

WEBQUEST - Websites to improve your English

A - WEB CONCORDANCERS

A corpus is a collection of naturally-occurring examples of language, used for linguistic study. Corpora can tell us about frequency of items, phraseology and collocation. By searching for a word or phrase in a concordancer, every instance in that particular corpus is presented in the centre of the computer screen, with the words that come before or after it to the left or right. Thus, you can learn when and why a particular phrase is used in real-life contexts. At the same time, concordances will show you common collocation, which might be extremely useful to increase fluency in your compositions.

- 1- Cobuild Concordance and Collocations <http://www.collins.co.uk/Corpus/CorpusSearch.aspx>
- 2- Corpora BNC _ World <http://thetis.bl.uk/lookup.html>
- 3- Web Concordancer <http://www.edict.com.hk/concordance>

Task 1: Search for verbs and adjectives that collocate with *POLLUTION*

VERB + pollution

ADJECTIVE + pollution

B - ONLINE DICTIONARIES

If you are typing your composition on your PC and have access to the Internet, you can check your vocabulary and spelling by looking up a word or phrase online :

- 1- Cambridge Dictionaries online <http://dictionary.cambridge.org>
- 2- Online French, Italian and Spanish dictionary. <http://www.wordreference.com/es>
- 3- One Look dictionary <http://www.onelook.com/>
- 4- Thesaurus (Dictionary of synonyms and antonyms) <http://thesaurus.reference.com/>
- 5- The Merriam-Webster dictionary and thesaurus (with pronunciation of words) <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary>

Task 2: Find the meaning of '*make ends meet*' and '*look up to*' and the translation of '*cursi*'

Task 3: Search for '*make ends meet*' on a web concordancer and write down two concordance lines. Remember that sometimes you have to type a symbol between terms in order to get the sample concordances.

Task 4: Use the *Thesaurus dictionary* to replace the word in italics with a synonym.

1. We were waiting in a *big* room.
2. The company faces *big* problems.
3. At the end of the lane was a *big* house.
4. My *big* brother is leaving for college next week.
5. Gandhi was a *big* figure in the peace movement.

C – LISTENING WEBSITES

1- Dozens of listening quizzes for all levels of English

www.esl-lab.com

<http://cla.univ-fcomte.fr/english/sites/audio.htm> ; <http://cla.univ-fcomte.fr/english/sites/video.htm>

<http://www.english-trailers.com/index.php>

2- Intermediate-level listening

http://esl.about.com/library/courses/blcourses_intermediate_listening.htm

<http://www.rong-chang.com/qa2/index.html>

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/index.html>

3- Advanced-level listening

<http://esl.about.com/od/advancedlistening/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/videonation/archive/>

Task 5: Choose a listening comprehension test and practise your listening skills.

D- WEBSITES TO PRACTISE PRONUNCIATION

<http://www.howjsay.com/> (free online pronouncing dictionary)

<http://vsac.cele.nottingham.ac.uk/pronunciation/>

<http://evaeaston.com/pr/home.html>

<http://international.ouc.bc.ca/pronunciation/>

<http://www.sunburstmedia.com/PronWeb.html>

<http://www.englishclub.com/pronunciation/index.htm>

<http://www.english.hb.pl/articles/pronunciation/>

E- WEBSITES TO PRACTISE THE LANGUAGE (grammar, vocabulary, reading...)

1- Dave's ESL Café <http://www.eslcafe.com>

2- English Club <http://www.englishclub.com>

3- Activities for ESL Students <http://a4esl.org>

4- The Tower of English <http://towerofenglish.com>

5- onestopenglish <http://www.onestopenglish.com/>

6- Online English Grammar <http://www.edufind.com/english/grammar/>

7- ESL Gold <http://www.eslgold.com>

8- English as a Second Language <http://www.word2word.com/esl.html>

9- BBC Learning English <http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/index.shtml>

10- Readings for all levels <http://english-zone.com/index.php?ID=6>

11- Free audio books: <http://librivox.org/librivox-catalogue/>

12- English as Second Language <http://esl.about.com/>

13- Other recommended web sites <http://vsac.cele.nottingham.ac.uk/introduction/>

<http://www.manythings.org>

<http://www.learnenglish.de/Level1/Resources/resweb.htm#vocabulary>

F – WEBSITES TO PRACTISE YOUR WRITING SKILLS

<http://www.xtec.es/~iboluna/swim/> (For homework, do the first exercise for your level and send it to your teacher)

<http://www.writefix.com/argument/>

<http://www.xtec.es/~jsuller/advanced/translation1.htm>

G – WEBSITES TO PRACTISE YOUR CERTIFICATE TESTS (Cert. ELEM & Cert. APT)

http://phobos.xtec.net/eoi/index.php?module=detic_portal&ref=mostres (Exam samples)

<http://www.writefix.com/pet/index.htm> (picture description)

H – ONLINE NEWSPAPERS (http://www.xtec.es/~jsuller/advanced/newspaper_vocabulary.htm)

<http://www.nytimes.com/learning/index.html>

<http://www.newseum.org/todaysfrontpages/>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/guardian/>