

Reading a research article: Using online corpora to develop students' writing skills

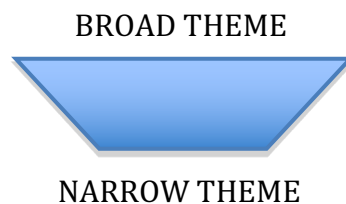
This task will give you further practice at reading and understanding research articles.

1. Look at the title of the article and the abstract (in *italics*). What is the paper about? Who is the intended audience? What were the results of the exploratory investigation? Would it be useful for you to read the whole article? Why/why not?
2. Appendix 1 (pages 370 to 372) provides the 'training materials' used in the investigation. Try these exercises with a partner, using the BYU online corpora BNC or COCA. Do you have a clearer idea what the paper is about now?
3. Look at the conclusion section of the article. What are the suggested advantages of using online corpora for a) teachers and b) students? Do you agree with these conclusions?
4. What does Table 1 (page 364) show? Which option from 1 to 5 is the best in your opinion? Why?
5. What does Table 2 (page 365) show? What are the main advantages and disadvantages of the two online corpora?
6. Look at the introduction section of the article. Why do you think the author started with a quotation?

7. Most of the references in the article come in the introduction, on pages 363 and 364. What idea are the citations supporting? Why are most of the references in this section?

8. Look at the references on page 364. What do we write when repeating a citation we have just mentioned?

9. Usually, introduction sections begin with a broad idea and then narrow down to a more specific question:



What are the broad themes and narrower themes in this article?

10. Look at the methods, results and discussion sections of the article. Are you convinced by the investigation? Can you see any problems with the methodology?

11. Look at the reference section of the article. What are the differences between journal references and book references?