

## CUSTOMIZED WORD LISTS

Customized word lists allow you to create a list of words and to then use these as part of a search. For example, you could have a list of words referring to a particular emotion (*happy, glad, pleased*), colors (*green, blue, red, yellow, white*), parts of a computer (*screen, monitor, keyboard*), or any other list (*Shanghai, London, Cairo, Tokyo*). For example, do a sample search with [@colors](#) (e.g. *blue, white*), [@colors @clothes](#) (e.g. *blue dress, white shirt, brown shoe*), [@colors @CLOTHES](#) (capitalized = all forms of the words in the "clothes" list, e.g. *blue jeans, white shirt, brown shoes*), or [PLAY the @INSTRUMENT](#) (*played the piano, playing the guitar*).

To create a customized word list "from scratch", click on the icon to see your profile page, click on the number after "Customized word lists", and then click on "Create New List":

Saved lists		Click to see list		CREATE NEW LIST					
Virtual corpora	ALL 315	COCA 26		USE	DELETE	EDIT	LIST	# WORDS	MODIFIED
Saved KWIC (lines: lists)	ALL 43: 2101	COCA 4: 25		1	2	3	circus	11	10/25/2022
Saved words / phrases		42		3	4	5	beautiful-syn	71	10/24/2022
Customized word lists		136		4			body	45	10/24/2022
							clothes	8	10/24/2022

### CREATE LIST:

#### WORDS:

blue  
green  
yellow  
red  
orange  
purple  
white  
black  
brown

 

Enter the name of the list. Try to keep the name simple and short – no spaces or non-standard characters.

Then have one word per line for your list. These must be single words (e.g. *cellphone* or *blue*), not multiple words (i.e. not *cell phone* or *dark blue*). You can copy and paste these from another file, if you'd like.

After creating a list, you can see information [1] about the list (number of words, date last modified), and you can delete the list [2], with the chance to "undelete" it within 48 hours.

	USE	DELETE	EDIT	LIST	# WORDS	1	MODIFIED
1				circus	11		10/25/2022
2				beautiful-syn	71		10/24/2022
3				body	45		10/24/2022
4				clothes	8		10/24/2022

You can EDIT the list [3], by adding or removing entries. And of course, you can USE [4] the list as part of a search. It will enter the list name (prefixed by @, for example @clothes) into the search form.

Once you have created a customized word list, you can re-use it in queries at any time in the future – they remain stored in the database on the server. You can type it into the search form directly; the format is:

@listName

You can also use the list as part of a phrase, as in the following:

was quite @beautiful  
LIKE\_v playing @sports  
he|she @hurt \*self\*

A second way to create a customized word list is by using some of the **results from a search**. To do so, select **OPTIONS / SAVE LISTS = YES** in the search form before doing the search. In the list of results, enter the list name [1] (again, no spaces and no "non-standard" characters). Then select the entries that you want to add to your list (and you can use [3] to select all entries).

The screenshot shows the search interface on English-Corpora.org. On the left, the search form includes a search box with "=happy" entered, a "Find matching strings" button, and a "Reset" button. Below the search box are options for "Sections Texts/Virtual Sort/Limit" and a red-bordered "Options" button. Further down are input fields for "# HITS" (100), "# KWIC" (200), "GROUP BY" (WORDS), "CASE SENSITIVE" (NO), "DISPLAY" (RAW FREQ), and "SAVE LISTS" (YES). On the right, the "SAVE LIST" section shows the "NAME OF LIST" as "happy" (circled with a red 1). Below this are buttons for "ON CLICK": "CONTEXT", "TRANSLATE (ES)", "ENTIRE PAGE", and "GC". A table of search results is shown with columns for "HELP" (circled with a red 3), checkboxes, stars, and word forms. The first three rows are selected (checkboxes checked), and the second row is circled with a red 2. The words listed are HAPPY [S], CONTENT [S], GLAD [S], LUCKY [S], PLEASED [S], and FORTUNATE [S].

This will then create a customized word list with these words. And just as with any other list, you can then modify this list in any way that you'd like – adding more entries, deleting entries, etc.

CREATE NEW LIST

HELP

	USE	DELETE	EDIT	LIST	# WORDS	MODIFIED
1				happy	4	10/26/2022
2				circus	11	10/25/2022
3				beautiful-syn	71	10/24/2022
4				body	45	10/24/2022
5				clothes	0	10/24/2022

happy

happy  
content  
glad  
pleased

The real advantage of customized word lists (along with the ability to search by synonyms, e.g. =happy or =walk) is that you can search the corpora *semantically*, rather than just by word form, lemma, part of speech, etc. These searches are very fast (just one or two seconds to search a one billion word corpus like COCA), and they are only available at English-Corpora.org.