

## Do some words matter more? Or the frequency fallacy

### Glossary

Concept	Definition
<b>collocation</b>	a combination of two or more words that often go together
<b>corpus</b>	a collection of naturally occurring language samples or whole texts drawn from books, magazines, newspapers and conversations.
<b>delexicalized verbs</b>	low-semantic content words with a vast number of collocates, such as <i>go, get, take, put</i> etc.
<b>K1, K2, etc.</b>	the most frequent 1000 words in English ( <b>K1</b> ); the second most frequent 1000 English words ( <b>K2</b> ). Paul Nation's BNC-COCA list categorises words / word families into the K1, K2, K3 etc. up to the K25 word frequency bands.
<b>monosemy</b>	the fact of having only a single meaning ( <i>cf.</i> <b>polysemy</b> )
<b>multi-part verbs</b>	often referred to as "phrasal verbs". However, true phrasal verbs are Verb + Particle constructions (e.g. <i>look up a word ~ look a word up</i> ) as opposed to prepositional verbs consisting of Verb + Preposition (e.g. <i>climb up + the hill</i> ).
<b>non-compositional</b>	a lexical unit is <b>non-compositional</b> if its meaning cannot be predicted from the meanings of its components, e.g. <i>take place</i> . Generally speaking, such a unit will not be intelligible to learners unless they have learned it as a whole (i.e. as a chunk)
<b>polysemy</b>	a <b>polysemous</b> word has more than one meaning. <b>Polysemy</b> is the capacity of a word to have multiple meanings.
<b>phraseology</b>	an area of linguistics which studies multi-word phrases, such as collocations, set expressions and idioms.

### References

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Most frequency lists mentioned in the talk can be found on LexTutor: [www.lextutor.ca/freq/](http://www.lextutor.ca/freq/)