

Practice with Word and Phrasewww.wordandphrase.infoWord and phrase: English and Spanish

Word and phrase is an interface that accesses several online resources, most notably, the corpora housed at BYU. For English, word and phrase draws on the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA), which is the largest freely-available corpus of English online. Created by Mark Davies, Professor of Linguistics at Brigham Young University, COCA is the only large, balanced corpus of contemporary American language and it is also one of the most frequently used, with more than 40,000 unique visitors each month. It contains more than 560 million words of text, which are equally divided among spoken, fiction, popular magazines, newspapers and academic texts. It includes 20 million words each year from the years 1990-2017 and is updated regularly (the most recent being in the December 2017).

Word and Phrase English focuses on the Academic sub-register from COCA to provide users with information specifically related to academic language use (in addition to showing how words are distributed across the registers found in COCA). Dee Gardner together with Mark Davies used the academic sub corpus not only to create the useful interface found on Word and Phrase English, but they also created a new Academic Vocabulary List (AVL) (Gardner and Davies 2016).

Word and Phrase Spanish allows you to see detailed information on the top 40,000 words (lemmas) of Spanish, based on data from the Corpus del Español. The Corpus del Español allows one to quickly and easily search more than 2 billion words across historical texts (1200s-1900s), web registers, and google books. The lemmas have been checked by hand to ensure accuracy of the part of speech tagging.

**** English Activities ****

Activity 1: Register awareness

1. What registers do you expect to have more occurrences of personal pronouns (*I, you*)?
2. Go to Wordandphrase. Choose 'Frequency List'
3. Type 'I' in the 'Word' field.
4. Click 'Search.'
5. Look at the resulting charts on the top right and the middle of the bottom screen. In which of the five registers (Spoken, Fiction, Magazine, Newspaper, Academic) is the construction most common?
6. Repeat this for *you* and other personal pronouns. Click on the bar charts to see some of the occurrences in context. Repeat this to show patterns of the two reporting verbs *say vs. state*.
7. If you want to look at examples from a single register (e.g., Academic only), you can select that register's (e.g., 'Academic') bar in the bar chart.

8. If you want to use an offline activity, you can create screen shots of the KWICs to show students the patterns you want them to notice.

Activity 2: Patterns of use

1. What is the difference between *say* and *tell*?
2. Go to Wordandphrase. Choose 'Frequency List'
3. Type 'say' in the 'Word' field.
4. Click 'Search'.
5. Look at the resulting KWIC display. What are the most common collocates to the right?
6. Try the same for *tell*. Then compare the patterns.
7. If you want to use an offline activity, you can create screen shots of the KWICs to show students the patterns you want them to notice.

Activity 3: Error correction

The author uses *Akira* as a good example to demonstrate that anime can also **focus** serious problems such as political or social conflicts.

1. Go to Word and phrase. Choose 'Analyze Texts'
2. Type the sentence above in the text box (you can also copy paste from texts).
3. Click 'Search'.
4. Click on the word 'focus' in the resulting text box.
5. View the resulting KWICs (Key Word in Context) in the box in the bottom right half of the screen.
6. Click on sort in the column just to the right of the key word (focus).
7. Click on the Academic bar in the bar chart above the KWICs.
8. Scroll down to find the most common preposition used after 'focus'.
9. Or: Go to Wordandphrase. Choose 'Frequency Lists'.
10. Type 'focus' in the 'Word' field.
11. Follow the same instructions above.

Activity 4: Analyze Texts

1. Go to Wordandphrase. Choose 'Analyze Texts'
2. From samples select 'Academic'.
3. Click 'Search'.
4. Note the percentage of words from each of the frequency bands (1-500, 501-3000, > 3000).
5. Now clear the sample text and choose 'Learner 1' from samples. Are there any differences in the percentages of frequency across the bands in the two samples?

**** Spanish Activities ****

Activity 1: Register awareness

1. What dialects do you expect to have more occurrences of the personal pronoun *hablar* vs. *afirmar*?
2. Go to Wordandphrase/span. Choose 'Frequency List'
3. Type '*hablar*' in the 'Word' field.
4. Click 'Search.'
5. Look at the resulting bar charts on the middle the bottom screen. In which of countries is the construction most common?
6. Repeat this for *afirmar*. Click on the bar charts to see some of the occurrences in context. Repeat this to show patterns of the two verbs *conversar* vs. *afirmar*.
7. If you want to look at examples from a single register (e.g., Academic only), you can select that register's (e.g., 'Academic') bar in the bar chart.
8. If you want to use an offline activity, you can create screen shots of the KWICs to show students the patterns you want them to notice.

Activity 2: Patterns of use

8. What is the difference in patterns of use for the verbs *hablar*, *conversar*, and *afirmar*?
9. Go to Wordandphrase/span. Choose 'Frequency List'
10. Type '*hablar*' in the 'Word' field.
11. Click 'Search'.
12. Look at the resulting KWIC display. What are the most common collocates to the right?
13. Try the same for *conversar* and *afirmar*. Then compare patterns.
14. If you want to use an offline activity, you can create screenshots of the KWICs to show students the patterns you want them to notice.

Activity 3: Error Correction

En la superficie, Facebook es una de las proposiciones comerciales más exitosas en la historia de los negocios. Su capitalización de mercado sobrepasa hoy el medio **billón dólares**.

12. Go to Word and phrase. Choose 'Analyze Texts'
13. Type the sentence above in the text box (you can also copy paste from texts).
14. Click 'Search'.
15. Click on the word 'billón' in the resulting text box.

16. View the resulting KWICs (Key Word in Context) in the box in the bottom right half of the screen.
17. Click on sort in the column just to the right of the key word (focus).
18. Click on the Academic bar in the bar chart above the KWICs.
19. Scroll down to find the most common prepositions used after 'billón'.
20. Or: Go to Wordandphrase. Choose 'Frequency Lists'.
21. Type 'billón' in the 'Word' field.
22. Follow the same instructions above.

Activity 4: Analyze Texts

6. Go to Wordandphrase. Choose 'Analyze Texts'
7. From samples select one of the dialects from the list.
8. Click 'Search'.
9. Note the percentage of words from each of the frequency bands (1-500, 501-3000, > 3000).
10. Now paste the learner writing sample provided below into the text box. Are there any differences in the percentages of frequency across the bands in the two drafts?

Learner writing sample for Spanish, from Corpus de aprendices de español (CAES)

<http://galvan.usc.es/caes/search>

Hace más de un año tuve el placer de cambiar mi habitual compañía eléctrica a su compañía, porque unos amigos me lo recomendaron, la sorpresa mía fue que, desde hace más de cuatro meses encontré mucha deficiencia en el servicio, cortes de luz, bajada de tensión y subida de la misma, para concretarle de los 30 días del mes, he tenido cortes del suministro en 5 ocasiones. (C1, male, Arabic)