

## ‘Pretty’: adverb vs. adjective – using COCA

<http://corpus.byu.edu/coca/>

1. Before you carry out your search, you should know that COCA uses the ‘Claws7’ tagset. <http://ucrel.lancs.ac.uk/claws7tags.html>
2. Click ‘CLICK TO SEE OPTIONS’ to open the options menu.

The screenshot shows the COCA interface with the search options menu open. The menu is titled 'CLICK TO SEE OPTIONS' and is circled in red. It contains several sections: 'DISPLAY' (LIST, CHART, KWIC, COMPARE), 'SEARCH STRING' (WORD(S), COLLOCATES, POS LIST), 'SECTIONS' (IGNORE, SPOKEN, FICTION, MAGAZINE, NEWSPAPER, ACADEMIC), and 'SORTING AND LIMITS' (SORT BY, FREQUENCY, MINIMUM, MAXIMUM, CLICK TO SEE OPTIONS). The 'CLICK TO SEE OPTIONS' button is highlighted with a red circle.

3. After opening the options menu, select ‘NONE (Show POS)’ in the ‘GROUP BY’ drop down menu.
4. Search for ‘pretty’ by typing in ‘pretty’ to open a list containing the results for the different parts of speech (labeled with tags → use the previously introduced ‘Claws7’-tagset to “translate” the tags).
5. ‘Pretty’ can be encountered in the function of different parts of speech. The list posted above shows the frequency for the different search results (total frequency: 74017).
6. Click ‘POS LIST’ (on the left-hand side of the menu) to open another drop down menu. Select ‘adv.ALL’ to search for ‘pretty’ as and adverb (choose ‘adj.ALL’ for adjectives). You could do the same for any part of speech. Your search field should look like this: pretty.[r\*] (mind the dot; otherwise you would search for ‘pretty’ followed by an adverb!).  
→ total frequency as an adverb: 59338 / total frequency as an adjective: 14665  
→ there are ambiguous cases (registered as adverbs and adjectives)

The screenshot shows the COCA interface with the search results for 'pretty'. The results are displayed in a table with columns for 'CONTEXT', 'FREQUENCY', and 'GROUP BY'. The 'GROUP BY' column is set to 'POS'. The results are as follows:

CONTEXT	FREQUENCY	GROUP BY
PRETTY (RG)	43266	POS
PRETTY (RG_JJ)	16066	POS
PRETTY (JJ)	11766	POS
PRETTY (JJ_RG)	2776	POS
PRETTY (JJ_NN1%)	89	POS
PRETTY (JJ_RG_NN1%)	31	POS
PRETTY (RG_JJ_NN1%)	5	POS
PRETTY (NN1%_JJ)	5	POS
PRETTY (NNU)	4	POS
PRETTY (JJ_NN1%_RG)	3	POS
PRETTY (NN1%_RG_JJ)	2	POS
PRETTY (RG_NN1%_JJ)	1	POS
PRETTY (PPY)	1	POS
PRETTY (PPH1)	1	POS
TOTAL	59338	POS

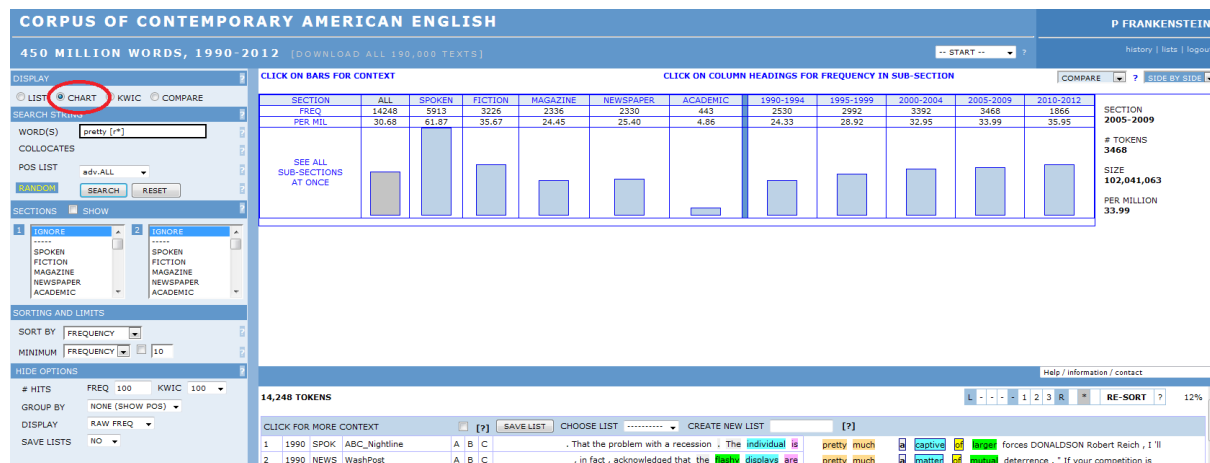
The screenshot shows the COCA interface with the search results for 'pretty' and context. The results are displayed in a table with columns for 'CONTEXT', 'FREQUENCY', and 'GROUP BY'. The 'GROUP BY' column is set to 'POS'. The results are as follows:

CONTEXT	FREQUENCY	GROUP BY
PRETTY (RG)	43266	POS

The 'CLICK FOR MORE CONTEXT' section shows the following results:

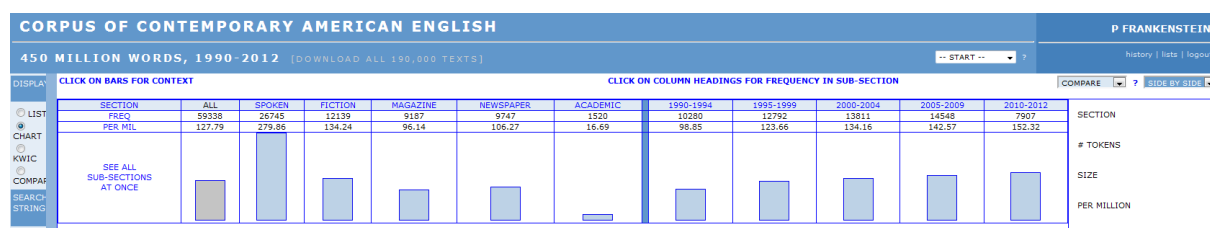
CONTEXT	FREQUENCY	GROUP BY
1 2007 FIC FantasySoFi A B C reminded himself) a damned good idea. Suits tore. Cheap civilian suits tore pretty easily, and tore most often at the feet. Small permanent magnets in the		
2 2007 FIC FantasySoFi A B C have to be watched. A military suit.... Well, a military suit wore pretty much like armor. A military suit got rid of built-up heat and kept the		
3 2007 FIC FantasySoFi A B C , mostly, but I could play all three outfield positions and I generally hit pretty close to three hundred. The money was good, and I meant to stay		
4 2007 FIC FantasySoFi A B C locker and pulled out her transparent suit. "I imagine we'll be back pretty soon." Nita looked doubtful. "Nobody said anything about people leaving.		
5 2007 FIC FantasySoFi A B C Kit said, "Let's hear it, Windy." "It's pretty simple, really. Whatever it is they've got here that tweaks your brain		
6 2007 FIC FantasySoFi A B C . Pay attention now, Kit. They don't come out again, and pretty soon their hoppers drift away. Kit was doing deep-space aerobics, throwing herself from		
7 2007 FIC FantasySoFi A B C get you suited up and shove you out the airlock. Tourists come to Jupiter pretty often. Somebody will probably pick you up before your air runs out."		
8 2007 FIC FantasySoFi A B C . I could take you to Number Fourteen or Number Twenty. Both those look pretty safe. Just say the word if you'd like to go. "Kit		
9 2007 FIC FantasySoFi A B C smoker ran slender fingers through glossy, coal-black hair. "But my jetsuit's pretty uncomfortable, and to tell the truth I'm not sure how far I can		
10 2007 FIC FantasySoFi A B C you fall without gravity? My guess is that they seemed to be moving around pretty normally. It probably makes you doozy at first. Later it may kill you		
11 2007 FIC FantasySoFi A B C something in that air to kill or disable you, something that has to be pretty dilute because the tomb's big. The woman I heard may have been in		
12 2007 FIC FantasySoFi A B C cell, but it's most likely batteries, and they'll have to be pretty small. The power draw he needs to bust that rock will be pulling him		
13 2007 FIC FantasySoFi A B C I understand. "He laid a hand on her shoulder. "I was pretty sure there was nothing in there, but I always wondered. Now I'm		

- In order to receive informative bar charts, change the setting to 'CHART' and click 'SEARCH' again. The chart contains information about the frequency of 'pretty' in spoken language, written language etc.



## A comparison of the results

Adverb:



Adjective:

