Using Concordancers

Use this worksheet to practice what is discussed in

- **Information sheet 11:** *Using Concordancers to Improve Written Academic English.*

Some of the exercises on this sheet can be completed using any concordancer (e.g., Ludwig, Sketch Engine/SkELL, COCA, AntConc). For others, only some concordancers can be used. You will learn most by completing the tasks using different concordancers.

For the following tasks, first use concordancers to answer the questions posed, or decide which of the two alternatives is correct or more common. Second, check your answer using a concordancer. Where alternative answers appear to be possible, can you identify a reason why?

Task 1: Prepositions

a) Linked *with/to*
b) Questionable *if/whether*
c) Contribution *from/of*
d) Representative *for/of*
e) Relevant *to/for*
f) Engaged *with/in*
g) Speak *with/to*
h) Enrich *with/by*
i) Interesting *for/to*
j) Enhanced *with/by*
k) independent *from/of*
l) used *for/to*
m) Competitive *to/with*
n) Correlate *to/with*
o) Central *to/for*
p) Detrimental *to/for*
q) Opposition *to/against*
r) Likelihood *for/of*
s) Complemented *with/by*
t) Adheres *with/to*

Task 2: Adjectives

a) Magnitude: *largest/greatest*
b) Involvement: *greater/higher*
c) Performance: *greater/higher*
d) Conductivity: *higher/greater*
e) Which adjectives are used in front of *variety*?
f) Which adjectives are used in front of *changes*?

Task 3: Phrases

a) This paper *investigates/investigated* …
b) This study *investigates/investigated* …
c) *Research* can be a noun or a verb.
   Research as noun and sentence subject:
   1. With which verbs is it generally used?
   2. In which tense are those verbs?
   3. With which adjectives is it connected?
   4. List five similar words (potential synonyms).
   Research as verb:
   5. With which adverbs (modifiers) is it often connected?
   6. List five similar words (potential synonyms).

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Possible Answers

Answers are what would generally be correct. There can always be exceptions or further correct answers.

Task 1: Prepositions

a) *to*
b) *whether*
c) *of, from* generally only when people are the object
d) *of*
e) *to*
f) *in*
g) *to*
h) *by*
i) *to* + verb, *for* + person (except me)
j) *by*
k) *of* = not dependent on,
   from = A is separated from B (often countries)
l) *for* = generally + noun,
   to = generally + infinitive verb.
m) *with*
n) *with*
o) to
p) *to*
q) *to*
r) *of*
s) *by*
t) *to*

Task 2: Adjectives

a) *greatest*
b) *greater*
c) *higher* when referring to results
d) *higher*
e) e.g., *wide, great, large, infinite, whole, huge, rich*
f) e.g., *major, significant, other, big, small, dramatic*

Task 3: Phrases

a) *investigates*
b) *investigated*
c) *Research*
   1. *is, has, shows, was, suggests*
   2. generally present simple
   3. *future, previous, new, scientific, further, recent*
   4. *investigation, exploration, inquiry, study, development*
   5. *meticulous, exhaustively, thoroughly, extensively*
   6. *analyse, study, document, investigate, evaluate*

Tip

- Every time you use a concordancer to check something, write your answer down in a file. You can then build up your own list of mistakes you might be making. You can also potentially ask any editing software you use to check specifically for those mistakes.