

Collaborative Corpus-Based Lesson With *Success* and Its Collocations

Teacher: I noticed that in your last essay about being successful students that many of you were not getting the correct form of the word *success*.

Here are some examples from your papers (Teacher writes them on the board):

Here are some tips for students to be **success**

What does it take to **success** in college

This is how to be a **success** college student

Can anyone tell me what the other forms of the word “success” are?

Student A: successful

Student B: succeed

Student C: successfully

Teacher: Excellent. Okay, let’s look at some corpus data to see how all of these forms are used in academic texts. We will use the Psychology textbook since psychology focuses on **successful** learning. (The teacher brings up AntConc and searches for all forms of the word “success”)

Teacher: Okay, let’s look at **success**. Can you see any example like the first one in the sentence on the board?

Students: No.

Teacher: How are the examples from the corpus different from the one on the board? What patterns do you see?

Student A: I see that “a” or “the” come before the word.

Teacher: Right. Now, why is that?

(Conversation continues until students demonstrate understanding. A great follow-up activity would be to get the students to produce sentences of their own.)