Searching 'COBUILD Grammar Patterns'

Getting started

First of all, decide whether you are interested in looking at adjectives, nouns, or verbs. Select 'Adjectives', 'Nouns' or 'Verbs' from the menu. If you choose 'Adjectives' or 'Nouns' you will see all the patterns straight away. If you choose 'Verbs' you will have a further choice to make from a list of chapters. You can see what is in each chapter by clicking on the link in the menu. Then, choose from the list of patterns.

Example: an adjective pattern

For example, you may want to look at the adjectives in the pattern 'It is adjective that' (e.g. *it is interesting that; it is likely that; it is unfortunate that*). This is what you do:

- Using the menu, select 'Adjectives'.
- Scroll down the list until you come to *it v-link ADJ that*. Select that pattern.
- You will now see a description of the pattern, some examples in a table, and a list of the groups of adjectives - the 'meaning groups'. There are 8 groups.
- If you know which meaning you are most interested in, select that group. For example, you may wish to see adjectives that mean something like 'obvious'. Click on *The 'obvious' group*. You will see the explanation, some examples, and a list of the adjectives in this group: *apparent, clear, evident, manifest, obvious, plain* and *transparent*. The adjectives are in alphabetical order.
- If you are interested in all the groups, click on each in turn and you will see all the adjectives that are used with this pattern.

Example: a noun pattern

Suppose you want to look at nouns followed by the preposition *in* (e.g. *faith in, a rise in, a role in*). This is what you do:

- Using the menu, select 'Nouns'.
- Scroll down the list until you come to *N in n.* Select that pattern.
- You will now see a description of the pattern, some examples in a table, and a list of the groups of nouns – the 'meaning groups'. There are 19 groups.
- You may know approximately what meaning you are interested in. For example, you may wish to see nouns relating to change – things getting larger or smaller, better or worse. Click on *The 'increase' and 'decrease' group*. You will see the explanation, some examples, and a list of the nouns in this group. There are 53 nouns in this group.
- If you are interested in all the groups, click on each in turn and you will see all the nouns that are used with this pattern.

Example: a verb pattern

You may want to look at verbs such as <u>give</u> him a book, <u>tell</u> me a story, <u>save</u> them some money. These verbs are followed by two noun phrases ('give' + 'him' + 'a book' etc), so you need to find the pattern **V n n**. This is what you do:

- Using the menu, select 'Verbs'.

- Select Chapter 3: Complex Patterns.
- Select the pattern *V n n*.
- You will see that this pattern has three structures, exemplified by <u>*gave*</u> *her a present*, <u>*appointed*</u> *him chairman* and <u>*won*</u> *the game 4-2*. You can look at each in turn, or select one.
- To get verbs such as *give, tell, save*, select structure 1: Verbs with two Objects.
- You will see the structure explained in tables. There are four tables showing active voice, passive voice, phrasal verbs active voice and phrasal verbs passive voice.
- On the menu you can see 6 meaning groups: 'give', 'bring', 'tell and send', 'cost and save', 'envy' and 'other meanings'.
- If you are interested in one of these groups, select that one. For example, you may want to see verbs about communication, like *tell*. In that case, click on group *1.3 The 'tell' and 'send' group*. You will now see an explanation of the group, some examples, and list of the 23 verbs in this group. Some of the verbs have additional information. For example, the verb *bid* is used with *farewell* (*she will have to bid her children farewell*).
- If you are interested in all the groups, click on each one in turn and you will see all the verbs that are used with this pattern and structure.

Finding the pattern you want to look at

You probably have in mind an example of the pattern you want to search for. Below are some example sentences, highlighting a target adjective, noun or verb and showing what the target pattern is.

Sentence	Target word	Pattern
I was <u>uncertain</u> how to begin.	UNCERTAIN (adjective)	**ADJ wh**
Everyone is <u>afraid</u> of him.	AFRAID (adjective)	**ADJ *of* n**
They said it would be <u>impossible</u> for me to get fit enough to ride.	IMPOSSIBLE (adjective)	**it v-link ADJ *for* n to-inf**
The government ruled out <u>proposals</u> to make police forces compete with each other…	PROPOSAL (noun)	**N to-inf**
Their policies have failed to take into account <u>damage</u> to the environment.	DAMAGE (noun)	**N *to* n**
It's my <u>belief</u> that she's devoid of feelings.	BELIEF (noun)	**it v-link poss N that**
She <u>started</u> walking.	START (verb)	**V -ing**
I'm told I <u>come across</u> as hard and intimidating…	COME ACROSS (verb)	**V *as* n**
<u>Email</u> me your details…	EMAIL (verb)	**V n n**
<u>Can</u> a machine <u>fool</u> a human judge into thinking it was a person?	FOOL (verb)	**V n *into* -ing**
You'll need to <u>compare</u> yourself with the competition to determine your strengths and weaknesses.	COMPARE (verb)	**V n *with* n**