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Corpora

HWUSE Heriot-Watt University Science and Engineering Corpus (1.6 million words from undergraduate and postgraduate / conversion course distance learning materials)

BAWE Some of the data in this study come from the British Academic *BAWE corpus Manual 17* Written English (BAWE) corpus, which was developed at the Universities of Warwick, Reading and Oxford Brookes under the directorship of Hilary Nesi and Sheena Gardner (formerly of the Centre for Applied Linguistics [previously called CELTE], Warwick), Paul Thompson (Department of Applied Linguistics, Reading) and Paul Wickens (Westminster Institute of Education, Oxford Brookes), with funding from the ESRC (RES-000- 23-0800).

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Scaffolded exercises using HWUSE corpus

A. Try to decide whether the words in bold are maximisers or minimisers and write **max.** or **min.** in the space. KEY: see brackets

1. A small increase of **just** 1 or 2 degrees Celsius for several days during the summer is enough to cause bleaching. ____ (min.)
2. Antagonists for the H2 sites include ranitidine, marketed as Zantac, which has **few** side effects and cures about 75% of gastric ulcers. ____ (min.)
3. Muscle tissue uses up **much** more energy than fat (adipose) tissue. ____ (max.)
4. The one material which is **significantly** better (CFRP) also happens to be the most expensive and difficult to fabricate. ____ (max.)
5. This is an **extremely** small force, one which is not going to be noticeable in everyday life. ____ (max.)
6. Low-intensity radiation beams will cause **little** damage to the tissue they pass through. (min.)
7. You should try these programs and fiddle about with them so that you **really** do understand them. ____ (max.)
8. The key ingredient in a **truly** general purpose computer is the ability to change the course of a series of calculations depending on the data being processed. ____ (max.)

B. Use a maximiser or minimiser from the box as appropriate to complete each gap in these statements.

very, only, completely, truly, only, fully KEY: In the corpus these were used in order from L to R

1. Specialisation allows _____ complicated work to be broken down into simpler tasks with different people concentrating on different aspects of the work.
2. Notice that whereas hydrogen has _____ a single covalent bond (called a bonding pair), oxygen has a double bond and nitrogen a triple bond.
3. If people perceived losses and gains in a _____ rational way, the line would be straight and at 45 degrees.
4. Monochromats are _____ colour blind due to having _____ one type of receptor.
5. Students should ensure they work through the steps involved in the activity and understand the method _____.

C i) add a maximiser KEY (as corpus): very, significantly, completely, fully, highly³

1. Cash can be a convenient way of making payments.
2. Without an expansion in nuclear energy production, it is difficult to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
3. A scientist's claim to have achieved cold fusion in his laboratory was said to be false.
4. It would be dangerous to build a new generation of nuclear power plants without analysing the risks from war or terrorism.
5. In all living things, cell structure is complex, organised and efficient.

C ii) add a minimiser (warning: you have to think more carefully about these because they may not be logical without their minimisers) KEY: little, only, few

6. When Mendel's famous experiments in genetics first became known, scientists ignored his work because they knew about the mechanisms underlying inheritance
7. It has become clear that aspirin is of benefit not as an analgesic and antipyretic but also in the reduction of blood clotting.
8. Excellent organisations have very layers of management between customer and chief executive.

