Student handout: Climate change – new words

Task 2)

        a. <u>What kinds of temperatures and temperature phenomena exist?</u>

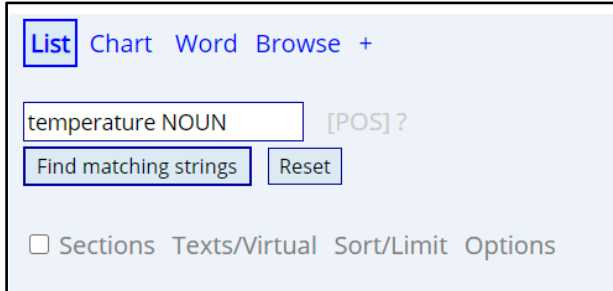1. Go to www.english-corpora.org/ and choose the Corpus of Contemporary American English

(COCA).

    2. On the COCA search interface, type in the word "temperature" followed by "NOUN".

3. Click on "Options" and change "GROUP BY WORDS" to "GROUP BY LEMMAS" in the

drop-down menu.

1
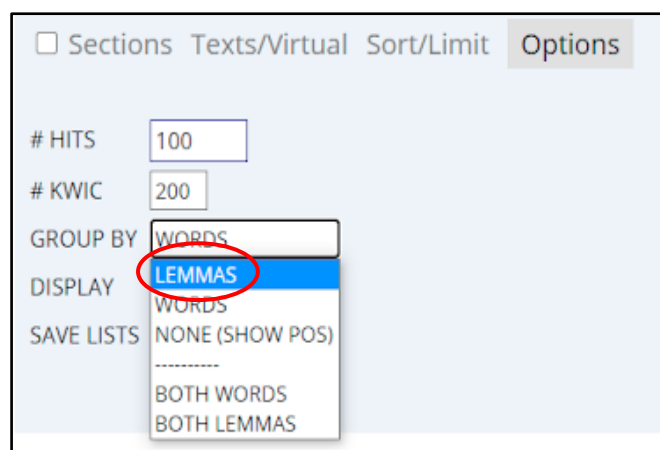
4. Click on "Find matching strings" to reveal the list of *temperature* + NOUN collocations in the form of lemmas and ordered by frequency.

5. Out of the **five most frequent entries**, **choose two** that you find particularly helpful when it comes to talking about climate change. Write them down on your list.

6. Repeat the same procedure, this time with "NOUN" and "temperature" switched in positions.
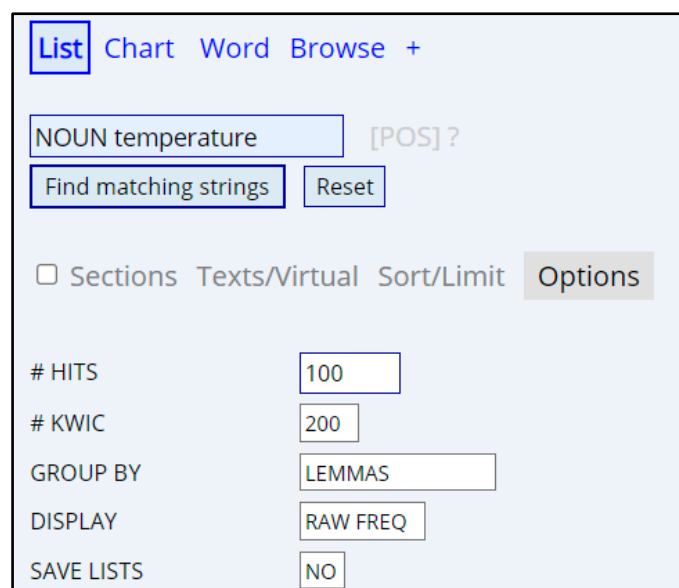
       b. <u>How can we describe temperatures?</u>

1. Repeat the search from task 2a, but now search for adjectives instead of nouns.

    c.   <u>What can temperature "do"?</u>

1. You probably already know at least one word or phrase to express what temperature does when it gets warmer or colder. Enter "temperature" into the search field, followed by the expression you already know. Make sure it is in the right order!

2. Insert an equal sign (=) directly before your chosen word, without leaving a space. Start the search.

3. You will now see synonyms of your word in combination with *temperature*, grouped by lemmas and ordered by frequency.

Task 3

    a.   <u>Either… or…?</u>

1. Go back to the "SEARCH" section of the COCA.
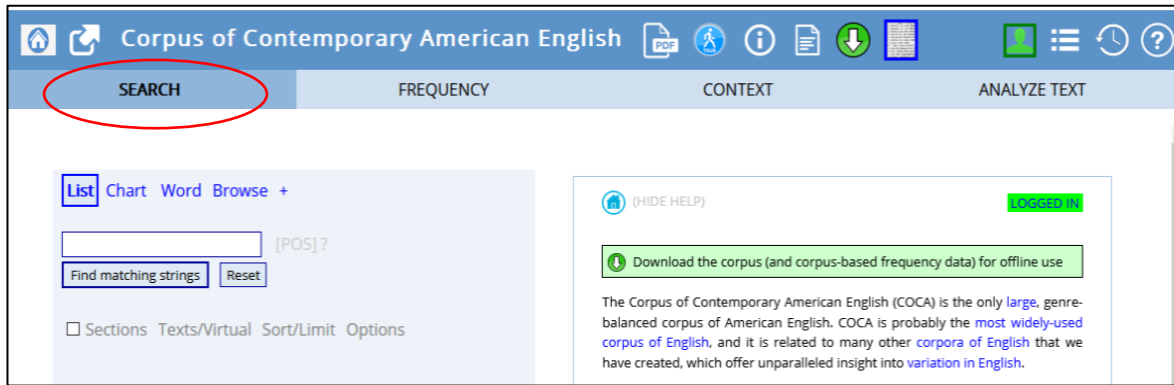
2. Type the first phrase, *temperature rises*, into the blank field and add "_v" directly after the verb. This is necessary to make sure that only results of *rises* as a <u>verb</u> are found – because *rises* is also the plural of the <u>noun</u> *rise*!

3. Go to "Options" and group the results by LEMMAS. This will make sure that different word forms (e.g., *temperature* vs. *temperatures, rises* vs. *rising*) are treated as one word.

4. Press ENTER or click on "Find matching strings".
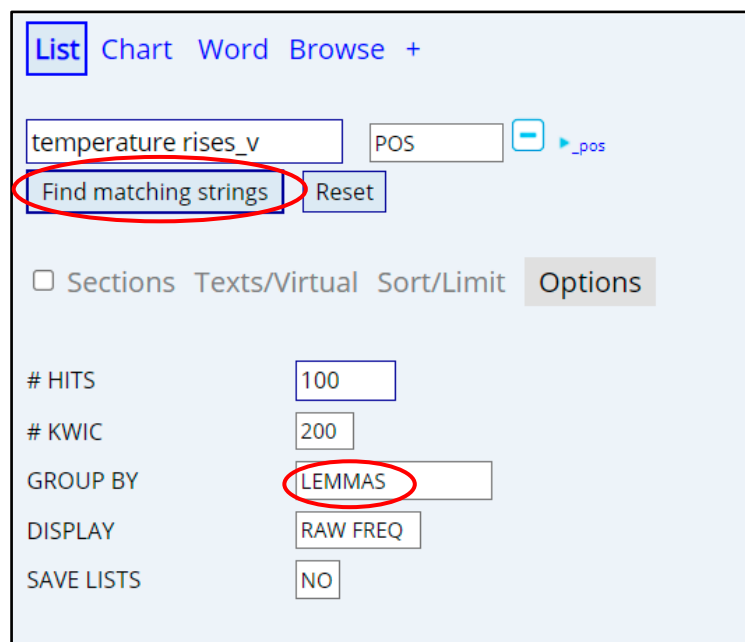
5. You will find the frequency number on the right side of the table.

SEARCH	FREQUENCY	CONTEXT	OVERVIEW

ON CLICK: ▣ CONTEXT 🌐 TRANSLATE (**??**) 🔍 GOOGLE 🖼 IMAGE ▶ PRON/VIDEO 📖 BOOK (HELP)

HELP		ALL FORMS (SAMPLE): 100 200 500	FREQ	
1	☐	[TEMPERATURE] [RISE]	113	

6. Click on "[TEMPERATURE] [RISES]" and read through some of the concordance lines, (these are the short text excerpts where the phrase is used in context).

7. Repeat the same steps for the other expressions to compare their frequencies.

    b. <u>What could I say instead?</u>

1. To find out about alternative phrases, go back to the SEARCH interface. Type in "AVERAGE temperature". Insert an equal sign (=) directly before the word (=AVERAGE) so that the system searches for synonyms of *average* preceding *temperature*.

> **List** Chart Word Browse +
>
> =AVERAGE temperature   [POS] ?
> Find matching strings Reset
>
> ☐ Sections Texts/Virtual Sort/Limit **Options**
>
> # HITS   100
> # KWIC   200
> GROUP BY   LEMMAS
> DISPLAY   RAW FREQ
> SAVE LISTS   NO

2. Then click on "Find matching strings" and wait for the following page to load.

3. You will find a list of synonyms of *average* that combine with *temperature*, sorted by frequency.

Solutions: 2a) A; 2b) D; 2c) C

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