Inclass Exercises: BYU Interface

1) Go to http://corpus.byu.edu/bnc/ or to http://corpus.byu.edu/coca/

2) Search for "white lie". What articles go with this expression; is the expression always singular? Can the adjective or noun be in a different form?

3) Search for "out of the blue". Can "blue" be modified by a word before it? Can the phrase be preceded by a preposition (i.e., be in a PP)?

4) Search for all noun phrases that contain an adjective in the superlative. Why does "*est [nn*]

5) Search for occurrences of "the * the" (use the BNC for that search; COCA times out). How does this differ from the same search with grep?

6) How do you modify the previous search so that you get collocations like "the higher the mountain"?

7) Find out which people were assassinated according to BNC and compare that list to the one you get from COCA.

8) What happens when you search for synonyms of "assassinate"? How many different verbs do you get?

9) How often is the word "left" used as an adverb in BNC, how often as a verb?

10) What can be compared to "red" in comparisons of "as red as"? Can you restrict this to "as red as" + NP? Make sure that you get all possible determiners and NPs without determiners. Can there be an adjective before the determiner?

11) How many things can be compared to "blue"?

12) Are there words that start with "de" and end in "ion"? In which section do such words occur with the highest frequency? (Use the display option CHART for this query.) Are there words that start with "unde" and end in "ion"?