

1. Search for the phrasal verb *figure out* in the COCA.

- How many times was *figure out* used in academic writing? How many times was it used in the spoken register?
- Search for the synonym *discover*. How many times was *discover* used in spoken? academic writing?
- Think of another phrasal verb and its one-word synonym. How many times was each used in speaking and academic writing?
- How can you explain the difference in usage? What possible guidance would you offer a language learner regarding phrasal verb usage based on your findings?

2. Following is a group of linking adverbials.

therefore

moreover

however

besides

- Which linking adverbial is used most frequently at the beginning of sentences?
- What usage differences for the adverbial of highest frequency can you observe across registers?

3. What do you feel are the similarities and/or differences between **when** and **while**? Do a corpus search for *when* and *while* (search for the collocates 0 to the left and 2 to the right). What do you notice about the verbs that follow these two words?

4. Two of the most common conjunctions are *and* and *but*. Do a series of searches using the COCA and fill in the charts below with numbers found.

	Academic	Spoken
, and		
. And		

	Academic	Spoken
, but		
. But		

- What conclusions, if any, can you make from the charts?
- Do you think this information will influence your writing?