

# Words Have Grammar

- *Integrating the Corpus into our Teaching*
- *Teaching Grammar Starting with a Single Word*



# What's your favourite English word?

'Friday', followed closely by 'annual' and 'holiday'

'Flabbergasted' - the perfect word for how you're feeling.

'Bubble'. I just love saying it.

'Quidditch' and 'Hufflepuff' are just brilliant words

'You'. So much nicer than 'I' and 'me'.

**supercalifragilisticexpiallidosious**

# Top ten Favourite words

(non-native English speakers)

- |           |                    |                         |
|-----------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>1</b>  | <b>mother</b>      |                         |
| <b>2</b>  | <b>passion</b>     |                         |
| <b>3</b>  | <b>smile</b>       |                         |
| <b>4</b>  | <b>love</b>        |                         |
| <b>5</b>  | <b>eternity</b>    |                         |
| <b>6</b>  | <b>fantastic</b>   |                         |
| <b>7</b>  | <b>destiny</b>     |                         |
| <b>8</b>  | <b>freedom</b>     |                         |
| <b>9</b>  | <b>liberty</b>     |                         |
| <b>10</b> | <b>tranquility</b> |                         |
|           |                    | <b>48 peekaboo</b>      |
|           |                    | <b>50 kangaroo</b>      |
|           |                    | <b>51 flabbergasted</b> |
|           |                    | <b>61 Oi</b>            |
|           |                    | <b>63 hiccup</b>        |

24 Serendipity

25  eltopian 3 h

26 Lullaby

27 Sophisticated

28 Renaissance

29 Cute

30 Cosy

31 Butterfly

32 Galaxy

33 Hilarious

34 Moment

35 Extravaganza

36 Aqua

37 Sentiment

38 Cosmopolitan

39 Bubble

40 Pumpkin

41 Banana

42 Lollipop

43 If

44 Bumblebee

45 Giggle

46 Paradox

47 Delicacy

48 Peekaboo

49  Write a message...

my favs



Your favorite word in English is

**EPIC** **LEGEND** TEACH  
 Love♡ Larry  
 GIRL LOVE Math Teacher Dream  
**HELLO** VE  
 pine cones butter Holiday  
 LOVE SEA LOVE LOVE  
 Vacation  
**FUTURE**  
 LOVE PICTURE OH HAPPY  
 Teacher Ice Cream  
 Teacher Funny! LOVE



## In English, what are the most used

- nouns? *time year people way man*
- adjectives? *other good new old great*
- verbs? *be have do say make*
- determiners? *the a his an their*
- pronouns? *it you he I we*
- prepositions? *of to in for with*

?

of in a to  
and is it  
that the you

7% 3.5% 20%

200 50%

**Learners would do well to learn the common words of the language very thoroughly, because they carry the main patterns of the language.**

*John Sinclair*

**Words and grammar are often thought of as being separate entities. In fact, in learning any word we are also learning something about its grammar.**

*Martin Parrott*

**When you use a word, you are obliged to choose from the particular grammar patterns that are associated with that word.**

*Scott Thornbury*

**You shall know a word by the company it keeps.**

*John R Firth*



**What do learners of English  
need to know about**

***going ?***

## Concordancy for *going*

e in London ) . The wedding itself is **going to be** quite traditional but not to  
ht seem smallish at first but they are **going to have** the kitchen extended so  
to get more room . Yeah . Just **keep going** dad . The higher you go , the less  
you an example, My sister , who is **going to university** this year , wants to be  
Mick was asking me what you were **going to do** about the , er , about the situa  
od ! No wonder he was keen to **get going** ! Oh ! might be the same as you .  
lly is evident . So eventually you ' re **going to have to** sit down with us and  
n appetit ! Oh dear my batteries **are going** ! Oh no it ' s alright ! Erm Steve,  
ureaucracy . The whole thing is not **going to take** more than 20 minutes and  
dren and of many different activities **going on** simultaneously in their classroo.  
s t not thinking she said well I , I ' m **going home** tomorrow , so I said no you '  
ice or anything alike . My sister ' s **going to wear** a smart skirt suit in beige  
nted to know when you were going **going to the hospital** ' cos I think he was ho  
e of natural resources . First , it ' s **going to last** for thousands more years assu  
The traditional Polish food which is **going to be** served during the wedding rec  
clear that the other six wickets were **going to have to** be captured fast , and in  
d . As regards the music there are **going to be** 3 or 4 different DJ s over the  
things are bound to come up . It ' s **going to be** interesting to see how the traditio  
first session of the morning. This is **going to be** followed by a brief interval of  
say to ourselves . Alright ? You ' re **going to have to** put some input in if you  
ver in sales. I said , I said , if we do **get going** , and we do start finding out that  
y haven ' t you to to keep , er , to **keep going** like that ? Hmm . Well I ' ll have  
because he does not know what is **going on** . Although open lines of commu

# Common patterns with *going*

***be going + to-infinitive***      **65%**

*He's going to say something.      What are you going to have?*  
*It's going to be nice later.      I was going to phone you.*

***be going + adverbial***      **20%**

*I'm going to the shops.      We're going home.*

# Verbs co-occurring with *going*

*going to ... be, get, do, have, go, say, take, ask*

# Adverbs co-occurring with *going*

*just, never, always, only, actually, probably ... going*

Leggi le situazioni e fai delle previsioni su ciò che accadrà in seguito usando *be going to* e i suggerimenti del riquadro.

Italy / win    this / not / be easy    it / be expensive    I / not / get the job  
today / be a nightmare    we / get wet

- 0 You open the menu at a restaurant. The prices are very high.  
It's going to be expensive.
- 1 The score is Italy 3-1 Brazil after 89 minutes.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 You went to a job interview. It was terrible.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 You arrive at the airport in the morning. Your flight is delayed until the evening.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 You are walking in the countryside and it starts raining.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 You are trying to fix your computer. It's very complicated.  
\_\_\_\_\_

## ***be going to have to***

*Hi Paul, I'm off to Malta first thing Fri morning, so I'm **going to have to** pass. Jon*

*I'm now **going to have to** leave it for a while, but will get back to it in a week or so.*

*Think it's **going to have to** be a no for Athlete this Sunday I'm afraid.*

*I've had a good look at my writing commitments/schedule and I'm **going to have to pass** on the teaching I'm afraid.*

## ***be going***

*The batteries **are going**. My hearing's **going**.*

## **Phrases**

*keep going*

*How's it going?*

*get going*

*I must be going.*

*going on*

*It was ... going.*

***‘I know what’s going on.***

***I am going on.’***

*(Harold Wilson)*



Great. What distance?

much less than what u run



4 km and something



Good distance to get going with



## *going* as a noun

<u>modifier</u>	<u>97</u>	1.0
tough	<u>11</u>	27.65
heavy	<u>13</u>	25.64
good	<u>9</u>	14.76
bad	<u>5</u>	14.43

***‘When the going gets tough,  
this man gets going.’***  
*(Times headline)*

## Let's get going

*I'm really going to have to ...*

*The way things are going, ...*

*I really need to get going with ...*

***... is tough going.***

*... hasn't got a lot going for itself.*

*There's a lot of ... going on these days.*

*One day, I'm going to ...*

*My ... is going.*

***still* and *very***

# What do learners need to know about *very*?

## ***very* + adjective/adverb**

*It's very different. Very good. She's very nice.*

## ***very* + much (74%) / many (3%) / little (14%) / few (9%)**

*Thanks very much. Very little is known about it.*

## ***The/My* etc *very* + superlative / first / last**

*I'll do my very best. This is the very latest model.*

## ***very* + noun**

*That's the very thing. The bit at the very end was brilliant.*



theguardian

**Father Jacques Hamel: 'A good priest ... who did his job to the very end'**

theguardian.com



4 comments 3 shares

**Freq**  
**much**  
**good**  
**well**  
**little**  
**different**  
**important**  
**difficult**  
**few**  
**small**  
**nice**

<u>modifies</u>	<u>5911</u>	6.1
beginning	<u>209</u>	41.71
essence	<u>78</u>	36.81
nature	<u>261</u>	36.28
existence	<u>133</u>	34.4
moment	<u>158</u>	30.8
heart	<u>140</u>	29.46
opposite	<u>33</u>	28.58
top	<u>101</u>	27.32
fact	<u>157</u>	27.27
antithesis	<u>15</u>	25.23
notion	<u>52</u>	24.82
end	<u>169</u>	24.73



# What do learners need to know about *still*?

## Common patterns

***still* + verb/adjective/noun/adverbial = continues = despite something**

*It's still raining. It's still the first set. We're still in France. It was tiring, but still fun.*

***still* + period of time/distance (+ *to go* etc) = remaining**

*There's still ten minutes to go. I've still got a month to finish the book.*

**comparative adjective (+ *still*) = emphasise a difference**

*Prices could go higher still. This one's better still.*

***Still*, + utterance = despite what was just said**

*Still, things could be worse. Still, at least it didn't snow.*

***still* = not moving/without activity**

*Stand still laddie! The streets were completely still. ... in the still night air.*

***still-* + adjective = remaining**

*The still-to-be-resolved issue. The still-missing painting.*



Jon Hird  
5 hrs

A rather grey but still characterful Budapest.

## ... still

	Freq
<b>is</b>	<b>3176</b>
<b>was</b>	<b>3042</b>
<b>are</b>	<b>2364</b>
<b>were</b>	<b>1304</b>
<b>but</b>	<b>963</b>
<b>can</b>	<b>550</b>
<b>will</b>	<b>405</b>
<b>am</b>	<b>121</b>
<b>have</b>	<b>103</b>
<b>has</b>	<b>61</b>

## still ...

	Freq
<b>in</b>	<b>2578</b>
<b>be</b>	<b>2577</b>
<b>have</b>	<b>1805</b>
<b>got</b>	<b>788</b>
<b>not</b>	<b>1090</b>
<b>there</b>	<b>854</b>
<b>alive</b>	<b>478</b>

**1 Add *still* in an appropriate position in the sentences.**

**There are a few weeks to go.**

**It was expensive. It was very nice.**

**They say prices will go higher.**

**They haven't got to the bottom of it.**

**Everyone stood during the minute's silence.**

**2 Add *very* in an appropriate position in the sentences.**

**The view from the top was stunning.**

**This is the first CD I bought.**

**It was the thing I was looking for.**

**Few people have heard of them.**

**There's a great twist at the end.**

**3 What or where could the sentences in 1 + 2 be referring to?**

*eg. There are still a few weeks to go until the start of the football season.*

*I went to the very top of the Eiffel Tower and the view was stunning.*

**Complete the sentences with your own ideas.**

***I still haven't ...***

***I'm still ...***

***I still (don't) ...***

***... is still in ...***

***There's still ... to go before ...***

***I (don't) like ... very much.***

***I can('t) ... very well.***

***I've got very little/few ...***

***I have(n't) got the very latest ...***

***I'm (not) very ... . Still, ...***

# Why?

- looks at the patterns that words form.
- traditional grammar, but **organised around words**.
- the **most common words** in English.
- the **core ‘building blocks’** of the language.
- multiple meanings, **avoids over-generalising**.

<http://www.natcorp.ox.ac.uk/>

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