

U3A KEYNOTE

RETIREMENT, CURIOSITY AND BEING A LANGUAGE RESEARCHER

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July 2014

1. GOOGLE

(a) "submergible" AND "submersible".
Google search: "submersible" is about 30 times more common

(b) Apostrophe in "Mothers Day"
"Mother's Day" = 34.4 million
"Mothers' Day" = 8.7 million
"Mothers Day" = 8.7 million

(c) "Mary is older than me" or "Mary is older than I".
If "than" is a conjunction, then "I" (i.e. from "than I am")
If a preposition, then "me".
Google: "than I" = 30 million
"than me" = 6 million: conjunction wins.
"than he" = 8 million
"than him" = 2 million.

But both are common and usable.

(d) reference works online
<http://www.grammarbook.com/>
<http://www.world-english.org/grammar.htm>

(e) Books!
Pam Peters, "Cambridge Guide to Australian English Usage"

2. USING A WORD PROCESSOR

Rudd's "Sorry" speech, February 13 2008

Straight text: use a word processor to search for words, e.g. "sorry", and then use the highlights to explore how the text is constructed.

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's apology motion has been tabled in Parliament:

1. Today we honour the Indigenous peoples of this land, the oldest continuing cultures in human history.
2. We reflect on their past mistreatment.
3. We reflect in particular on the mistreatment of those who were Stolen Generations – this blemished chapter in our nation's history.
4. The time has now come for the nation to turn a new page in Australia's history by righting the wrongs of the past and so moving forward with confidence to the future.
5. We apologise for the laws and policies of successive Parliaments and governments that have inflicted profound grief, suffering and loss on these our fellow Australians.
6. We apologise especially for the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families, their communities and their country.
7. For the pain, suffering and hurt of these Stolen Generations, their descendants and for their families left behind, we say sorry.
8. To the mothers and fathers, the brothers and sisters, for the breaking up of families and communities, we say sorry.
9. And for the indignity and degradation thus inflicted on a proud people and a proud culture, we say sorry.
10. We
the Parliament of Australia respectfully request that this apology be received in the spirit in which it is offered as part of the healing of the nation.
11. For the future we take heart; resolving that this new page in the history of our great continent can now be written.
12. We today take this first step by acknowledging the past and laying claim to a future that embraces all Australian.
13. A future where this Parliament resolves that the injustices of the past must never, never happen again.
14. A future where we harness the determination of all Australians, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, to close the gap that lies between us in life expectancy, educational achievement and economic opportunity.
15. A future where we embrace the possibility of new solutions to enduring problems where old approaches have changed.
16. A future based on mutual respect, mutual resolve and mutual responsibility.
17. A future where all Australians, whatever their origins, are truly equal partners, with equal opportunities and with an equal stake in shaping the next chapter in the history of this great country.

Rudd's "Sorry" speech, February 13 2008
Highlighted to capture various repetitions and patterns

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's apology motion has been tabled in Parliament:

1. Today **we** honour the Indigenous peoples of this land, the oldest continuing cultures in human history.
2. **We** reflect on their past mistreatment.
3. **We** reflect in particular on the mistreatment of those who were Stolen Generations – this blemished chapter in **our nation's** history.
4. The time has now come for **the nation** to turn a new page in Australia's history by righting the wrongs of the past and so moving forward with confidence to the **future**.
5. **We apologise** for the laws and policies of successive Parliaments and governments that have inflicted profound **grief, suffering and loss** on these our fellow Australians.
6. **We** apologise especially for the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their **families, their communities and their country**.
7. For the **pain, suffering and hurt** of these Stolen Generations, their descendants and for **their families left behind, we say sorry**.
8. **To the mothers and fathers, the brothers and sisters, for the breaking up of families and communities, we say sorry**.
9. And for the indignity and degradation thus inflicted on a **proud** people and a **proud** culture, **we say sorry**.
10. **We** the Parliament of Australia respectfully request that this **apology** be received in the spirit in which it is offered as part of the healing of the nation.
11. For the **future** **we** take heart; resolving that this new page in the history of our great **continent** can now be written.
12. **We** today take this first step by acknowledging the past and laying claim to **a future** that embraces all Australian.
13. **A future** where this Parliament resolves that the injustices of the past must never, never happen again.
14. **A future** where **we** harness the determination of all Australians, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, to close the gap that lies between **us** in life **expectancy, educational achievement and economic opportunity**.
15. **A future** where **we** embrace the possibility of new solutions to enduring problems where old approaches have changed.
16. **A future** based on **mutual respect, mutual resolve and mutual responsibility**.
17. **A future** where all Australians, whatever their origins, are truly **equal** partners, with **equal** opportunities and with an **equal** stake in shaping the next chapter in the history of this great country.

3. USING A CONCORDANCE PACKAGE

SCP = simple concordance package

Windows and Mac

<http://simple-concordance-program.software.informer.com/>

4. GOOGLE N-GRAM VIEWER

<https://books.google.com/ngrams>

Suggested words to check:

scientist // philosopher

nuclear

nuclear holocaust

global warming

communist

performance enhancing

chaste

God, religion, church

Islam, Muslim

5. ONLINE DICTIONARIES

English:

Oxford English Dictionary (£215 / year)

<http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/>

<http://www.onelook.com/>

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/>

Major languages:

<http://www.wordreference.com/>

Etymology

<http://www.etymonline.com/>

hearse

culprit

Phrases

<http://www.phrases.org.uk/>

Apps for mobile devices

dictionaries

encyclopaedias

grammar help

6. ONLINE CORPORA

Corpus of global web-based English: 1.9 billion words

<http://corpus2.byu.edu/glowbe/>

	total hits	ratio
<i>pain</i>	185,268	39.5
<i>hurt</i>	93,697	20
<i>sore</i>	15,272	3.5
<i>ache</i>	4,724	1

Geographical variation averages per million words ("WPMn"):

	highest	lowest	average
<i>pain</i>	Australia: 137.17	Ghana: 63.25	98.31
<i>hurt</i>	USA: 71.86	Sri Lanka: 29	49.72
<i>sore</i>	Singapore: 13.24	Sri Lanka: 4.16	8.10
<i>ache</i>	Singapore: 4.33	Ghana 1.26	2.52