

# Genres

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# Genres/Subgenres used by the Brown Corpus

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Table 1: Genre and subgenre codes for the Brown Corpus

**I. Press**

- A. Reportage
- B. Editorial
- C. Reviews

**II. Miscellaneous**

- D. Religion
- E. Skills and hobbies
- F. Popular lore
- G. Belles-lettres

**III. Formal documents**

- H. Government and institutional
- J. Learned

**IV. Fiction**

- K. General
  - L. Mystery
  - M. Science fiction
  - N. Adventure
  - P. Romance
  - R. Humour
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What is a genre? It's not a source, nor is it a topic

...

Examples:

- newspaper article
- home page
- FAQ
- memorandum
- love letter

## Dimensions of Genre Analysis

These are properties that all genres have, which distinguish some genres from others:

- degree of formality
- impersonality
- author's involvement
- context-dependence
- narrative structure
- ...

Examples:

- official document: low involvement, little narrative, low context dependence, high abstractness
- personal letter: high involvement, much narrative, high context dependence, low abstractness

## Cues for Genre Analysis

These are hints or indicators in a text of a genre's value along some dimension:

- *I/you* (freq. per 1K tokens)
- passive verbs (freq. per 1K tokens)
- long words (average over text)
- short sentences (average over text)
- uncommon words (average frequency rank)
- adjective/noun ratio (frequency ratio)
- ...

Cues are *not* dimensions.

## Cues for Genre Analysis

Examples:

Dimension	Cues
involvement	<i>I/you, that</i> -deletion, “private” verbs, low type/token ratio
narrative	past tense verbs, 3rd-person pronouns, “public” verbs
context-dependence	relative clauses, time/place adverbs
abstractness	passive verbs, conjunct words, <i>wh-is</i> deletion