

IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES: HEDGES AND BOOSTERS

#1. TAKE A LOOK

Examine the two concordances below. What are the meanings/functions of / *think* and *entirely*?

1	I will use all the time, because	I think	there is no one way to solve
2		I think	you may have hurt her feelings.
3	Well you know	I think	it just takes a little longer
4	As regards to point 10,	I think	we need to go back to Lehmann
5	Nevertheless	I think	there is merit in the procedure
6		I think	her idea is basically right, but the
7	In fact,	I think	this is perfectly easy to understand.
8	When	I think	of fashion I think of all the glamour,
9		I think	it's fun dressing up,
10	So	I think	you know, the family influences

1	spatial variations cannot	entirely	be neglected.
2	Perhaps, then, an	entirely	new understanding is needed
3	acquisition of verb placement appear	entirely	separate.
4	to me that Kripke's analogy is	entirely	false.
5	General safety issues were not	entirely	ignored.
6	effects of much group drinking are not	entirely	amiss in their depiction of
7	the psychiatric report itself may be	entirely	debatable, as occurred in
8	involving atoms 3, 4, 8, and 10 takes place	entirely	in the direction parallel
9	could be due to circumstances that are	entirely	accidental, relative to whatever
10	a theoretical activity, a view which was	entirely	motivated by a prior considerations

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2 DATA DIGGING

Complete this activity with a partner. One of you load the **Professional Writing** data set into AntConc, and one of you load the **Professional Speech** data set.

Run concordances for the three words below and complete tasks a-c:

- *really*
- *totally*
- *literally*

- a) Note the frequencies of occurrence. In which corpus is the word more frequent?
- b) Sort the concordances by 1R/2R/3R and then 1L/2L/3L and look at the patterns. Can you identify different meanings/functions of the word by inspecting the contexts? If you want to see more context, click on the hit to see it in the FileView.
- c) Do you use any or all of these words in your own writing? Can you think of words/phrases that could replace any of them to sound more technical/academic?