

THE ACADEMIC COLLOCATION LIST (ACL)

Information from EAP Foundation website | www.eapfoundation.com

The Academic Collocation List (ACL) is a list of the most frequent and useful collocations in written academic English. It was developed by Kirsten Ackermann and Yu-Hua Chen using the Pearson International Corpus of Academic English (PICAЕ).

The ACL comprises lexical collocations (such as adjective + noun, verb + noun), rather than grammatical ones (e.g. verb + preposition). The list was devised using computational analysis and expert judgement.

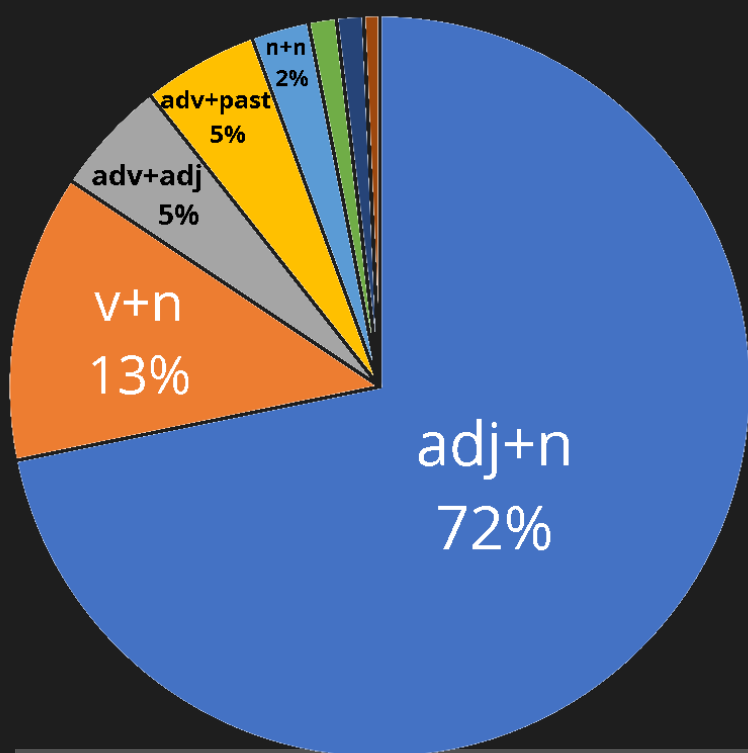
FACT & FIGURES

2469

Total number of collocations in the Academic Collocation List

1.4%

Percentage of words in PICAЕ covered by the ACL



There are 1773 adj + noun collocations (72% of the total), the most common type. Next most common are verb + noun (310, 13%). This could be because of the frequent use of noun phrases in academic writing. Other types are: adv+adj (5%), adv+past (5%), n+n (2%), v+adj (1%), v+adv (1%), adv+v (1%).

EXAMPLES

Adjective + noun

- abstract concept
- equal opportunity
- high unemployment

Verb + noun

- carry out research
- face discrimination
- store data

Adverb + adjective

- clearly visible
- highly relevant
- publicly available

Adverb + past

- commonly called
- generally considered
- tightly controlled

Noun + noun

- expert opinion
- learning environment
- research findings

Verb + adjective

- become evident
- deem necessary
- seem obvious

Verb + adverb

- behave differently
- change dramatically
- vary widely

Adverb + verb

- adversely affect
- fully understand
- strongly disagree

For more information, including a complete list of all 2469 collocations, see: <https://www.eapfoundation.com/vocab/academic/acl/>

