

A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF FIGURE OUT AND WORK OUT IN FOUR CORPORA

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ABSTRACT

The ultimate goal of this paper is to provide a comparative analysis of figure out and Work out in the COHA, HC, COCA, and BNC. A major point to note is that figured out is preferred over to work out by Americans. A further point to note is that figure out and Work out were the most preferred ones for Americans in 2010. It is worth noting that Work out is preferable to figure out in the British parliament. It is noteworthy, on the other hand, that Work out was the most preferred one for British politicians in 1960, whereas figure out was the most preferred one for British politicians in 1980. The COCA clearly shows that figure out ways is the most preferable one for Americans, followed by figure out things, figure out life, and figure out problems. The COCA also shows that Work out problems is the most preferred one for Americans, followed by Work out differences, and Work out details. Additionally, it is worthwhile noting that the nouns problems, solutions, things, and ways are the collocations of both figure out and Work out. The BNC clearly indicates, on the other hand, that Work out ways is the most preferred by the British, followed by Work out damage, and Work out hits. Finally, it is interesting to point out that the nouns ways, problems, and solutions are the collocations of both American type and British type. This in turn suggests that Work out in American English is identical in its meaning with Work out in British English, but the collocations of Work out are slightly different.

KEYWORDS: *Type, Token, Corpus, COCA, COHA, BNC, HC, Figure Out, Work Out*

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