Now, I want to go back to the Collocates function, so I go back here to Collocates. I’ll put my search “run” back in, and I want to look at how the word “run” occurs as, let’s say, a verb, so I’m going to add the POS tag Verb. I have “run” as a verb and its collocates.

I want to look at how “run” occurs as a verb in different registers or different types of writing, so if I click on Sections here, I can get different registers.
I can see that I can look at “run” as it occurs in academic writing, and I can look at “run” as it occurs in Spoken.

Here, I think I will organize in terms of Mutual Information (MI), so I think I’ll go with MI scores of three for each one. and then I can click find collocates and I’ll see what types of words collocate with “run” as a verb in academic texts and what types of words collocate with “run” in the spoken section of COCA.
Figure 4. Organize search by MI

Here, we have the Academic side, and then, we can see that we have words like “model,” “using,” and “experiments,” so maybe in these texts, we’re seeing things like “run an experiment” or “run a model” or “parallel runs.” Then, if we look over here in the Spoken side, Spoken actually usually comes from news programs that are from TV, so here, we’ll see things like “president,” “senate,” and “VE,” so maybe here, we’re going to say “run for president” or “a candidate is going to run for senate,” so we can see a different use of the word “run” in the Spoken section versus how “run” is used in academic writing.

Figure 5. Collocates of “run” as a verb in Academic versus Spoken
I’m kind of curious about this “‘VE,” so let’s take a look at what’s happening here. I’ll click on that, and we’re seeing “I’ve never run into anyone,” “I’ve previously run,” and “You’ve just run off the road,” so we can see that “run” is often used with the present participle. That’s interesting.

Figure 6. ‘VE as collocate of “run” as a verb

One activity that you can have your students do is you can have them look for any word such as “run” or any other word that you want them to look for. You can have them search that word in its common collocates in two different registers and note the difference of how that word is used depending on the different register or the different type of writing or the different type of speaking that that word happens in.