1. Collocates: Using COCA, find the following information about collocates with the word *pie*.

A. 4 ‘ingredient’ collocates in the L1 position:

Note: *piece of pie* (L2 position), *pie crust* (R1 position, and *slice of pie* (L2 position) are not in the L1 position.

B. 4 noun collocates in the R1 position:

C. Which one is not about food?

D. 4 noun collocates in the L2 position or the R2 position (hint: click clusters):

E. In the L4 position, you’ll see *piece of the pie* and [as] *American as apple pie*. Explain these two idioms.

2. I have the pleasure of working with and doing research with a Canadian who has become one of my closest friends. However, he and I regularly disagree about English usage. One example is that he prefers using *firstly*, *secondly*, and so forth, while I opt for the shorter forms of *first* and *second*. Using COCA and BNC, check the

A. In American English, what are the respective frequencies of *first* and *firstly*? (Hint: search for adverbs (click POS) using first\**.*

B. In British English, what are the respective frequencies?

C. Next, search using first\* again, but this time search for nouns, adjectives, and adverbs. What are the five most common collocates for each category?

Nouns:

Adjectives:

Adverbs:

D. ‘foremost’ occurs as a set phrase; what is it? (Hint: under word, click ‘foremost’ and then check the 3-grams.). What does it mean?

3. Search for the noun *fireworks* using COCA.

A. What eight verbs typically collocate with *fireworks* in American English?

B. Do you find *play fireworks* in the list?

C. What are the relative frequencies of *watch fireworks*, *see fireworks*, and *look at fireworks*? (Remember that there are several forms for each verb: watch, watching, and watched.)

D. Check the context of each of the three verbs. What patterns do you see?

4. Search for the noun *disaster* using COCA.

A. What are five adjectives that typically precede *disaster* in American English?

B. What four nouns follow *disaster*?

5. What are the relative frequencies of *watch fireworks*, *see fireworks*, and *look at fireworks*? (Remember that there are several forms for each verb: watch, watching, and watched.)

6. A common lexeme that can be problematic is 認める, for which the many possible lexemes include *accept*, *acknowledge*, *admit*, and many others. Use COCA to investigate and then write a brief description of five possible English lexemes for 認める.