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Collocational patterning with high frequency verbs in the British National Corpus

This paper outlines some of the dominant collocational relations associated with several high frequency English lexical verbs, including *lose, find, give, take*, in the British National Corpus. Using both rank order frequency and the Mutual Information measure to identify collocational relations, the paper explores the extent to which collocation may be based on semantic factors underlying particular word forms, and builds on research published in Kennedy (2003). The key role of phraseological expressions in language acquisition and use has been noted by many scholars over the last seventy years, including Palmer (1933), Firth (1957), Pawley and Syder (1983), Nattinger (1980), Sinclair (1991), but more recently, the availability of large bodies of text in computerised corpora, and appropriate software for analysis have provided a new empirical basis and new directions for research in the language sciences.

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