 2015 – 31 Dec 2015, with *refugees* in the title).

In less than one second, the corpus will create a "Virtual Corpora" of these texts, even in corpora like NOW, which have tens of millions of texts in more than 18 billion words of text.

HELP	□ 100	WEBSITE	TEXT	# WORDS	# HITS ‡	RELEVANCE ‡	PER MILLION WORDS
1	~	DIABETES.ORG	HOW TO AMELIORATE THE PROBLEM OF HYPOGLYCEMIA IN INTENSIVE AS WELL \ldots	6286	123	19,567.3	
2	~	GBHEALTHWATCH.COM	THE FACTS ABOUT HYPOGLYCEMIA GB HEALTHWATCH	3129	107	34,196.2	
3	✓	DIABETESSELFMANAGEMENT.COM	HYPOGLYCEMIA SYMPTOMS - DIABETES SELF-MANAGEMENT	3640	77	21,153.8	
4	✓	DIABETESINCONTROL.COM	DIABETIC EMERGENCIES: HYPOGLYCEMIA CAUSED BY INSULIN, PART 3	2674	62	23,186.2	
5	✓	DIABETESINCONTROL.COM	PRACTICAL DIABETES CARE, 3RD ED., EXCERPT #1: DIABETES IN THE	6065	60	9,892.8	
6	✓	ENCOGNITIVE.COM	HOW SWEET IT IS? ENCOGNITIVE.COM	3447	59	17,116.3	
7	-	AHCMEDIA COM	OVEDDOCE OF ODAL VIILIDIABETIC WEDICATIONIC VVID INICITI IVI I 2013	512/	56	10 007 7	

And users can then **search within** these Virtual Corpora. Or, in just 1-2 seconds more, they can **extract keywords**, such as these words from a [hypoglycemia] Virtual Corpus from the 14 billion word iWeb corpus:

HYPOGLYCEMIA [277,654 WORDS, 300 TEXTS] NOUN VERB ADJ ADV N+N ADJ+N [ALL VIRTUAL CORPORA] SAVE LIST HELP **ENTRY** SAVE WORD (CLICK FOR CONTEXT) FREQ # TEXTS 🕀 SPECIFIC 🧲 **EXPECTED ENTIRE CORPUS** FREQ 45 30 TRANSLATE ALL ENTRIES $\langle \mathcal{A} \rangle$ 1 HYPOGLYCEMIA 3636 300 12.243.6 14.974 0.3 $\langle \mathcal{A} \rangle$ **GLUCAGON** 3,494.6 5,050 0.1 350 78 \Diamond UNAWARENESS \star 109 41 2.366.9 2.322 0.0 3 4 \langle **HYPERGLYCEMIA** 160 63 1,576.3 5.118 0.1 Θ * **GLUCOSE** 5 2416 255 791.6 153,883 3.1 * INSULIN 2240 237 633.1 178,395 3.5

This is very useful for non-native speakers who are studying, for example, aeronautical engineering or molecular biology or corporate law, and who just need to find out about the language of that narrow domain.

Other tools and features. There are many other features that cannot be fully described in this short overview. For example, just two of these are 1) the ability to create personalized word and phrase lists , to save words and phrase for further study, including grouping by topic, and 2) extensive links from the corpora to external resources , such as images, videos, pronunciation, translations, and so on.

Downloadable data. In addition to accessing the corpora via the online web interface, users can also download corpus data for use on their own computer. This includes full-text data, and word frequency, n-grams (word strings), and collocates data. This data has been used extensively by many technology-related companies, and it has also served as the backbone for thousands of academic publications.

In summary, the corpora from English-Corpora.org are (by far) the most widely used corpora in existence. Hundreds of thousands of researchers, teachers, and students use the online corpora every year, and many universities throughout the world have purchased academic licenses that provide expanded access to the corpora.

For more information, please contact us at admin@english-corpora.org.