

Academic Vocabulary: *However***Lesson Objectives:**

1. Understand the use of *However* in academic writing.
2. Use the *Hong Kong Corpus of Journal Articles* (discipline, Law) as a tool for inductive learning.
3. Practise writing/reading skills.
4. Understand academic register

Length: approx. 1h

Target students: Advanced Secondary School Learners/English for Specific Purposes (Law)

Activity 1

The following excerpts were extracted from the article:

Herklotz, T. (2020). Law and society studies in context: Suggestions for a cross-country comparison of socio-legal research and teaching. *German Law Journal*, 21(7), 1332-1344.

Examine the use and meaning of *however*. Discuss in pairs.

- A) *Some aspects that are of interest here, such as legal education or legal academia, have been addressed by studies of comparative legal culture or comparative law (and society). There are, however, many more topics to explore when comparing socio-legal studies in different parts of the world.*
- B) *Feenan (2015) has prominently asked what the 'socio' in socio-legal studies means and pointed out that '[a] number of studies define it in terms of the study of law in its social context. Some other studies broaden that context to include the "political and economic" or add the "cultural". However, the precise relationship between these fields is rarely elaborated.'*

After reading the above extracts, answer the following questions:

- What is the meaning of *however* in extracts A and B?
- Can you see any difference between the use of *however* in extract A and B?

Activity 2

You will use the **Hong Kong Corpus of Journal Articles** and identify the meaning of *however* in academic discourse.

Follow the steps below:

1. Go to <http://rcpce.engl.polyu.edu.hk/index.html>
2. Click on **KWIC** (1st column) for the **Hong Kong Corpus of Journal Articles 2014**
3. Go to the dropdown menu on the left and select the sub-corpus 'law'
4. Go to the search box and enter the word '*however*'
5. Look at the first 20 results
6. Read each concordance line by clicking on *however* (in blue) so that you may see the full text.
7. Look at the text before and after '*however*' – in pairs, discuss the meaning of *however*.

Activity 2.1

Based on the lines you read on the corpus, choose the best definition which describes the use and meaning of *however*.

- A)** *However* is used to introduce a statement that supports something that has just been said
- B)** *However* is used to introduce a statement that contrast with something that has just been said

Activity 2.2

Write 3 sentences using *however* in an academic context. Below is an example:

Ex: *An employment contract outlines all the core duties and responsibilities of a post.*

However, more emphasis should be put on the ethical conduct expected of the employee

1

2

3

Now share and discuss your sentences in small groups. Is *however* being used accurately?

Activity 2.3

Look up each of the following connective devices in the corpus - follow the steps in Activity

2. Decide which of these are synonyms for *however*. Discuss in pairs.

Nevertheless

Also

Nonetheless

Moreover

- What is the meaning of the other connective devices?
- How are these different from *however* ?
- Use the corpus search to answer these questions. Discuss in groups.