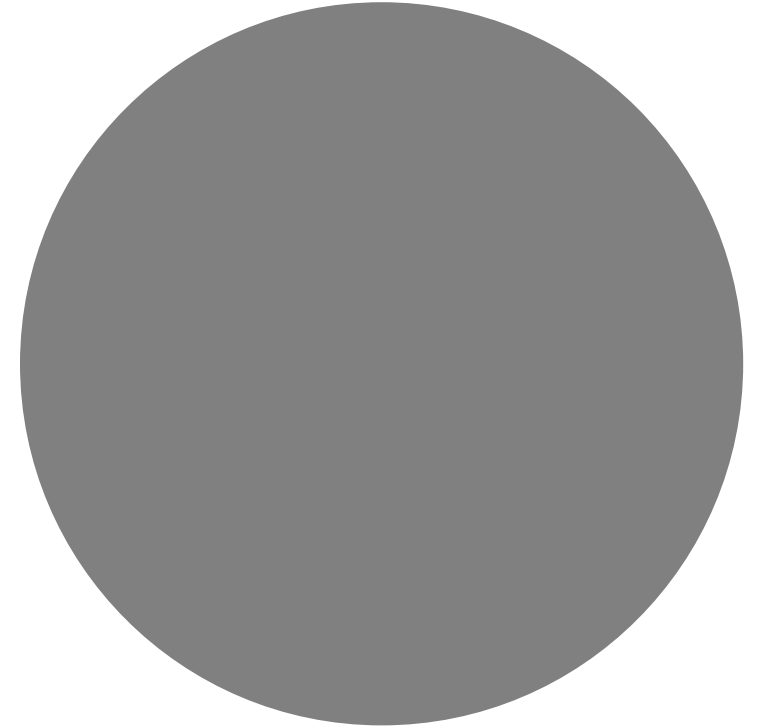


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TDSIG



What is a corpus?

- A large collection of written text and/or transcribed speech
- Stored electronically (online)
- Analysed/processed using software (online)
- Basis for language analysis and description (frequencies, collocations, tendencies, changes in speech over time)

British National Corpus (1994 + 2014)

100 million words

90% Written

- Newspapers, journals, academic books, fiction...

10% Spoken

- Transcriptions of informal conversations
- Spoken language collected in different contexts – meetings...

iWeb

- <https://corpus.byu.edu/iweb>
- Collection of corpora
- 1.4 billion words

The English Profile: A learner corpus

- Cambridge Learner Corpus
 - 54 million words
 - Written exam data
 - 266,600 exam documents
 - 143 different first languages backgrounds
 - 17-year period (1993–2012)
 - All levels CEFR
 - Hosted on *Sketch Engine*
-
- (O’Keeffe and Mark 2017)

The English Profile

“an attempt to provide empirical detail about
levels of competence
in learner English”

“to supplement the intuitively-derived CEFR for
languages”

(O’Keefe and Mark 2017)

Moves from *can-do* to what learners *are doing*

Online and Open Access

Two Strands:

English Grammar Profile (EGP)

English Vocabulary Profile (EVP)

The English Grammar Profile

SuperCategory

- Select -

- Select -

- ADJECTIVES
- ADVERBS
- CLAUSES
- CONJUNCTIONS
- DETERMINERS
- DISCOURSE MARKERS
- FOCUS
- FUTURE
- MODALITY
- NEGATION
- NOUNS
- PASSIVES
- PAST
- PREPOSITIONS
- PRESENT
- PRONOUNS
- QUESTIONS
- REPORTED SPEECH
- VERBS

Modality

SubCategory

- Select -

- Select -

- adjectives
- adverbs
- can
- could
- dare
- expressions with be
- have (got) to
- may
- might
- must
- need
- ought
- shall
- should
- used to
- will
- would

Would – Higher levels

SuperCategory	SubCategory	Level	Can-do statement	Example	Details
MODALITY	would	B2	USE HABITUAL PAST Can use 'would' to talk about habitual actions and events in the past.	Example	Details
MODALITY	would	C1	FORM WITH ADVERBS Can use an increasing range of adverbs with 'would', including 'strongly', 'easily', 'especially', 'actually', 'absolutely', 'gladly' ► adverbs	Example	Details
MODALITY	would	C2	FORM WITH ADVERBS Can use a wide range of adverbs with 'would', including 'undoubtedly', 'possibly', 'normally', 'personally', 'eventually', 'obviously', 'significantly', 'inevitably'. ► adverbs	Example	Details

Study

Functions of three most frequent modals

Compared:

- Four top-selling **B1** general English coursebooks
- EGP

	Modal Function in Coursebooks	EGP Level
Will		
1	Prediction	B1
2	Prediction + adverb	A2 (adverbs)
3	Instantaneous decisions, offers + promises	A2
4	First Conditional	B1
Can		
1	Permission	A2
2	Ability/ possibility	Ability (A1) Possibility (A2)
3	Logical deduction	B2
Would		
1	Past habits	B2
2	Polite requests	B1
3	2 nd /3 rd Conditional	B1

CPD

- Designate a supercategory/subcategory
- Explore and reflect upon the correlation between:
 - a) what the EGP can-do statements say
 - b) what learners are doing in class (spoken/written – productive/receptive)
 - c) what the coursebooks do

Implications for teaching/planning/teachers' understanding of 'level'?

CPD

Opportunity for teachers to:

- a) improve language awareness (grammar → functional language)
 - b) observe learner language
 - c) Gain an insight into coursebooks/syllabus design
 - d) engage with corpora
-
- Share findings (staffroom/blog/twitter...)

English Vocabulary Profile

Level checking vocabulary

The interface is divided into two tabs: "British English" (active) and "American English". Under "Choose level:", there are two columns of radio buttons. The first column lists levels: A1, A1-A2, A1-B1, A1-B2, A1-C1, and A1-C2 (which is selected). The second column lists levels: A2 only, B1 only, B2 only, C1 only, and C2 only. Below the radio buttons is a link "Browse A-Z". Below that is the text "OR" and a label "Enter a word or phrase" above a text input field.

The interface is titled "ADVANCED SEARCH" with an expand/collapse icon. It contains seven dropdown menus, all set to "--Any--": Category, Part of speech, Grammar, Usage, Topic, Prefix, and Suffix. Below these is a "Clear filters" button. At the bottom, there is a checkbox labeled "Hide culturally sensitive words" and a red "Search" button.

The vocab generator

Level-appropriate Vocabulary

Category: phrasal verbs/idioms

Grammar: uncountable/transitive

Usage: informal/formal/literary

Topic: animals/describing things

Different levels, different senses (*Just*)

Core results:

- **just** adverb **RECENTLY** A2
- **just** adverb **ALMOST NOW** A2
- **just** adverb **ONLY** B1
- **just** adverb **ALMOST NOT** B1
- **just** adverb **EXACTLY** B1
- **just** adverb **EMPHASIS** B1
- **just about** B1
- **be just about to do sth** B1
- **just as bad/good/tall/clever, etc. (as sb/sth)** B1
- **just before/over/under, etc.** B1
- **just as** B2
- **it's just as well** C1
- **I/you/we, etc. will just have to do sth** C1
- **just** adjective C1

just was also found at:

- **be (just) about to do sth** B1
- **(just) in case** B1
- **just now** A2
- **all/just the same** C1
- **it's just as well** B2

EMPHASIS

B1 used to emphasize something you say

Dictionary examples:

It's just dreadful what happened to her.

I just can't bear it!

🕒 **Learner example:**

That is my best place - it is just wonderful.

Preliminary English Test, B1, Polish

References

- O'Keeffe, A., and Mark, G., (2017) 'The English Grammar Profile of learner competence, Methodology and key findings', *International Journal of Corpus Linguistics*, 22 (4), 457-489.

Thanks!

- @gohlt1

