

# Words of a feather flock together

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# Looking at texts: *documents*

- Texts contain a great deal of *structure*.
- That structure can be divided into:
  - Structure of the *content*;
  - Structure of the *language*.
- Look at a series of books in French: what they share in common is *the structure of French*.
- Look at a series of translations of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*: what they share in common is the structure of the content.

# We care about the structure of the language (today)

- Structure of a language includes a *lexicon*: the words of the language.
- The *order* in which words appear is largely determined by the *syntax* of the language.

## Frank and Ernest



# Word categories

The  
Grammar of  
Dionysios  
Thrax



Dionysius, Thrax

- Noun
- Verb
- Participle
- Article
- Pronoun
- Preposition
- Adverb
- Conjunction

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Mad Libs Worksheet

### In The Jungle!



I walk through the color jungle. I take out my

\_\_\_\_\_ (adjective) canteen. There's a

\_\_\_\_\_ (adjective) parrot with a \_\_\_\_\_ (adjective)

\_\_\_\_\_ (noun) in his mouth right in front of me in the

\_\_\_\_\_ (adjective) trees! I gaze at his \_\_\_\_\_ (adjective)

\_\_\_\_\_ (noun). A sudden sound awakes me from my

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I walk through the color jungle. I take out my

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equitable (adjective) trees! I gaze at his \_\_\_\_\_ (adjective)  
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# MAD LIBS®

 **BOOKish** Mad Libs

There are many \_\_\_\_\_ ways to choose a/an \_\_\_\_\_ to

ADJECTIVE

NOUN

read. First, you could ask for recommendations from your friends and

\_\_\_\_\_.

PLURAL NOUN

PERSON IN ROOM (FEMALE)

reads \_\_\_\_\_ books with \_\_\_\_\_-ripping goddesses

ADJECTIVE

ARTICLE OF CLOTHING

on the cover. If your friends and family are no help, try checking out the

\_\_\_\_\_ Review in *The* \_\_\_\_\_ *Times*. If the \_\_\_\_\_

NOUN

A CITY

PLURAL NOUN

featured there are too \_\_\_\_\_ for your taste, try something a little

ADJECTIVE

more low-\_\_\_\_\_, like \_\_\_\_\_: *The* \_\_\_\_\_

PART OF THE BODY

LETTER OF THE ALPHABET

CELEBRITY

*Magazine*, or \_\_\_\_\_ *Magazine*. You could also choose a book the

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NOUN

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Hyde Park

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**Your startup name:** \_\_\_\_\_ . Have you ever wanted to \_\_\_\_\_  
(MISSPELLED VERSION OF REAL WORD, ENDING IN -LY OR -IO) (VERB)

all sorts of \_\_\_\_\_ with friends, family, colleagues, or even \_\_\_\_\_, but didn't  
(PLURAL NOUN) (MINOR CELEBRITY)

know how? Maybe you were just strolling the sidewalks of \_\_\_\_\_ past your  
(GENTRIFIED NEIGHBORHOOD)

favorite \_\_\_\_\_ bakery when you wished you could pull out your i \_\_\_\_\_  
(OBSCURE ETHNICITY) (NOUN)

and use it to quickly \_\_\_\_\_ all your latest \_\_\_\_\_ and post it to your  
(VERB ENDING IN -ATE) (TRIVIAL STUFF YOU LIKE)

\_\_\_\_\_ ? \_\_\_\_\_ is the answer. The fact is, we live in a world  
(SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILE NO ONE READS) (STARTUP NAME)

where \_\_\_\_\_ will revolutionize \_\_\_\_\_, and pretty soon you'll be able to  
(GERUND STARTING WITH "CROWD") (FAILING INDUSTRY)

\_\_\_\_\_ anything you want through the cloud. All this \_\_\_\_\_  
(VERB THAT IMPLIES CREATIVITY) (NOUN FORM OF VERB ENDING IN -ATE)

Your startup name: Rheummate-ly. Have you ever wanted to \_\_\_\_\_  
(MISSPELLED VERSION OF REAL WORD, ENDING IN -LY OR -IO) (VERB)

all sorts of \_\_\_\_\_ with friends, family, colleagues, or even \_\_\_\_\_, but didn't  
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Your startup name: Rheummate-ly. Have you ever wanted to jump  
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(MISSPELLED VERSION OF REAL WORD, ENDING IN -LY OR -IO) Mitt jump  
(PLURAL NOUN) (MINOR CELEBRITY) (VERB)  
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Your startup name: Rheummate-ly. Have you ever wanted to jump  
(MISSPELLED VERSION OF REAL WORD, ENDING IN -LY OR -IO) Mitt (VERB)

all sorts of sneakers with friends, family, colleagues, or even Romney, but didn't  
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know how? Maybe you were just strolling the sidewalks of Kenwood past your  
(GENTRIFIED NEIGHBORHOOD)

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(OBSCURE ETHNICITY) (NOUN)

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favorite Igbo bakery when you wished you could pull out your i Soap  
(OBSCURE ETHNICITY) (NOUN)  
and use it to quickly \_\_\_\_\_ all your latest \_\_\_\_\_ and post it to your  
(VERB ENDING IN -ATE) (TRIVIAL STUFF YOU LIKE)  
\_\_\_\_\_ ? \_\_\_\_\_ is the answer. The fact is, we live in a world  
(SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILE NO ONE READS) (STARTUP NAME)  
where \_\_\_\_\_ will revolutionize \_\_\_\_\_, and pretty soon you'll be able to  
(GERUND STARTING WITH "CROWD") (FAILING INDUSTRY)  
\_\_\_\_\_ anything you want through the cloud. All this \_\_\_\_\_  
(VERB THAT IMPLIES CREATIVITY) (NOUN FORM OF VERB ENDING IN -ATE)

Your startup name: Rheummate-ly. Have you ever wanted to jump  
(MISSPELLED VERSION OF REAL WORD, ENDING IN -LY OR -IO) Mitt jump  
(PLURAL NOUN) (MINOR CELEBRITY) (VERB)  
all sorts of sneakers with friends, family, colleagues, or even Romney, but didn't  
(PLURAL NOUN) (MINOR CELEBRITY)  
know how? Maybe you were just strolling the sidewalks of Kenwood past your  
(GENTRIFIED NEIGHBORHOOD)  
favorite Igbo bakery when you wished you could pull out your i Soap  
(OBSCURE ETHNICITY) (NOUN)  
and use it to quickly differentiate all your latest \_\_\_\_\_ and post it to your  
(VERB ENDING IN -ATE) (TRIVIAL STUFF YOU LIKE)  
\_\_\_\_\_ ? \_\_\_\_\_ is the answer. The fact is, we live in a world  
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(GENTRIFIED NEIGHBORHOOD)  
favorite Igbo bakery when you wished you could pull out your i Soap  
(OBSCURE ETHNICITY) (NOUN)  
and use it to quickly differentiate all your latest pogosticks and post it to your  
(VERB ENDING IN -ATE) (TRIVIAL STUFF YOU LIKE)  
? ? is the answer. The fact is, we live in a world  
(SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILE NO ONE READS) (STARTUP NAME)  
where ? will revolutionize ?, and pretty soon you'll be able to  
(GERUND STARTING WITH "CROWD") (FAILING INDUSTRY)  
? anything you want through the cloud. All this ?  
(VERB THAT IMPLIES CREATIVITY) (NOUN FORM OF VERB ENDING IN -ATE)

Your startup name: Rheummate-ly. Have you ever wanted to jump  
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(OBSCURE ETHNICITY) (NOUN)  
and use it to quickly differentiate all your latest pogosticks and post it to your  
(VERB ENDING IN -ATE) (TRIVIAL STUFF YOU LIKE)  
GoogleMine? \_\_\_\_\_ is the answer. The fact is, we live in a world  
(SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILE NO ONE READS) (STARTUP NAME)  
where \_\_\_\_\_ will revolutionize \_\_\_\_\_, and pretty soon you'll be able to  
(GERUND STARTING WITH "CROWD") (FAILING INDUSTRY)  
\_\_\_\_\_ anything you want through the cloud. All this \_\_\_\_\_  
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(GERUND STARTING WITH "CROWD") (FAILING INDUSTRY)  
\_\_\_\_\_ anything you want through the cloud. All this \_\_\_\_\_  
(VERB THAT IMPLIES CREATIVITY) (NOUN FORM OF VERB ENDING IN -ATE)

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(VERB ENDING IN -ATE) (TRIVIAL STUFF YOU LIKE)  
GoogleMine ? Rheummate-ly is the answer. The fact is, we live in a world  
(SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILE NO ONE READS) (STARTUP NAME)  
where crowd-licking will revolutionize \_\_\_\_\_, and pretty soon you'll be able to  
(GERUND STARTING WITH "CROWD") (FAILING INDUSTRY)  
\_\_\_\_\_ anything you want through the cloud. All this \_\_\_\_\_  
(VERB THAT IMPLIES CREATIVITY) (NOUN FORM OF VERB ENDING IN -ATE)

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(MISSPELLED VERSION OF REAL WORD, ENDING IN -LY OR -IO) Mitt jump  
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favorite Igbo bakery when you wished you could pull out your i Soap  
(OBSCURE ETHNICITY) (NOUN)  
and use it to quickly differentiate all your latest pogosticks and post it to your  
(VERB ENDING IN -ATE) (TRIVIAL STUFF YOU LIKE)  
GoogleMine ? Rheummate-ly is the answer. The fact is, we live in a world  
(SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILE NO ONE READS) (STARTUP NAME)  
where crowd-licking will revolutionize taxi business, and pretty soon you'll be able to  
(GERUND STARTING WITH "CROWD") (FAILING INDUSTRY)  
anything you want through the cloud. All this anything  
(VERB THAT IMPLIES CREATIVITY) (NOUN FORM OF VERB ENDING IN -ATE)

Your startup name: Rheummate-ly. Have you ever wanted to jump  
(MISSPELLED VERSION OF REAL WORD, ENDING IN -LY OR -IO) Mitt (VERB)

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(PLURAL NOUN) (MINOR CELEBRITY)

know how? Maybe you were just strolling the sidewalks of Kenwood past your  
(GENTRIFIED NEIGHBORHOOD)

favorite Igbo bakery when you wished you could pull out your i Soap  
(OBSCURE ETHNICITY) (NOUN)

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where crowd-licking will revolutionize taxi business, and pretty soon you'll be able to  
(GERUND STARTING WITH "CROWD") (FAILING INDUSTRY)

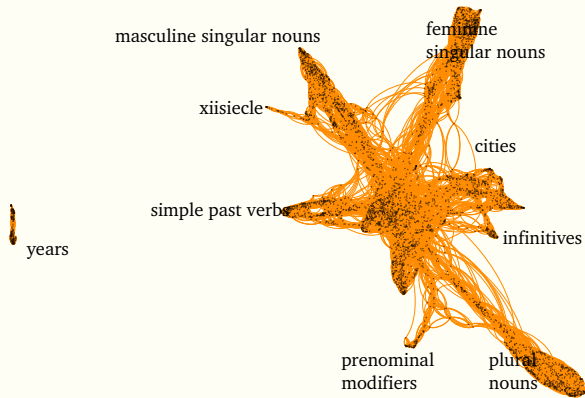
thinkify anything you want through the cloud. All this \_\_\_\_\_  
(VERB THAT IMPLIES CREATIVITY) (NOUN FORM OF VERB ENDING IN -ATE)



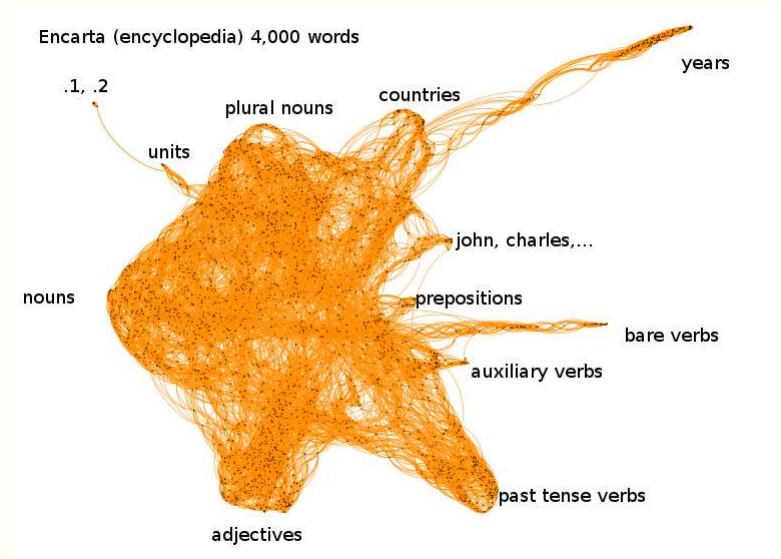
Empirically, not so obvious:  
'the' versus 'a'

	the		
Left		Right	
of	9629	same	601
in	5567	f rst	547
to	3433	other	388
on	2315	most	380
and	2143	United	367
for	1766	world	338
at	1511	*j	264
with	1481	time	243
that	1392	two	232
from	1352	new	231
by	1315	way	226
is	793	only	207
as	698	end	204
into	673	last	202
was	531	next	185
:	466	state	182
all	424	whole	178
In	412	old	171

	a		
Left		Right	
of	1467	few	344
in	1321	little	292
as	914	man	253
with	879	new	248
is	872	good	221
was	783	small	161
for	740	great	153
to	655	very	138
and	615	long	135
on	476	number	117
by	413	large	110
be	318	year	99
at	256	single	99
have	256	moment	86
had	246	lot	86
like	242	more	84
from	229	time	79
such	222	matter	79



# French



# English

## Dynamic view: English color codes

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Verbs: 'bare' verb ( <i>jump</i> )	red
Verbs: past tense( <i>jumped, bought</i> )	blue
Verbs: auxiliary ( <i>should, can</i> )	green
Prepositions ( <i>from, to, up, down</i> )	aqua
Adjectives	purple
Cities	gray
Nouns	pink

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## Dynamic view: French color codes

Infinitives	red
Prepositions	light blue
Past participles	blue
Adjectives	purple
Cities	gray
Masculine nouns	pink
Feminine nouns	light green
Inflected verbs	light gray

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# Finding regular and irregular past tense forms

