

# Assignment 1

L615

Due Thursday, February 5

1. Go to this interface for the BNC: <http://corpus.byu.edu/bnc/> and search for different orderings of adjectives in English. Specifically: investigate the claim (<http://web2.uvcs.uvic.ca/elc/studyzone/410/grammar/adjord.htm>) that the ordering is as follows (where < means “precedes”): opinion < size < age < shape < color < origin < material < purpose. Does this seem to hold? Are there notable exceptions? Is this consistent throughout the different registers? Do you find the same trends if you use google? Give a 1-2 page report.<sup>1</sup>
2. Do the following on jones:
  - Create a directory structure like: L615/per1/
  - Create a file, something like: assign1.pl
  - Write a perl script that does the following (and make sure it works):
    - Loop from 1 to 10000
    - Print out the leap years in that range
3. I want you to start thinking about a question to investigate for your final project. This could be something you have already discussed in other classes (perhaps intuition-based), something you always wanted to find out about English or Russian or whatever. You can change this later in the semester, but try to find an area of interest from another (linguistics) class. Write up three paragraphs describing the issue, specifically:
  - (a) Describe the question and give examples based on intuition or previous research.
  - (b) Describe how the question can be approached from a corpus-based perspective. What kind of corpora do you need? Are there specific requirements with regard to the corpus (e.g., does it need to be balanced, specialized, etc.?) What types of information do you need to extract from the corpora?
  - (c) Describe for a linguist why your project will be of interest to them and why using corpus data is a valid way to approach the question or provides insight you cannot get elsewhere.

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<sup>1</sup>Feel free to use a different proposed classification/ordering of adjectives in English.