

Exploring Words and Phrases Basic Searches and Exploring Frequencies Corpora can be searched for particular words. Please is a relatively infrequent word, so in the one million words included in ICE-GB there were only 208 tokens (Wichmann, 2004, P. 1529). Only 88 of these were in the spoken genres of the corpus so Wichmann then focused in on these 88 tokens for closer analysis to see which were used in requests. Wichmann (2004), for instance, investigated the use of please in the British component of the ICE corpus (ICE-GB). The utterance in (1) from this study demonstrates the specific use of please Wichmann investigated. Her initial approach in this study was to search for all occurrences of please.⁷⁹

(1) ICE-GB spoken sample so Mr Lehrer if I can take you back please to page one o