

## 2 Immediate context analysis: distinguishing meanings by studying usage

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### 1 Introduction

The first part of this paper is a short personal and anecdotal record of my earliest experience of doing corpus analysis with John Sinclair. Before moving to Birmingham in June 1983 I had spent ten years editing the first edition of *Collins English Dictionary (CED)*, a task in which introspection played a large part, and then three years studying lexical semantics at the University of Essex. I was dissatisfied with what I felt was excessive reliance on introspection in CED. Accordingly, I had collected and transcribed a small corpus of spoken business English, as a foundation for two ELT textbooks published by Cambridge University Press. However, I had no idea what lay in store for me at Birmingham. The first part of the paper recollects ‘the shock of the new’.

The main part of the paper consists of a commentary on a sorted concordance of concordance for the word *lap* and its inflections in the British National Corpus, the concordance lines being presented in the [Appendix](#). The idea was to examine how well Sinclair’s teachings stand up, after 17 years, to analysis of a word in a much larger corpus, and whether the original Birmingham corpus of 7.3 million words is to be regarded as representative or idiosyncratic, in the light of a much larger body of evidence collected with the avowed intention of being ‘representative’.

In addition, I also consider a general issue in corpus analysis: how far can the immediate context of a word in use be used to determine its meaning? Sinclair has said, ‘Every distinction in meaning is associated with a distinction in form.’ Is this true? What counts as a distinction in meaning? What counts as a distinction in form? What is the nature of the association?

### 2 First exposure to corpus evidence

New recruits to the COBUILD team in the early 1980s – including project managers – were sat down with a concordance or two from the Birmingham Corpus (it had just achieved 7.3 million words, which seemed vast in those days), and invited to discuss their observations with Professor Sinclair. What were the words doing? What useful generalisations could a lexicographer make in the light of the evidence?

My baptism in corpus lexicography took place in letter L. We looked together at the word *lap* and its inflections. ‘There’s not much here about cats lapping up milk,’ I

grumbled. ‘I’m more impressed by all those full stops and commas,’ retorted John. I looked again.

Half an hour later, I knew that things would never be the same. The excitement of using Jem Clear’s concordancing program to see array after array of patterns of language in use, some more delicate than others, previously unreported patterns, and patterns that were far more salient than predicted by any dictionary or grammar, was comparable to opening a chalet door on a winter’s morning and seeing the sun glinting on fresh snow all around. I couldn’t wait to get stuck in.

By the end of the morning, I felt I had formulated a completely new theory of language. Being a master of the silent method in language teaching, John Sinclair allowed me to believe that I had done this all on my own, although I now realise that it would be nearer the truth to say that I was responding to the first of many Sinclairean insights into the nature of language.

To the best of my recollection, we made the following observations:

1. *lap* is used much more frequently to denote the part of the body that you only have when you are sitting down (‘sit on my lap’; ‘his hands clasped in his lap’) than in any of the competing senses (‘the fastest lap’; ‘the final lap’; ‘the sound of little waves lapping against the sea wall’; ‘cats lapping up milk’ etc)
2. When it is used in this ‘bodypart’ sense, it typically occurs with a possessive determiner as part of an adjunct in clause-final position (‘in her lap’; ‘on his lap’).
3. Lexicosyntactic patterns offer typical but not error-proof clues to meaning. For example ‘The cat was lapping up the milk as if it had not been fed for days’ contrasts with ‘It was a lie, but millions of newspaper readers lapped it up’. The lemma *lap up* contrasts with the lemma *lap*, but here *lap up* is subdivided into a literal and a figurative sense, distinguished by who is doing the lapping.
4. Conventional phraseology in natural language is not unduly respectful of logic, although its users may be. We noted that ‘the last lap of a journey’ plays on the ‘once round the track’ sense, although in fact it normally refers to linear progress. This perfectly conventional phrase is a case of a circle functioning as a metaphor for a line. However, it is by no means clear that English speakers think of it as a metaphor at all.

### **3 ‘Lap’ revisited**

In the course of writing this paper, I revisited the lemma *lap*, using evidence from the British National Corpus (BNC), a corpus of 100 million words of contemporary English text collected as a balanced and representative sample of modern English. There are

1820 citations for *lap*, *laps*, *lapped*, *lapping*, *lappings* in the BNC. I took a randomly selected sample of 600 lines and sorted them into different sense categories, using syntactic and collocational criteria. The results are given in the [Appendix](#). True to Sinclair's principles (Sinclair 1991), I classified all uses of the word in the sample, not merely selected uses which happened to suit my purpose.

In summary, the uses of *lap* can be grouped into six main lexicosyntactic categories:

### 1 [Noun](#)

**Structure:** lexicosyntactic norm: in/on [POSSDET] *lap* (300 lines; 50%).

**Meaning:** “the flat area of the body of a seated person between the waist and the knee”

**Example:** ‘Come and sit on my lap, Margaret.’

### 2 [Noun](#)

**Structure:** lexicosyntactic norms: [NUMERAL] *lap(s)*; *lap* [NUMERAL]; *on...* [ORDINAL] *lap* (172 lines; 28.66%).

**Meaning:** “a circuit of a racetrack”

**Examples:** Gary Jess set the pace for eight of the 12 laps

Prost went out of the race on lap 26

On the first lap, the Italian veteran was edged into fifth place

### 3 [Verb](#)

**Structure:** lexicosyntactic norm: [PERSON<sub>i</sub>] *lap* [PERSON<sub>j</sub>] (6 lines; 1%).

**Meaning:** “[PERSON<sub>i</sub>], when in a leading position in a race, completes an extra circuit of the track so as to overtake [PERSON<sub>j</sub>], who is at the back of the race”

**Example:** Erik Comas closed in but spun when trying to lap Gilbert Scott

### 3.1 Verb

**Structure:** lexicosyntactic norm: [PERSON] *lap* [CIRCUIT] (6 lines; 1%).

**Meaning:** “[PERSON] go (drive, run, . . .) once round [CIRCUIT]”

**Example:** They have lapped the 14-mile Nurburgring circuit

### 4 [Verb](#)

**Structure:** lexicosyntactic norm: [WATER/WAVES] *lap* [ADVERBIAL\_OF\_PLACE] / [PLACE] be lapped by [WAVES] (52 lines; 8.66%, including verbal adjective and verbal noun).

**Meaning:** “[WATER] wash against [PLACE] with a gentle rippling sound”

**Example:** the sound of little waves lapping against the seashore

### 5 [Verb](#)

**Structure:** lexicosyntactic norm: [CREATURE] *lap up* [LIQUID] (5 lines; 0.83%).

**Meaning:** “[CREATURE] take up [LIQUID] with the tongue in order to drink”

**Example:** Soon the three [dogs] were gratefully lapping up cold, life-restoring liquid

## 6 Verb

**Structure:** lexicosyntactic norm: [PERSON] *lap up* [INFORMATION / PRAISE / PLEASURE / EXPERIENCE / BOOK / WRITER] (21 lines; 3.5%).

**Meaning:** “[PERSON] accept [INFORMATION / PLEASURE / EXPERIENCE PRAISE / BOOK / WRITER] eagerly and with obvious pleasure”

**Example:** Twelve young boys and girls clustered around him to lap up his words of wisdom

Each category is associated, not only with a word class (part of speech) but also with a lexicosyntactic norm. At a more delicate level, phraseological norms may be observed, often with special idiomatic meanings. As the term implies, norms are patterns of ordinary usage, not necessary conditions for correct usage. They are themes upon which endless grammatical and semantic variations are possible, given the creativity of human language use.

These six norms account for 92.65% of all uses of *lap*. What about the remaining 7.35%?

14 lines (2.33%) represent a technical term in [sedimentology](#), all from the same text. It would require a specialist corpus of sedimentological texts to resolve the question whether this use is conventional (within its domain) or idiosyncratic.

A further 17 lines (2.8%) are [names](#), acronyms, and other items which have nothing to do with the words under discussion. These are classified as mere noise. *Gill's Lap* is a place name in Sussex; *Phar Lap* was a famous racehorse of the 1930s – so famous, indeed, that a software company is named after it; Chek Lap Kok is an island in Hong Kong, the site of a new airport. LAP is also an acronym for a political party somewhere.

Finally, 12 lines (2%) are [unclassified](#). Four (possibly five) of these represent uses in romantic fiction or soft pornography, but the uses are too diverse to allow a norm to be postulated. A specialist corpus of this genre might reveal the emergence of a norm; alternatively, it might reveal that writing in this genre is mannered and imprecise. Three of the lines involve technical terms in domains as diverse as mechanical engineering and guitar strings. And one of the lines (‘her hands pulling anxiously at the lap of her dress’), ironically enough, represents the ancient meaning which the OED gives as the first sense under homograph 1: ‘a part (of a garment or the like) either hanging down or projecting so as to admit of being folded over; a flap; lappet.’

### 3.1 Lexical sets

In the above summary, words in capital letters and square brackets stand for lexical sets (paradigmatic groups of words sharing some semantic component, which select roughly the same meaning of the target word). Norms of usage are also sometimes exploited to

create special meanings, particularly ad-hoc metaphors. It is important to distinguish between norms and exploitations, and to identify norms clearly as prototypes of conventional usage, associated with prototypical meanings. Associated with some or all of the categories are a variety of conventional, though rare, idiomatic expressions such as ‘in the lap of the gods’ and ‘on the last lap of our journey’.

### 3.2 A checklist?

The syntactic patterns identified here look remarkably like a checklist. But Fillmore (1975) argued cogently against simplistic checklist theories of meaning. Can these two viewpoints be reconciled? One way of doing so might be to argue that the categories listed here are indeed a checklist, but not of meanings: they constitute instead a checklist of prototypical norms of usage, associated with norms of belief and meaning, which speakers and writers draw on to create new meanings.

### 3.3 Validity of analysis of general corpora

Thus, the general observations made in 1983 with the 7.3 million word Birmingham corpus and reflected in the *Collins Cobuild English Language Dictionary* are confirmed by the much larger BNC. This is encouraging: it encourages us to believe, with all due caution, that these corpora really are telling us something about the conventional usage of modern English, not merely about the particular texts in the corpus. There has been a great deal of debate about whether a corpus can really be representative, and sceptics have said, ‘Ah, collect a different corpus and you will get different facts.’ But it is clear from comparative analyses such as this that the differences pale into insignificance compared with the similarities. The value of the larger corpus lies partly in the fact that it increases the confidence of our observations, presents evidence for additional facts about rare words and rare senses, and makes possible a much more delicate analysis of collocation and phraseology.

This may all seem obvious enough, but its value is reinforced when we consult general dictionaries not based on a corpus. *Webster’s New World Dictionary*, for example, one of the most widely admired (and widely purchased) American popular dictionaries, gives as sense 1 of *lap*: ‘[Now Rare] the loose lower part of a garment, which may be doubled or folded over; skirt of a coat or gown’, and as sense 2: ‘the front part of the skirt when it is held up to form a hollow place in which things can be carried’. Corpus analysis is necessary, if only as a corrective to the notion that such dictionaries, influenced as they are by historical principles and a focus on unusual usage, give a true account of modern English. But of course corpus analysis can yield a wealth of additional, more delicate information.

### 3.4 Predictability

This kind of corpus analysis, then, enables us to make predictions – disconfirmable predictions, not self-fulfilling prophecies – about what to expect in unseen texts. And if our analysis is good, it will provide overt criteria for distinguishing one sense from another. This kind of painstaking corpus analysis is worthwhile partly because of its predictive power. It would be possible, though expensive, to draw up a list of lexicosyntactic norms for each word in the language, and to associate a ‘meaning’ (or, rather, a list of legitimate inferences) with each one.

So we can predict that the next random sample of 600 uses of *lap* in general modern English will have the following characteristics at least:

1. Approximately 50% of all occurrences of the lemma will be for the “[seated body part](#)” sense. Nearly all of these will be uses of the singular noun [lap](#) in an adverbial in clause-final position. Among them will be a small number of [idiomatic](#) uses with special meanings (‘dump something in someone’s lap’; ‘something fell into somebody’s lap’; ‘in the lap of the gods’; ‘in the [lap of luxury](#)’).
2. If the new, unseen corpus contains a similar proportion of newspaper sports reports, then about 30% of all occurrences of the lemma *lap* will denote a single [circuit of a race track](#), and will very often be in collocation with an ordinal or cardinal [numeral](#). If the proportion of sports reporting is smaller, this percentage will be smaller.
3. Verb uses will be much rarer than noun uses.
4. Sentences in which a person laps another person will be rare (only about 1% of all uses of *lap*). If found, the meaning will probably (but not certainly) be that the two people are in a race and that person one, in a leading position, has driven or run all the way round the track so as to overtake person two, who is at the back of the race. There will also be uses of this sense in which a person or competitor ‘[laps](#)’ the circuit (i.e. drives or runs round it), rather than lapping another competitor. This sense is absent from most dictionaries.
5. The “[animal taking up liquid with the tongue](#)” sense of *lap up* will be less common than the conventionalised metaphor in which a PERSON [laps up](#) information, praise, pleasure, a pleasurable experience, or some other stimulus. Sinclair might say that this should be regarded as an established literal sense in its own right, but I prefer to believe that, to count as a paid-up member of the English-speaking community, you must associate the image of a person lapping up information or praise with the image of a cat lapping up milk, and know that the former is a conventionalised metaphor.

## 4 How reliable is immediate-context analysis?

### 4.1 Sufficiency and probability

It would be convenient if transitive use with animate subject and animate object were a sufficient condition to select [sense 3 of lap](#), but unfortunately natural language does not work like that. As so often, there are exceptions. [Line 574](#) ('Merciless, he lapped her'), for example, involves one person lapping another, but it has nothing to do with motor racing or athletics. This example might seem at first glance to give the lie to Sinclair's axiom that 'every distinction in meaning is associated with a distinction in form'. What is the distinction in form here? The immediate context of 574 is syntactically identical to that of, say, [475](#) ('as well as lapping her two female rivals'), but the meaning is very different.

Here is another example of the need for extensive detailed work in establishing relevant criteria for immediate-context analysis. Occurrence as part of a clause-final adverbial is not a sufficient condition for distinguishing [sense 1](#) from [sense 2](#), because (unfortunately) there are many clause final adverbials in sense 2 as well as sense 1. The presence or absence of a cardinal or ordinal numeral in the immediate context is a more effective distinguisher. If present, it points with a very high degree of probability to sense 2. The same is true of the plural form *laps*: *laps* (plural) are common parlance in reports of motor races and athletics, but unusual in speaking of body parts.

Unsupported clues, then, are suggestive but not conclusive. Multiple clues may add up to conclusiveness.

The word 'fall' in collocation with '[POSSDET lap](#)' raises the likelihood that we are in the presence of the idiom 'It fell into his lap' = 'He obtained it easily'. But then we find:

249 It fell on my legs and lap through the skylight , a lovely slow silver moon .

This is not really metaphorical, although it is not centrally conventional either.

### 4.2 Anaphora resolution

It is worth mentioning in passing that anaphors need to be resolved before we can classify with confidence, and an essential preliminary for effective natural language processing by machine. In 249 above, it is necessary to know that 'it' refers to moonlight, for analysis to proceed.

Another example:

487 for there it was again, grey and dank, lapping at wooden pilings that lined its banks

To understand this clause correctly and to be sure that it is not a metaphor, we need to establish that 'it' refers to a river. Or:

520 Look around, there's a whole sea of it lapping at us everywhere we walk, sit, eat, and pray!

Here, 'it' is human greed. Unless we know this, accurate classification is impossible. If 'it' had turned out to be mud, we might have classified 520 as a norm, not an [exploitation](#).

### **4.3 Mutual support**

In actual text, immediate-context clues are not unsupported. They are supported by other clues, including the wider collocates. With [574](#) we find 'long animal cry', 'bra', 'damp lace', 'coverlet', 'sensation' and 'Oh God'. Whereas [475](#) has the wider collocates 'race', 'overtook', 'Championships', and 'qualifying time'. Thus, even though this is a rare case where the immediate lexicosyntactic context is ambiguous, the wider context is not.

Then there is the matter of the title of the work. Line 475 is from an athletics report in a newspaper; line 574 is from a work of fiction entitled *Hunter's Harem*. These facts alone raise certain expectations in the reader.

Genuine ambiguities, then, do not occur. Even ambiguities in the immediate context are rare. They are the exception that prove the rule – for rules there undoubtedly are. Prediction on the basis of immediate-context analysis must nevertheless be approached with caution in the present stage of our knowledge. Careful corpus analysis can greatly improve the probability of our predictions (i.e. the identification of meaning from the immediate context, but a research project is needed which will be very precise about the relevant lexicosyntactic criteria, which must for the time being at least be regarded as probabilities, not certainties. We are a long way from being able to make such predictions with absolute certainty, and indeed there appear to be principled reasons why certainty is impossible. Language, after all, is an analogical system, and mathematical precision may be an inappropriate goal.

### **4.4 Exploitations of norms**

Sense 4 typically involves [waves](#) washing gently against a shore. This use occurs in a surprisingly wide variety of syntactic patterns, while in addition [metaphorical](#) exploitations ('a sea of cloud lapping at our feet', 'a sea of greed lapping at us', 'the carpet lapped at the glass', 'melancholy lapping at the lids of her eyes' etc) are almost as common as the central, conventional meaning. This is unusual.

About 97% of uses of *lap* are conventional, leaving about 3% which are unconventional in various ways.



At its simplest, one particular inflection or syntactic pattern may be perfectly grammatical but rare. Thus, for example, 95% of uses of *lap* in [sense 1](#) are singular; the plural inflection is perfectly grammatical, but rare. Other departures from the norm are more dramatic and more interesting. For example, ‘the lap of the valley’ (line [300](#)) is clearly a metaphor. Valleys don’t have laps. In line [223](#), the word is used literally within an extended metaphor, involving a metaphorical rather than a literal search.

223 Delia Sutherland searched her lap for the offers, the arguments, the good sense

Even though the word *lap* here is being used in the most literal sense, it could almost be classified as an exploitation (e.g. of ‘she looked down at her lap’), not least because it is so unusual to find *lap* used as the direct object of a transitive verb.

#### 4.5 Literal and metaphorical meaning

The same form of words (e.g. ‘the last lap’) can be both literal and metaphorical. Compare:

327 he span off the rain-soaked track on the last lap [literal]

470 The only thing that kept me going on the last lap of the journey was the rhythm of my steps. [Conventional metaphor, metaphoricity signalled by ‘of the journey’]

471 We met together at the station and took the train on the last lap to Cambridge. [Conventional metaphor, metaphoricity less explicitly signalled]

Both conventionality and metaphoricity are multilayered. Bolinger’s description of a dictionary as ‘a nosegay of faded metaphors’ reminds us that there are also unfaded metaphors – fresh metaphors – which do not get into a dictionary.

Sometimes it is hard to say explicitly what aspect of the context is relevant. Quite a lot of inferencing can be called for to assign a meaning to an idiomatic expression. Consider the following dialogue (the wider context of line [468](#)):

‘What are you reading?’

‘Rereading Anna Karenina.’

‘Oh well, that should keep you going for a little while.’

‘You bet.’

‘Funny, I find I’m rereading more books now. Going through my old favourites. Must be entering the last lap.’

‘Don’t be morbid, Charles.’

The context is clearly not motor-racing or athletics, so this must be an exploitation. So far, so good. But what does it mean, and how do we know? In the story (Simon Brett’s *Murder Unlimited* 1984), leading up to this fragment of conversation, the participants

are on a journey, so perhaps Charles is using the expression ‘the last lap’ in its conventional idiomatic sense: the final stage of a journey. This is plausible but wrong. It does not fit with the immediate context. How would reading books be relevant to the final stage of a journey? This point can be clarified if we look at the contexts in which ‘the last lap’ *does* mean the final stage of a journey, where the journey, distance, or destination is mentioned explicitly: ‘of the journey’, ‘to Cambridge’, ‘a one-kilometre walk’. In contrast to these uses, ‘the last lap’ in 468 almost certainly refers to the final stage of a life approaching its end. This is not made explicit in the immediate context, but it is hinted at strongly in the response ‘Don’t be morbid’.

## **5 Conclusions**

Sinclair’s observations and the Birmingham 7.3 million word corpus are confirmed by the BNC, which provides a much larger set of data for more extensive analysis. By a wide definition of ‘form’ and a loose definition of ‘associated’, it is true that every distinction in meaning is associated with a distinction in form. And even by a narrow definition of ‘form’ (i.e. immediate context), the axiom is true as long as care is taken to identify relevant lexicosyntactic criteria and ignore noise.

The association between meaning and form is by no means straightforward, however. Although quite strong predictions can be made about meanings on the basis of immediate-context analysis, they must, in the present state of our knowledge, be regarded as probabilistic, not certain. A painstaking and systematic corpus-based analysis of the relevant lexicosyntactic criteria for meaning distinctions would be expensive but would greatly improve the ability of computational linguists to process meanings in texts.

It is not clear that competing meanings of a word should be regarded as a checklist of fully formed, competing interpretations in any cognitively realistic sense. But perhaps a dictionary-like checklist does form part of our mental inventory when we construct utterances and participate in discourse: an inventory of prototypes to be exploited, not of meanings to be fired up mindlessly.

## **References**

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Appendix: Exhaustive analysis of BNC citations for *lap*

## 1 BODYPART WHEN SITTING DOWN

NOUN; SYNTACTIC NORM: *in/on POSSDET lap EOC*

1 carWar said you were cross because I sat on Hepzibah 's lap ! " " Liar , " Carrie said . " You 're making  
2 Oyster e said sitting down and clasping her hands in her lap , " I was upset . " She shrugged . " But who  
3 MFrayn d Bill Waddy . <p\_158> " She could have sat in my lap , " said Gareth Holmroyd . <page=159> <p\_159>  
4 Kirkup rtment Manager and he said , " come and sit on my lap , Margaret " , so I did , much to his embarra  
5 Sunday cocoa by the fire , Emily curled up on Hudson 's lap , Richard lying on his back , his head on Nic  
6 SensLf n the evening sun with The Times newspaper on his lap , a half-empty glass of whisky on the table b  
7 AmPrin What a baby I am , a cry-baby . She put it in her lap , and , her voice a thread , said , " Yes , o  
8 Madeir co . This shows Mary , with the baby Jesus on her lap , and Joseph , with the richly dressed three  
9 loving illy-Willie sprawled like a baby on his mother 's lap , and Nicandra , remote and sedate , quite Mi  
10 5Child cuddlesome and funny , was always on somebody 's lap , and his laugh was heard everywhere : this w  
11 GolSha sit back on her heels , let her hands lie in her lap , and listen . And palpably , audibly , he br  
12 Krokod . " <p\_110> Manolo pulled his seatbelt across his lap , and plugged it in . The console lit up , an  
13 HerLiv through the windscreen , his hands clasped in his lap , and she started to drive again . On and on  
14 ArchAn sewing close to the fire and a cat rested on her lap , and she looked at Millet with fear and seem  
15 SpecEf tting against the wall with a stand-in across his lap , and then Beverly lying in exactly the same  
16 Reluct her , sitting in a corner with some child on her lap , and the usual dreamy expression on her face  
17 LitVic orothea Gilberd perched the tray on her mother 's lap , and tucked the bedclothes fussily around he  
18 Whirlp wo ordeals . " <p\_51> He clasped his hands in his lap , and waited , studying Newman 's reaction .  
19 CotLan rotesting muddle of arms and legs on his towelled lap , and when he held one leg by the ankle and i  
20 PDarkn r the window , a small scroll of parchment on his lap , apparently waiting for the Prince to summon  
21 KngSol nd she breathed deeply ; with hands folded in her lap , artificially composed into an attitude of r  
22 Posses lchair . Her leather hands danced a little in her lap , but her voice was steadying . .PP " I suppo  
23 GuiltP er thighs apart in an effort to provide more of a lap , but was not surprised when Harry 's face be  
24 CntNe4 deliberately thrown a lit match into the girl 's lap , causing her T-short to catch fire . But un  
25 SBDead esley City bar , with a two-headed nipper on your lap , complaining to a private dick from the twen  
26 CrowRd n the seat by my side ; I lifted the file onto my lap , concealing a bulge . There was a reason for  
27 CrowRd She pulled a handkerchief from her handbag on her lap , dabbed at her nose . " Still pretending it  
28 HowIlk th someone and at a party they said , " Sit on me lap , darling " , and then they said , " Oh God  
29 Cathed hat beneath me the Monster squats on my mother 's lap , draining her love balloons to inflate its o  
30 loving a hot-water bottle at her feet and another in her lap , dreaming the time away and sobering up . No  
31 DogToC I 'd ever witnessed . She gently eased it off his lap , gave it a few licks and pushed it over to m  
32 WCycle press below . She was kneading the gloves in her lap , gripping them so tightly that her knuckles  
33 carWar turned and picked him up and sat him on her broad lap , her arms tight about him . She rocked him g  
34 HuntAn eding cold Big Mac to Trippy while straddling his lap , his arms around her waist so he could still  
35 Butchr . He had other information in his mind and on his lap , information that would guide him to Dungave  
36 AmnesA behaved in such a bold manner \_ sitting on their laps , kissing them and fingering her body \_ that  
37 KFrost rying . <p\_212> Peg sat rigid her basket on her lap , knitting forgotten , keeping in check the s  
38 TAngel shouted Lloyd , and Beeby wriggled more into his lap , laughing like a drain . <p\_124> Patterson c  
39 LCohen mitive meditation " : " I sat with my hands on my lap , like a cataleptic ... like Ezekiel ! My hea  
40 Trail8 d impassive , and Mary-Claude , with Sarah in her lap , looked out the window . She had long since  
41 PeaSky ies in their arms and hauled toddlers on to their laps , making more room on the floor for people t  
42 ForNig , madam . " <p\_84> The cat jumped on to Mungo 's lap , making herself comfortable . Picking up his  
43 Ghosts selves up from the floor and out of each other 's laps , opened the front door and jumped down to s  
44 Intrw causes this . Let your hands lie loosely in your lap , palms upward , during the interview or clas  
45 SexTrv d its workings and , as he sat to clean it on his lap , passion got the better of him . <h2> HOUSEM  
46 Scapeg word , lifted the baby out of the pram on to her lap , pulled up her jumper and put the baby to he  
47 GoodHB was very affectionate from the start , sat on her lap , purred loudly when stroked and snuggled up  
48 KFrost p to her throat . Emily sat with her hands in her lap , quite unperturbed . <p\_176> Alec grinned re  
49 PeaSky d when the twins were babies and shat in Chola 's lap , she 'd call out , " Chu chu chu , " and the  
50 HisWom more of one piece and , returning her hand to her lap , she drew out of nowhere , " Not everybody c  
51 HHeels her pouting lips , she sucked . Sliding from his lap , she stepped back so that he could view her  
52 divHou ther swim . " She stood up and the records in her lap , slid to the floor . " Come on , Matt , I in  
53 CrwnDk , his brown , beringed hands gently folded in his lap , staring at Corbett like some understanding  
54 RingRR tape-recorder out of his pocket and put it on his lap , switching it on as he did so . " You were a  
55 oSNile ate with us . She sat with the chicken pot in her lap , tearing off pieces of the bird and handing  
56 Deliri olls upon the wall , the anaemic cat in people 's laps , the dope and the drivel . <p\_42> We pile i  
57 Hunter gently down until she was sitting sideways on his lap , then put his arms around to hold her gently  
58 oSNile the mother goddess Isis with her son Horus on her lap , the symbol of life in the form of a cross ,  
59 Summer Jacqueline who would run to her , climb on to her lap , whenever the maid sat down for a moment and  
60 Catlor eap on to the piano and then on to the pianist 's lap , where it would start licking the hands that  
61 SaSoci ep a piece of paper judiciously positioned on his lap , while another revealed that flaps of loose  
62 SbWldA as asleep . I woke and found Lester 's head in my lap . " <p\_3> The Piper pilot suspected structura  
63 Spring erful . " .PP He smiled as he lay his head in her lap . " Are you glad you came with me , cara ? "

## Immediate context analysis

64 TimAss nervousness by fidgeting with the handbag in her lap . " But what investigation ? What 's happened  
65 ShMker the stool near the fire . She put the last in his lap . " Hold it between your knees , " she hissed  
66 Love00 aid bluntly , coiling his fingers together in his lap . " I can't see it . Perhaps if I didn't know  
67 master ged to laugh , held her hands for a minute in her lap . " It 's a nervous thing I have . " <p\_34> H  
68 RBride lt for you . " She smoothed her napkin across her lap . " I thought we ought to meet today because  
69 TSpice hanks . " .PP He laughed and tugged her on to his lap . " I was enjoying that \_ you 'll have to pay  
70 Miracl ble and vulnerable . She dropped her hands to her lap . " Maybe I 'm old-fashioned , but I prefer t  
71 Winter he was twisting her hands tightly together in her lap . " My mother was an innocent young country l  
72 LitVic of death . <p\_134> " Fancy . Died . There on your lap . " Horrible for you , Mrs C . But he always w  
73 Invasi nger seat beside him and sat with the pipes on my lap . " Right , George . Let 's go ! " I said , c  
74 SpinJe <p\_220> She dropped her gaze to the bundle in her lap . " She must have gone somewhere , Mr Skipton  
75 Heroes cry . The others crowd round . John looks at his lap . " Thank you , all of you , " he says . " Th  
76 Brent3 Jack knocked his pint of mild into his father 's lap . " Thank you , " said Jim , " I appreciated  
77 DistRl , staring at her hands which were clasped in her lap . " There isn't any more . " <p\_112> And real  
78 RichBy r hands from his person and deposited them in her lap . " There 's nothing I can do to prolong the  
79 DelSut he arms of the chair , folded my hands away in my lap . " Well , people do , don't they ? Men . " M  
80 MaskOf m of her hand then she was being pulled on to his lap . " Your heart , " he marvelled softly . His  
81 Little e Devil , the child hid his face in his mother 's lap . ( So Lucie could not have changed so much .  
82 Indigo utt and looked down at his hands , clasped in his lap . ) " Now we have to shoot again , " he said  
83 Fallen ... bloody Hun and they 'd s ... s ... sit on his lap ... " <p\_224> His stutter and his breathless  
84 PriArr " Belinda picked unseeingly at her fingers in her lap . .PP " I knew about the affair before he did  
85 MEnemy itzAlan 's eyes . Isabel 's hands clenched in her lap . .PP " My lord said that he 'd brought you f  
86 Spring lo caught hold of it and twisted it down into her lap . .PP " Perhaps it is time we discussed the r  
87 Aromat the ground and your hands resting loosely in your lap . <DT> 2 . <DD> <LI> <p\_122> Close your eyes  
88 TOnion her lips ajar , <l> she attends to sunsets in her lap . <l> Along the edge of a window-frame , <l>  
89 MumMsk ese pashas waiting for ladies to settle in their laps . <p\_102> The old general store had gone but  
90 TLBaby sat down , unfolded her napkin and put it on her lap . <p\_103> " Nothing , " said Fiona , finally  
91 TwiFte 119> " Here ... Miss ... " He dropped it into her lap . <p\_119> She started and looked up , pressin  
92 Heroes bed . He lifts John 's head and cradles it in his lap . <p\_122> Bill watches Paul and his son . Bil  
93 Deadly then came directly to Jamieson and jumped on his lap . <p\_123> " No . He ... I haven't seen him .  
94 WallGm mony , she placed his hand firmly back in his own lap . <p\_151> " Not in public , Harry . Remember  
95 Oyster nt calmness at his side , her hands folded in her lap . <p\_165> " Eline ... " Will 's voice was str  
96 SonsMo nd it and took it to the woman , laying it in her lap . <p\_167> She dialled the number they gave he  
97 Midsum ous grimace , the spade-like hands resting in his lap . <p\_170> She had to appear calm and justifie  
98 Shrine forth on the bed and now the tears fell onto her lap . <p\_280> " Would you like me to fetch you so  
99 oSNile lled fiercely , spitting at each other across our laps . <p\_34> The road ran on into the desert alo  
100 hombre looked at his hands too . They were folded on his lap . <p\_36> What would these people think , I wo  
101 ZP13OW rity . " <p\_62> She laid her notebook down in her lap . <p\_62> " I hate to say this , Mr/NP. Kopek  
102 MartiC tomorrow , " he said , dropping the money into my lap . <p\_66> " That 's O.K/NP. , the firm pays fo  
103 MagToy red for a short while in the black harbour of her lap . <p\_80> The shop-bell rang , the parakeet sq  
104 Seeing nudged him and thus dislodged the titfer from his lap . <p\_87> And then there was Our Lady of the L  
105 Pearly ade . She was sitting with her sketch book on her lap . <page=142> <p\_142> " You didn't tell her wh  
106 TalesM hers group meeting , Sally sitting quietly on his lap . After a year of experiment she and Mike had  
107 PChali Agrippa and , lithe as a dancer , sprang into his lap . Agrippa stroked it carefully . ( You know ,  
108 GoldGl . Nothing moved . He laid the shotgun across his lap . A heavy squall drove up the meadow , bowing  
109 Gorbai came to in a taxi , my painful head on a woman 's lap . A man 's gentle voice \_ " You 'll be all ri  
110 Remain falls from his hands on to a lady or gentleman 's lap . And furthermore , Mr Stevens , and I am ver  
111 RedCou nd girl , who were regarding the open book on her lap . As we came in , she brought her head close  
112 HuntAn seats at the small table , she plumped down on my lap . Bunny and Martin wandered over with more dr  
113 RichBy ng for the hearth became too heavy to have on her lap . But she was relieved to see Patrick thrive  
114 stillI ie said ? She shifted her string bag in her rigid lap . Come on in , said Wilkie . So she stood up  
115 TbFore right with their hands clenched together in their laps . Despite the opulence of the surroundings ,  
116 LadyKi d smiled as she saw her sitting on her husband 's lap . Elaine wished she could have a marriage lik  
117 Tortoi d the plaster . <p\_116> Mo slept in a ball on her lap . Emmie stroked him , but he did not wake up  
118 CrowRd d . Gavin 's hand rubbed up and down on Janice 's lap . Gav 's face gave no sign he was aware of do  
119 liScot . She let her hands slide from the keys into her lap . He didn't even notice that she had stopped  
120 Heroes s under a cushion . Babur holds his ticket in his lap . He does not like this business of not telli  
121 Joybri ng out over the Grand Canal , Cas and Poll in his lap . He glanced up , but stayed where he was , h  
122 LDLion e probably had . He held a large briefcase in his lap . He got up and fell in more or less alongsid  
123 LastEn e locked back she was sitting , demure , hands in lap . He looked , stared , then laughed aloud and  
124 TooFar riting left-handedly on a notepad balanced on her lap . Her shoulder-length hair obscured her face  
125 Truths e portmanteau . Cornelius had his suitcase on his lap . He was leaning against the coffin . <p\_83>  
126 DreamP <p\_120> He rolled over and his face landed in my lap . His face was on my knees and I could feel t  
127 CastIn brown envelope and spread the photographs on his lap . His reaction to them had numbed . They just  
128 DogTod as and decided to give him a treat and sit on his lap . I climbed up but his seat collapsed and , a  
129 WomAge d edged in , <page=61> lifting her head on to his lap . I drove off , jolting past the stranded car  
130 egypti scribe , sitting with an open papyrus roll on his lap . In the Graeco-Roman period he was worshippe  
131 MouthR l I decided that it was time for me to sit on her lap . I stood up , suddenly slipped , and crashed  
132 PayBak e has placed inside slips beneath the table to my lap . I uncrease the paper and open it across the  
133 GSquad and overturned the plate so that it landed on his lap . Mushrooms bounced about the plank floor . H  
134 AvGdMg ght and compact enough to fit comfortably in your lap . No electricity ? It can run off a rechargea  
135 moneyy <p\_111> I replaced the receiver and stared at my lap . On it lay a cellophaned wallet of Guyland p  
136 Stolen to the nearest armchair , cradling her across his lap . Paige threaded her fingers through his and  
137 FollyC bout , he took her hand and guided it down to his lap . Sally almost jumped as she encountered the

## Words in Context

138 PBlood sica was rocking herself , her arms folded in her lap . She felt desolate . <p\_117> " Being Irish i  
139 DngrLd t Johnstone took the package and placed it on her lap . She looked at Sarah 's face with troubled e  
140 FVoter elbow , and a copy of the Financial Times on her lap . She loved to move her money around , a proc  
141 KDayus e pages and returned the ledger to Miss Louise 's lap . She moved a little but I couldn't have care  
142 SrgJoe said . " Here . " He placed the newspaper on her lap . She picked it up . In the Stop Press column  
143 Tapedd sat down on the sofa and folded her hands in her lap . She said it was a routine enquiry and the p  
144 DHouse to the chair beside the bed , her magazine on her lap . She tried not to look at the glass on the p  
145 TOShad stared down at her hands , locked together in her lap . She was wretchedly conscious of Rohan watch  
146 Darkfa g apart from them again , fists held tight at her lap . She was biting her lip and looking at the c  
147 Nobody be gone . <p\_75> ( Peg is playing patience on her lap . Smiles at Abberley . We can see bits of jew  
148 PapFac . Gloria said , " Come over here now . Lay in my lap . Suck your thumb , there 's a love . " <p\_26  
149 Lively sat quite still , with his hands clenched in his lap . Tam , excluded , scrabbled indignantly at t  
150 Conduc gnes , just sat with her hands held primly in her lap . The big cat climbed stiffly down off the de  
151 Isvikk ad cut the tape the bottom volume dropped into my lap . The centre of it was a plastic mould in whi  
152 LyingT le the girl sat down at the rear , the bag in her lap . The crowd noise hushed . The cellist took u  
153 TimHis e slipped off their load , and hold them in their laps . The night god , who takes over when the da  
154 Partic " She sat quietly for a little , her hands in her lap . Then she said : " He left me 80,000 . Did y  
155 Crimsn firmly clasping her old-fashioned handbag on her lap . The nurse left the room . <p\_407> " Can you  
156 shahLa st animal that had a habit of nuzzling people 's laps . There go the family jewels , thought Agger  
157 Device oken Mill . One of the twins had better sit on my lap . The rest of you and the pushchair can fit i  
158 HoCard acious staple , a cassette tape fell out into her lap . There was nothing else in the envelope , no  
159 5Gates Beach , her head drooped and tears fell into her lap . The stewardess tried to comfort her , but t  
160 BadDrm hands were released , and he dropped them to his lap . The theremin was playing itself with passio  
161 BdSpel broom first , and then settled the bucket in her lap . This seemed <page=30> to be reasonably stea  
162 Burnha her stands a child , who nurses a pet bird on her lap . This tombstone probably also marks the line  
163 ChuKuo tting in the Summer House , a small comset on his lap . Tiny three-dimensional holograms formed and  
164 Double clasped her shaking hands tightly together in her lap . Wearing a pair of slim , immaculately cut n  
165 StPetr e creamy Aran knitting grew perceptibly on her lap . What she told me about vegetable growing me  
166 Tortoi , scrooged up in a corner with Murgatroyd on his lap . When she found him he screamed and hit out  
167 FlyinA cket in its path and floated them over onto X 's lap . X had definitely known better days . .PP A  
168 moneyy partment-store Santa she shuffled the kids on her lap : the kids , they did their shift , then clim  
169 moneyy d . " She flattened the spread comfortably on her lap : there was Vron , " Vron " , on all fours ,  
170 EsquiB cartoon characters practically curl up in one 's lap ; the Hitchcock exhibit in which the birds of  
171 Pillio n iron railings , to envy gross matrons and their lap <-?> dogs trotting between the pa\4tissie\2re  
172 EsquiA ain , we 're nervous , we envy the popcorn on his lap </ct> <p\_83> It 's early evening in Leicester  
173 RichPy he felt excitement <l> like a dying salmon in his lap <l> and turned her face away <l> towards her  
174 HHeels > " Would it be more comfortable if I sat on your lap ? " <p\_94> " I 'd like that . " <p\_94> She pu  
175 Arroww rtcoming . Only Irene ever sleeps over ... On her lap Beth 's handbag yawns . She 's miserable that  
176 TSpice ! You went nuts when Amy caught you sitting on my lap \_ " .PP " Are you thick ? That was entirely d  
177 Waking ll and saw the huge man placing a box on Matta 's lap \_ a game , with something like a worm carved  
178 ParenB blissfully , as Patrick gazed up at her from her lap \_ dolls will never be quite the same again .  
179 Father re mothers \_ Italian mothers with babies on their laps \_ were sitting in the sun on chairs , just 1  
180 EzraPd shown the room where Rizzio was stabbed " in her lap almost " . The line in Provenc\5al is from Be  
181 ation to see him off . The little girl sat on his lap a moment , till the whistle blew . A few days  
182 ChuKuo is hint , Fei Yen straightened the p'i p'a in her lap and , after a moment 's concentration , began  
183 FlooWa ge and Matthew , Ruth O'Dell , with Lilian on her lap and Danny at her feet \_ and Maudie Judge , wi  
184 ZP0159 seemed to have gone to sleep . Marcus patted his lap and I went to him for a stroke . I fell aslee  
185 WPoiso outh , another in her right hand , another in her lap and a fourth beside her on the draining board  
186 Legacy ooked at her sister and they both looked at their laps and a heavy silence fell . <p\_207> " Who \_ w  
187 SuitKi ted her dad . <p\_57> So the baboon sat her on his lap and called her his poor little princess and o  
188 undSea ter they had eaten she would take his head in her lap and comb his hair , or she would play sweet t  
189 ZBF2NA ing with pride we return to base with labrador on lap and conversation stilted . <p\_6> I ventured :  
190 ProdLf ounge children . They can be secured by an adult lap and diagonal seat belt or a child harness . T  
191 ProdLf the child are held in position by a 3 point adult lap and diagonal seat belt . <h3> KANGOL SUPER DR  
192 Nudist arated a skein of red silk from the bundle in her lap and gave it to her . A second nurse came into  
193 ShockW itz shook his head , nursed his small case on his lap and glanced at Morgan . On the plane his empl  
194 STTrav air . Her water-melon breasts rest heavily on her lap and her cleavage starts where other women hav  
195 FlooWa s sitting on the edge of the bed , a towel in her lap and her nightgown bunched up round her waist  
196 OTEdge adict his words . His eye fell on the book on her lap and his expression darkened . " She did not r  
197 carWar stroking it . He had the skull half hidden in his lap and his little hand stroked the smooth bone ,  
198 DngrLd ther fought with him . Carla would curl up on his lap and hold her hands over her ears desperately  
199 Titron . <p\_13> He frowned , pulled the napkin from his lap and laid it on the table as he stood up , shr  
200 DeanDi na Crosspatch and prince Rupert climbed on to her lap and licked her face . She was too exhausted t  
201 Fallen le bentwood chair , took Lily 's bare feet in his lap and massaged them gently . " I couldn't bear  
202 OSHeav 80> She released the cat . It sprang down off her lap and prowled off through a flower bed . The si  
203 CrowRd , " I moaned . KYAG . I put the folder down in my lap and put my forehead on the folder . <p\_225> "  
204 FalcoA the age of 2 on departure if they travel on your lap and share a bedroom with two others . Some co  
205 AwfBig that , " he said , and she fell sideways onto his lap and shut her eyes against the whirling room ,  
206 Scapeg conscience . " <p\_136> He lifted the cat off his lap and stood up . <p\_136> " Going already ? " <p  
207 Daught ? " <p\_251> " No . " Peter lifted Seb from Meg 's lap and stood up with him . " We 'll take him hom  
208 LeeGst tchen floor . She held a damp , grey cloth in her lap and tears were pouring on to it . The tears w  
209 Legacy She sat very upright and looked down at her green lap and the bronze toes of her boots , and the br  
210 Lucke r free . The restraining bar is bolted across our laps and the cage door is locked firmly in place  
211 WhatIt Lady Grubb suddenly wept over the magazine on her lap and the finished plate of junket . It was a s

## Immediate context analysis

212 BestMn . " .PP Samantha jerked a thick black cat off her lap and trailed listlessly via the kitchen to the  
213 Legacy ee . " <p\_257> He put the journal on Alexandra 's lap and went to sit down in the chair beside hers  
214 PalacS seriousness . <p\_45> I clutched my daysack on my lap as I watched the clipboard make its way round  
215 Chimer s side . She was clutching a large handbag on her lap as if it was a shield . <p\_148> There was a r  
216 AwfBig ht her a bunch of violets and dropped them on her lap as she sat in the prompt corner . She turned  
217 Hermet e . Just relax . " She cradled Ari 's head in her lap as the girl gave in to the overwhelming sensa  
218 ZP166Q kitten , who thinks nothing of leaping on to your lap at mealtimes , digging her claws into your le  
219 Matild k on her lap . It was necessary to rest it on the lap because it was too heavy for her to hold up ,  
220 LatchK melodramatically , and put it down firmly in her lap before he had any further ideas . " Yeah , I  
221 SonHvn ickly to place a copy of the Teheran Times on his lap before the stewardess reached his row . <p\_10  
222 LyingT u were improvising last night , a cat sat on your lap for a while ? " .PP My heart started to thump  
223 DelSut nothing . " <p\_117> Delia Sutherland searched her lap for the offers , the arguments , the good sen  
224 BuddSb o start talking blood had started to drip into my lap from my nose as a result of Charlie chucking  
225 moneyy w whether anybody included her . She 'd sat on my lap in a friendly way , true , but that was just  
226 TbFore .PP HER hands are placed flat and squarely on her lap in a tidy yet tight pose . Her clutched hands  
227 SuitKi \_127> When the film finishes I climb on to Dad 's lap instead and he reads me a story , lots of sto  
228 MbNews Angeles . .PP And he rested sleeping Renee on his lap in the back seat of an airport buggy while Ra  
229 master maturely of his youth , yet when he sat on Lyn 's lap in the evenings he gave himself up to a drows  
230 MumMsk ily majlis , the small children tumbling over her lap like puppies , pushing themselves up for kiss  
231 Lucker wing look . The two Yorkshire Puddings sit on his lap looking at the world through angel hair matte  
232 DarkDa The woman with the shopping basket cuddled on her lap made her fifth attempt upon Rachaela . <p\_209  
233 NMayor an fell backwards , his head cracking against the lap of a stone buddha . <p\_53> I threw away the g  
234 WhRose y could only be caught if they fell asleep in the lap of a virgin . As the days passed , my wits sh  
235 WomArc child surrounded by the warmth and comfort of the lap of the " big woman " is a memory of things pa  
236 PchMaA s . While her husband threw up violently into the lap of the Japanese Prime Minister and the world  
237 Branch n French honours and laid them in my elder son 's lap on condition he should be content to be Frenc  
238 BuddSb car with the kids , his bare torso on someone 's lap on the front seat . And the car took off up t  
239 Meddlr damp coats and tried to find dry patches on their laps on which to rest their notebooks . <p\_31> Se  
240 Catlor te effect . For the cat , in search of a friendly lap on which to sit , makes a bee-line for this i  
241 MistTm t . Perhaps he was ill . Sammy was sitting on his lap panting in a bewildered fashion . He gave a s  
242 Tomorr aw old Mother Jacobsen look up and the cat on her lap rise and turn before folding itself into a cr  
243 LadyKi her nose loudly . <p\_233> Placing the doll on her lap she pulled the legs off . Kate knew everywher  
244 RapidA , and they will even sign with the child in their laps so that each turn and movement of their bodi  
245 Creedd t down on the top step and settled the cat in his lap so that he could examine her injured tail . I  
246 Nobody the voice of a record , turning the child on her lap so that its back now faced me . <p\_113> " Hi  
247 WhatIt compartment \_ napkins tucked into shirt collars , laps spread with paper bags . The code of agreeme  
248 ClwnPB " Miaow " . The person with the cushion on their lap then has to stroke them on the head and say "  
249 Collec came through the window . It fell on my legs and lap through the skylight , a lovely slow silver m  
250 TstDth overs . " <p\_63> The hands clasped loosely in his lap tightened then relaxed . But he was still abl  
251 WomMi 100> Sitting on the bus , still with my cap on my lap to avoid attracting attention , it struck me  
252 QueBab e grazes made her wince . He put the flask on her lap to free both his hands for the cleaning , and  
253 TaHome premier 's wife then sat Daniel Churchill on her lap to hear how he had battled against serious he  
254 WRetir ir that supports the lower back , a pillow in the lap to support sewing or knitting or a lectern fo  
255 FunbrA n travel go free , but must travel on an adult 's lap unless there is a free seat available . On al  
256 HCIHoA seat on the aircraft and must sit on a parent 's lap unless there is an unoccupied seat available  
257 Unsuit \_121> " Yes , she particularly likes to lie on my lap when I 'm wearing it , " said Sophia , examin  
258 Lucker else . He looks blunted . His hands fall into his lap when he attempts light gestures . His head wo  
259 AmPrin , beginning with the beautiful hands lying in her lap which had visibly never done a stroke of work  
260 AmPrin better by dabbing at the debris on Mrs Darrell 's lap with a damask napkin , made them worse . .PP  
261 Franki hands in the air and let them fall back into her lap with a sigh of exasperation . .PP " You make  
262 TOShad le . .PP Sabine obeyed , folding her hands in her lap with equal composure . She had the oddest imp

### AS MODIFIER: lap belt, lap box, lap strap, lap rug

263 LdAppS ,000 baby car seats are being recalled amid fears lap belt guides could break . Seat makers Klippan  
264 GuitaB a resonator on the top and pedals . He also has a lap box which his father built for him , and that  
265 PilotB was still within the cockpit , restrained by his lap harness . The emergency services were in atte  
266 CntNeA passenger in the family Sierra and was wearing a lap seat belt like the one on the left , when the  
267 FlyinA d . Forward seat belts each comprised a two-piece lap strap , fastened by a buckle , and an inertia  
268 CLivnA 0 , from Elliot Fine Fabrics . Lime broken-stripe lap rug from Colefax & Fowler , as before . R

### AS MODIFIER: lap play

269 SReedy ther 's presence , but the rocking , cuddling and lap play which had been so expressly forbidden \_

### AS MODIFIER: lap dog

270 NiGall priest , and not your messenger boy , your little lap dog ! In these matters I will say what I beli  
271 CommKg ilippa 's face just as she had done to her little lap dog . " And the duke wore it , preferring it  
272 DogToA TV DOGS <DL> <DT> 1 . <DD> <LI> Ethel Skinner 's lap dog <DT> 2 . <DD> <LI> The Hart to Hart dog <  
273 PDarkn troduction . Your only mistake was that the small lap dog Deveril carried was either overlooked or

274 envd47 griculture and Food </hl> <ct> FDA changes from " lap dog into a watchdog " </ct> .PP Starting with  
275 PDarkn he forest . You later found the corpse of a small lap dog nearby . You took the collar , sold the j  
276 PubDis rotesters have shouted " SS-RUC " and " Dublin 's lap dogs " , whilst some elected MPs have exhorte

## Idiomatic Phrases

### PHRASEOLOGICAL NORMS: [SITUATION – GOOD] fall into [SOMEONE'S] lap; [SOMEONE] drop/dump [PROBLEM] into [SOMEONE'S] lap

277 JGould nce of Australia had fallen miraculously into his lap , and that he would be able to publish from t  
278 AvEvMg 're Novell Authorised . .PP Drop a problem in our lap , and it 's no longer your problem \_ it trans  
279 Whirlp ange and dangerous problem which she dumped in my lap , assured me I was the only man she could tru  
280 fracas I might provoke a few kilocreds to tumble into my lap , by acquiring a bit of phetam . Perhaps , I  
281 NewInt e boons of the new colonialism to drop into their laps , inshallah . They are pigmyfied , made remo  
282 UnPass because Jamie knew it might one day fall into his lap . .PP Twenty-five years ago , Charles had mar  
283 AcounC et . Basically , the world fell into Airtours '/\$ lap . <p\_36> But while the company 's management  
284 AcounF that this should fall into the fund managers '/\$ laps . This seems a gross overstatement , as it i  
285 RonRgn rt , however , did not fall into the president 's lap ; David Stockman regarded both Republicans an  
286 LatchK as delighted when the story of Hank fell into her lap ; an interview with his mother would fill hal  
287 DiLeis t will drop the entire issue firmly back into the lap of player recruitment within this country , w  
288 rLionH ured Cha\4teauroux and this time it fell into his lap so easily that men talked of treason . A few  
289 Champn rsial " Champagne Deuxie\2me Zone " firmly in the lap of the judiciary . After six years of litigat  
290 Bloody given the boy all the evidence , dumped it in his lap without ceremony , and [WIDER CONTEXT NEEDED]

WIDER CONTEXT: He had given the boy all the evidence , dumped it in his lap without ceremony , and left him to examine all , and act as the prince he was .

### PHRASEOLOGICAL NORM: living in the lap of luxury

291 MaNews y the pool of the villa he let to Mona </ct> <ct> LAP OF LUXURY : The villa rented by Mona when she  
292 MbFeat food combinations . .PP Fido too is living in the lap of luxury in pet-crazy Britain . And if a poo  
293 EconD top computer , priced at \$3,899 , is dubbed " the lap of luxury " ; Compaq 's equivalent , at \$6,79  
294 Peachs sign . " You 're getting spoiled , living in the lap of luxury with the Nazi boss , " he commented  
295 IaHome , so long as there are millionaires living in the lap of luxury and other people living in cardboar  
296 WrstPv the sorrows of adversity and who , nursed in the lap of plenty , had never heard the call of hunge

### PHRASEOLOGICAL NORM: in the lap of the gods

297 DgWldA or seemed relieved that everything now lay in the lap of the gods . " This is home and it 's immens  
298 Unslve at will happen to me after I die ? \_ It is in the lap of the gods . </DL> <p\_12> Nevertheless , th

## Exploitations

299 Flowrn . " <p\_46> He lowered himself down on to the wide lap of the stone stair and drew her down beside h  
300 Platos a vocabulary of blackness <l> no sunlight in the lap of the valley <l> holds at bay . </poem> <pag

## 2 ONCE ROUND A TRACK

### NOUN; SYNTACTIC NORMS: NUMERAL[ORDINAL/CARDINAL] lap; on lap NUMERAL[CARDINAL]

301 TbSpor ardi ) two laps , 10 G Morbidelli ( Minardi ) two laps , 11 N Larini ( Ferrari ) two laps , 12 J La  
302 TbSpor en ( Ligier ) one lap , 6 S Modena ( Jordan ) one lap , 7 M Hakkinen ( Lotus ) one lap , 8 A Suzuki  
303 EsquiD head . I was nuts . <p\_117> At the end of my five laps , I wheedled and wangled for another session  
304 BelfsA tacks but all were chased down . .PP On the final lap , Mark Smyth ( O'Rourkes Coal ) opened a smal  
305 AaLeis tripped up during the pursuit on the penultimate lap , McKean opened daylight over the rest of his  
306 BcLeis and led by eight seconds at the end of the first lap , an advantage he increased to 15 seconds bef  
307 BelfsB ian Reid slotted into second place on the opening lap , and like Moodie , never looked like losing  
308 BelfsA 0 race Gary Jess set the pace for eight of the 12 laps , before front fork failure forced him to sl  
309 LcLeis closed within four seconds at Ramsey on the final lap , but the 37 year-old Reid put the power down  
310 CntNeJ e in the calendar . .PP The challenge ahead ... 5 laps , each more than 6 miles long , of the most  
311 Formul a , after having been in the lead for forty-three laps , he had to retire with a seized gear-box .

## Immediate context analysis

312 AutocB he race . As the race headed towards the final 10 laps , he was in second place , but under serious  
313 AutocC at , had Schumacher got really close in the final laps , he would have gone flat out and to hell wi  
314 IgSpor finish either first , or second plus the fastest lap , in the final round at Thruxton next week to  
315 GdPriA as his shadow </ct> <ct> Win-hungry Rymer 's last lap , last corner challenge fails as he drifts wi  
316 DcLeis into the lead at the Curva do Sol on the opening lap , leaving Mansell in close pursuit ahead of S  
317 BelfsB ship in Germany . Crawford , who had a bad second lap , lost 76 marks , 50 more than the winner for  
318 CntNeF he running . Heavy rain stopped everyone after 18 laps , so it was back to go for a second start .  
319 ZP351W the angrily flaring box onto his gasoline-soaked lap , spun on his heel and walked quickly away in  
320 AutocB as though he had a point to prove . On the first lap , the Italian veteran was edged into fifth pl  
321 DcLeis <p\_11> With Berger having retired after only four laps , the double retirement with electrical prob  
322 BelfsB third place . .PP In the junior event over three laps , unattached rider Mark Briggs had an impres  
323 living speeds . The first takes 48 seconds to complete a lap ; the second , 60 secs ; the third , 72 secs  
324 DcLeis ace to keep me behind him until I pitted after 29 laps . " <p\_11> " After that , I didn't have so m  
325 DdLeis tics used by Senna to keep him at bay for several laps . " I was quicker than him and he was quite  
326 CntNeD ming up with Robert Dunlop ... they ride over six laps ... .PP Karen Rake from the Maxwell club at  
327 AaLeis hen he span off the rain-soaked track on the last lap . .PP " What can I say , " said Warwick . " T  
328 AaLeis the flag except for the downpour on the final two laps . .PP All the leading cars traded places bri  
329 AutocA conditions of practice. it retired on the fourth lap . .PP Lotus had another go at four-wheel driv  
330 EconoI cars remained on the track , with ten on the lead lap . .PP Mr Mansell , the first Indy-500 rookie  
331 AutocA enough to make it last more than five consecutive laps . .PP Similar thoughts must have passed thro  
332 BcLeis n Ivan Cremonini , who had set the pace for eight laps . .PP The early pace-setter was series leade  
333 BelfsB brother Wallace as they too put up a three figure lap . </h1> .PP Quite an achievement but Ernie wo  
334 SbComm the flag except for the downpour on the final two laps . <p\_19> All the leading cars traded places  
335 SbComm th Italian Alessandro Zanardi in a Lotus after 16 laps . <p\_19> Hill said : " I shouldn't have been  
336 Formul he and Ronnie bashed into each other on the sixth lap . <p\_90> Still , the point is Mario needed Ch  
337 BfLeis they certainly deserve more than a derisory four laps . After all , they appear to be the only pur  
338 CathVH , or less fit are strongly advised to do only one lap . All participants receive a certificate . .P  
339 FlyPsc n P-51D Miss Ashley , pulled out during the first lap . Delbert Williams in P-51D Pegasus and Jerry  
340 TbSpor March ) three laps , 13 J Herbert ( Lotus ) four laps . Did not finish : 14 J J Lehto ( Dallara )  
341 Formul out of the race before the pace car finished its lap . In fact , he only won it once , and that wa  
342 Driven s waiting to live up to his name with the fastest lap . In many ways this moment was infinitely mor  
343 CanoeA first but eventually picked up for a lively last lap . Strandman led most of the way but Goodchild  
344 SbLeis s Jose-Luis Barbosa tripped up on the penultimate lap . The Scot , however , steered clear of troub  
345 studen e and in a good position at the bell for the last lap . The earlier chapters on the techniques of s  
346 AutocA and 20th and were both out of the race within 15 laps . The same thing happened in Holland and ATS  
347 DcLeis ap 10 they were 20 sec ahead of the rest , and by lap 20 they had stretched that gap to 40 sec , be  
348 LfLeis all pulled in for pit-stops for new tyres between laps 29 and 34 . .PP These pit-stops proved to be  
349 AutocC re of the fuel later , Berger pitted for tyres on lap 35 and rejoined in third place . <ct> Schumac  
350 racing first and second in Belgium while Hunt retired on lap 36 . Lauda added nine more points after leadi  
351 racing ver Nelson Piquet . Prost went out of the race on lap 36 and had to watch agonizingly as Piquet fin  
352 AutocB er until a fuel pump failure caused retirement on lap 37 . .PP Berger watched the race for a while  
353 AutocB ous damage to both . .PP The incident occurred on lap 50 , by which time Mansell had already ground  
354 BelfsB ) 113.75 ; 6 , A Irwin ( Honda ) 113.75 . Record Lap : J Dunlop 115.62mph . .PP Flying Scot : Jim  
355 Formul leaders , eventually overtaking both . Then for a lap Jody Scheckter took his six-wheeled Tyrrell i  
356 MbSpor n off halfway through the race . .PP Inside three laps Mansell blasted from seventh to second and h  
357 BelfsB n to go for second best . .PP After a hectic five laps Milling took second spot as Welshman Ian Lou  
358 MaFeat AND PRIX TRIUMPHS OF A CHAMP </h1> <h1> MANSELL'S LAP OF HONOUR </h1> <p\_22> HERE'S another smashin  
359 BelfsB 3.52 ; 6 , I Lougher ( Aprilia ) 101.03 . Fastest Lap \_R Dunlop 105.89mph on lap four . 400cc \_1  
360 SbArts w . He started at the back , remained there for a lap and , when the pace was turned up , was unabl  
361 CanoeA rman was dropped just before the end of the third lap and Andy was again in medal territory if he c  
362 BelfsB s in control of this race leading from the second lap and after that it just wasn't a race . He end  
363 GdPriA art of the Spoon Curve . I 'd come round the next lap and see the black line I 'd just laid . I cou  
364 NaLeis out four or five times around the circuit in one lap and the only way to keep it going was to mess  
365 racing fast but treacherous circuit was scheduled for 20 laps and was the first of eight races to count to  
366 Driven n the actual race itself because these qualifying laps asked so much from car and driver . As he pu  
367 BelfsB while second placed man McCallen set the fastest lap at 115.44mph . .PP McCallen , who was having  
368 FlyPsc ak looked like a bullet ! Strega turned the third lap at 473mph , the fourth at 472mph . <p\_42> Str  
369 CntNeT d , Nigel Mansell did the fastest ever Grand Prix lap at Silverstone this year in 1 minute and 22 s  
370 BelfsB outstripped all his rivals with a string of quick laps at the end of opening qualifying yesterday .  
371 EsquiD ming on the front left tyre . " It won't last ten laps at this speed , " he says . Sure enough , th  
372 BcLeis h him and he moved into the lead for the next two laps before Joey hit back and with a speed of 110  
373 BcLeis f the line and stayed in front for five of the 15 laps before driving into the pits to have a misfi  
374 AutocA ound the Jaguar for himself . It took him 14 more laps before he could squeeze alongside Brundle ,  
375 racing pit stop but then broke the lap record with each lap before snatching a last-grasp victory . He lo  
376 FlyPsc trega jumped to the front of the pack as the pace lap began . When the racers rounded home pylon to  
377 AutocA lace and Jones gave Jaguar a deserved third , two laps behind the winner </ct> <ct> Caught on slick  
378 NaLeis in the world championship , took second place six laps behind with Japan 's Masanori Sekiya , Franc  
379 BelfsB t have passed the pair in front of me on the last lap but what was the point , I had no chance of w  
380 YkTrad if a championship is to be held it has to be on a lap course . This would involve completing fiftee  
381 SbComm ut with the Ligier Renault team . He finished one lap down but had every reason to be proud of a fi  
382 CanoeA error . Exit the Russians , backwards . The fifth lap ended with a clear lead for the Hungarians ,  
383 AutocB first lap , Senna led by 1.8secs . By the end of lap five , the gap was 4.1secs . During the pract  
384 BfLeis , who was passed by both Dunlop and Cremonini on lap five . .PP Once in front Dunlop never really  
385 BelfsB . Graeme Thompson crashed while lying fourth two laps from the finish in the 250cc race won by Nig



## Words in Context

386 MbSpor great all day and I was really relaxed until six laps from the end . .PP " But after that , I suff  
387 AutocB the Ford HB V8 had brought his race to a halt six laps from the end . .PP The old order may not hav  
388 Formul e race in South Africa and the car went sick four laps from the end ; he had Monaco in his gift , t  
389 LgLeis was quicker and I was pushing hard until about 10 laps from the finish when I thought the engine so  
390 Formul been the first to break the magical seven-minute lap in 1975 \_ and that very little had been done  
391 NaLeis " Hardy , who ran the fastest intermediate ladies lap in the Northern relay championships at Derby  
392 CntNeF tone tonight ... Nigel Mansell put in a scorching lap in the opening qualifying session ... the fas  
393 AaLeis seventh place after he had spun off on the final lap in the rain . .PP Only seven cars were classi  
394 ZBPINA very odd posture for driving , they set off for 5 laps in these amazing cars . <p\_23> Next up , two  
395 AutocC eir way through the back-markers on lap 15 . Four laps later , Senna took the opportunity to close  
396 Formul s , stranding him behind Depailler , and then two laps later , when he was trying to overtake Depai  
397 DcLeis s at Donington , was forced to call it a day four laps later . <h1> Rugby Union : Quins rally best  
398 LdLeis ia team broke clear on the circuit and with three laps left they were joined by Norwegian Ole Simen  
399 LeLeis it started in 1936 . .PP A women 's race over one lap looks set for a local victory by British cham  
400 AvGdMg &formula; th sec to 9 hrs 59 min 59.99 secs . 30 lap memory , countdown alarm that may be set to t  
401 DbLeis till left 1.1sec adrift of Mansell 's record pole lap of 1--15.703 on the 2.687-mile track at an av  
402 DaLeis , struggling with oversteer , recorded a quickest lap of 1--17.591 , 1.8sec slower . That was still  
403 BfLeis , it 's not over yet , is it ? " .PP The fastest lap of 118.085mph by Tracy in his Chevrolet-power  
404 SbLeis an assent of the Whistlefield on each of the four laps of Rosneath . <h1> St Aloysius complete Cup  
405 GramoA and Gergiev was quite happy that Covent Garden 's lap of The Fiery Angel should be conducted by Sir  
406 LcLeis om Sheffield . The 116-mile stage ends with eight laps of a city centre circuit . .PP The finishing  
407 NaLeis r , but he broke clear on the second of the three laps of a gruelling nine <regsic=kiklometre> kilo  
408 LfLeis he main bunch , his arms aloft , at the end of 25 laps of a two-mile city-centre circuit . .PP Stag  
409 Formul n lap fifty-five he overtook Reutemann after many laps of cat and mouse with the Argentine , never  
410 WisdeD hands with the England team before starting on a lap of farewell of the stadium . <ct> Peter Hain  
411 IaSpor rgument against his own selection , but after two laps of inadequate pacing , he was never in prosp  
412 LcLeis gan youngster Grindley can produce one impressive lap of the Olympic Stadium in the Golden Gala mee  
413 LhLeis for the Manx International cycle race over three laps of the TT course ( 113 miles ) on June 25 is  
414 ArchAn his eyes closed . Four turns to the left on each lap of the compound , and he fancied that he knew  
415 IiSpor l be surmised that Dennis demands more than a few laps of the pitch prior to a session in the pub .  
416 FalImp . One evening after she 'd completed a couple of laps of the pool she was surprised to see David M  
417 AutocA d his pace . .PP Schumacher , setting the fastest lap of the race in the process , finally got past  
418 SbLeis d Mansell , who set the record in the penultimate lap of the session . <p\_20> The previous record o  
419 BelfsB ng to take second place to Dunlop . At the end of lap one , Lofthouse led Dunlop with Joey Dunlop t  
420 BelfsB ground rapidly after being seventh at the end of lap one , and by the end of the second lap it was  
421 TaSpor olour clothed two-wheel gladiators over the final laps on the 200-metre round track . .PP Doyle is  
422 BelfsB k was drying out quite quickly when I did my best lap particularly on the climb up towards Casino S  
423 BelfsA and seven minutes . By half distance in the nine lap race , the handicap had unravelled and althou  
424 BfLeis being the case perhaps we could stretch to seven lap races next year . <ct> Friends As for our old  
425 BcLeis ry , from Bangor drove to .05 of a second off the lap record , and in so doing took won a fantastic  
426 NbLeis le of Man race eight times and holds the outright lap record , will be arriving with his latest bik  
427 TbSpor ed the day on and off the track as he clocked his lap record lmin 13.732sec at an average speed of  
428 BelfsB be named the Spanboard chicane . .PP The current lap record holders are Robert Dunlop in the Super  
429 BelfsB p four . This was only a second outside the class lap record set by Ian Newton last year . .PP Goin  
430 AutocC rand Prix , lapped within 1.6 secs of the fastest lap set by a F3000 car in a recent British F2 mee  
431 MikeAs till do , but I 've learnt now to keep them in my lap so that the sweat coming off the hands soaks  
432 BelfsB Dunlop opened up the gap again over the last two laps so that with victory in sight he had a cushi  
433 RnniB \_94> I think it was about halfway round the third lap that John Walker made his mark on me . It did  
434 BelfsA en minutes . .PP By the end of the fifth of seven laps the first two groups had come together and a  
435 GiSpor st four-minute mile . But by the end of the third lap the pace had slouched to 3min 7.2sec . .PP In  
436 FlyPsc C-11 Peristroika . </ct> <p\_42> During the second lap the pack began to thin out . Dreadnought held  
437 BfLeis to walk away . Prost clocked a record qualifying lap time of one minute 21.179 seconds to eclipse  
438 Formul aving only two working gears was going to cut his lap times . In the end , Piquet was out-bluffed .  
439 SaLeis ll club member . <p\_25> " I cleared out with four laps to go , " said Murray , whose time was almos  
440 racing tyre change . He slipped to fifth with just four laps to go , but miraculously , he hauled himself  
441 Formul ough Master James were standing still . With ten laps to go , he fell back with a puncture and And  
442 Formul nd no threat with badly worn tyres . With fifteen laps to go , the race was his : if he could make  
443 LgLeis the time , tagged the wall in turn nine with nine laps to go . .PP It was the first crash in an Ind  
444 BelfsB p put in a spurt and was in second place with one lap to go . Dunlop appeared to be catching Moodie  
445 EconoI ove past his pit and lost valuable time . With 16 laps to go Mr Mansell was leading the pack . At t  
446 TbSpor e Aussies have made the mistake of attempting one lap too far without a pit-stop . .PP Dwyer , howe  
447 GiSpor et again he eked out his resources across the two laps to set a new best of lmin 48.4sec . .PP That  
448 AutocB Sunday , Senna having produced his usual stunning lap to take pole , Prost following through in the  
449 AutocB t of the season . .PP " Graham led from the first lap to the 97th at Monaco , and then ran out of o  
450 BelfsB a ) 107.75 . .PP Record Lap \_ Moodie 110.57mph on lap two . <h1> Nicer is winner for Hills </h1> .P  
451 BelfsB sh area and had to restart the race at the end of lap two . At this stage he had been in contention  
452 BelfsB r McCallen had lost the lead at the same point on lap two after being outbraked by Dunlop . .PP " T  
453 racing Ironically , Lauda was involved in an accident on lap two of the 1976 race that nearly killed him .  
454 CanoeA erved his penance quickly and the order after one lap was Goodchild , Fenwick , Powles , Nelson , M  
455 racing ite , was struggling in eighth place on the sixth lap when , coming out of a gentle right-hand curv  
456 AaLeis ood for a point after a tense battle in the final laps when he span off the rain-soaked track on th  
457 DjLeis Scottish rider Niall Mackenzie retired after five laps when his Yamaha developed engine trouble , a  
458 racing he wheel of the two entered cars . Hill lasted 70 laps while Allison went on to finish sixth . <p\_1  
459 BcLeis be caught . Dunlop also ended up with the fastest lap with a speed of 110.64mph on the last lap . .

## Immediate context analysis

460 EsquiD ol 's Escort XRi 's under his instruction , three laps with him driving and five laps in a single-s  
461 NonScA Most of us set ourselves personal targets : four laps within six minutes , for example . As time w  
462 NMExpD ns , these ugly ducklings have started the second lap with their feathers unruffled and their rhyth  
463 living If it is 2/3km around a running track , how many laps would a runner have to make to do 12km ? <pa  
464 Formul at only those drivers who had completed the first lap would be allowed to re-start . At the time

### Idiomatic Phrases

#### PHRASEOLOGICAL NORM: DET lap of honour

465 Cristi ust a Union Jack into my hand and I set off on my lap of honour , the first British sprinter to win  
466 MbSpor aped over one arm , revels in the applause on his lap of honour </ct> <h1> CRACKERS ! </h1> .PP BRI  
467 WildJu sroom . Harbury was doing what Holly would call a lap of honour , circling the room saying goodbyes

#### PHRASEOLOGICAL NORM: the last lap [of a journey]

468 MUnpro ugh my old favourites . Must be entering the last lap . " <p\_152> " Don't be morbid , Charles

#### [NOTHING SPECIFICALLY HELPFUL IN THE WIDER CONTEXT; YOU NEED THE WHOLE STORY SO FAR.]

469 NestOf ome , " she said . " I 'm sure we 're on the last lap now . " <p\_361> It seemed that she was right  
470 HighJy 14> The only thing that kept me going on the last lap of the journey was the rhythm of my steps . I  
471 hamish her at the station and took the train on the last lap to Cambridge . There I was to have a long con  
472 ClimbA , on the snowfields of the col du Midi . The last lap was a one kilometre walk up the gently inclin

### 3 DRIVE OR RUN ROUND A CIRCUIT; OVERTAKE SOMEONE WHO IS ON A PREVIOUS LAP OF A CIRCUIT

#### VERB TRANSITIVE; SYNTACTIC NORMS: [DRIVER/COMPETITOR] lap [DRIVER/COMPETITOR]; [DRIVER/COMPETITOR] lap [CIRCUIT]

473 Formul ical mistake , which put Niki on Tambay 's tail . Lapping Laffite , Tambay got back easily , but Ni  
474 AutocA pion Erik Comas closed in but spun when trying to lap Andrew Gilbert Scott . Comas recovered , alth  
475 NaLeis s run with the intermediate boys , and as well as lapping her two female rivals Matthew overtook tw  
476 DiLeis been tested all over the world . <p\_10> They have lapped the 14-mile Nurburgring circuit 40 seconds  
477 BcLeis n his Westfield , but when the pair came round to lap the Metro class for the first time , Porter f  
478 TaSpor o Ardiles and Ricky Villa , just weeks after they lapped the River Plate Stadium in Buenos Aires as

### 4 WATER

#### VERB; SYNTACTIC NORM: [WATER] lap [ADVERBIAL OF PLACE]

479 NTMagB each way of low tide . <BLOCKQUOTE> .PP The water lapped about their feet , and they went back to t  
480 WCycle lly he went to sleep to the sound of little waves lapping against the sea-wall . <page=85> <h1> CHA  
481 Nudist g the tarry , fishy air . The tide was in ; water lapped against the harbour wall . She came to a b  
482 PalacS e there . I sit on a rock and listen to the water lap and the boys whistle as they pull their tin b  
483 Attenb it hummocks its way closer to the sea . The waves lap around it , the deepening water lifts its bod  
484 Coffin river and stood there at the opening , the water lapping at his feet . <p\_89> Behind him Place and  
485 BirdWa e way of coast guard stations , it once had waves lapping at its doorstep . But , over the last hun  
486 TalesM tops of my thighs when I got in ; cooler now , it lapped at the dome of my stomach . Two flannels ,  
487 CommKg there it [the river] was again , grey and dank , lapping at wooden pilings that lined its banks .  
488 PalacS something . There is just the sound of the water lapping gently at the prow , the occasional laugh  
489 Heathn e on . <h1> Forty-Six </h1> <p\_179> The bathwater lapped gently up around her neck as she slid deep  
490 DTrick tumult of adversarial currents , the turbid water lapping high at the trunks of willows and alders  
491 LastEn omed , hung with mist , and below them lake water lapped on the flattened shingle . The smell of wa  
492 Climbr nd around the great buttresses above , lake-water lapping on the shingle shore where I was standing  
493 FlooWa ked against the stone wall and the freezing water lapped over his boots . He remained like that for  
494 AdamPa m the spears ; and , stumbling , she felt the sea lap round her ankles . <p\_52> The spears followed  
495 MidKng elted glass . The tide was high but on the turn , lapping sluggishly against the rocks at the river  
496 UnPass air . .PP There was a silence . The turquoise sea lapped softly at the hot white sands . .PP Tony s

497 ringOF obe . The dying ripples of its massive tidal wave lapped up the English Channel , and the volcanic

### SYNTACTIC NORM: [PLACE] be lapped by [WAVES]

498 HCIHOA t beaches are to be found in the south and east , lapped by gentle clear waters and warm sea breeze  
499 GuiltP de his heart miss a beat . At the water 's edge , lapped by the encroaching sea , lay the figure of  
500 CitalA di Jesolo and Caorle , with miles of golden sand lapped by the warm waters of the Adriatic . To th  
501 BrownA ere cliffs of the same pale gold , and rocky bays lapped by vivid blue sea . The northern beaches h

### VERBAL ADJECTIVE

502 Brooch girls build a sand-elephant beyond the sun-danced lapping blue of the Indian Ocean . The girls chat  
503 ThPac r , when Balboa first strolled down to the gently lapping waters on the morning of that day , he ha  
504 TheFog . <p\_133> She gradually reached a point where the lapping water was only waist deep and stopped for  
505 Summer arks on their wrists . Molly stood looking at the lapping water with Ken Corduroy , expert on garde

### VERBAL NOUN

506 MClYne lose my mind and senses to the chill wind and the lapping of the cold black lake . At first I was c  
507 HCIHOA 'll ever see beckon you to unwind with the gentle lapping of the sea as background music . The pool  
508 nature ions ... amount to little more than relics of marginal lappings of the sea around the edges of the  
509 LastMn m and smooth . All was still , the only sound the lapping of the tide and the mewing of gulls as th  
510 PriArr PP There was a silence , broken only by the faint lapping of the water . Belinda studied Tom covert  
511 NMExpB und . <p\_21> " Aqua Fortis " intros with a gentle lapping of waves before thickening into a pulsing

### VERB TRANSITIVE (literal)

512 BelAng ng the little people , and the waters of the lake lapped the edge of the canvas . She repainted the  
513 Windsr il she disappeared in the darkness . The tide was lapping the harbour wall within a yard of his fee  
514 WainSc neiss outcrops , peat bogs and small lochans that lap the roadside verges , furnished with occasion  
515 AdamPa den sun filled the air with light , and green sea lapped the sand . Wind stirred with a wordless hu  
516 Oyster 44> To one side , the sea , innocent enough now , lapped the shore gently . The oyster boats were s

### VERB WITH ADVERBIAL OF PLACE: METAPHORS AND OTHER EXPLOITATIONS

517 Climbd es and crests marched off north and south while , lapping at our feet , a vast sea of cloud spread  
518 HideSk he queasy mixture on the plate , hot brown coffee lapping at the pale wedge of sugared pastry . It  
519 JLoVe and have the right to stalk these wooded cliffs , lap at their abundant streams . And I do . <p\_145  
520 NiGall greed . Look around , there 's a whole sea of it lapping at us everywhere we walk , sit , eat , an  
521 GoldGl <p\_107> He heard two men arguing , but with water lapping in his ears he couldn't make out the word  
522 WOEden he flick of his tongue teased and tormented her , lapped at the edges of her self-control . Her bod  
523 Carter h black night and crayon neon beyond . The carpet lapped at the glass all the way round the room .  
524 DeMeat luded , but the melancholy still lurked beneath , lapping at the lids of her eyes . Mascara was cak  
525 64ZzaB causes the screen to melt away , its replacement lapping onto the screen like waves on a beach . I

### VERB TRANSITIVE: METAPHORS AND OTHER EXPLOITATIONS

526 Brooch was gone . She was naked , and inanimate textiles lapped her skin . <p\_297> She opened her eyes aga  
527 Burton ments of cheap terraced housing . The countryside lapped the grimy shore of the town and Richard 's  
528 DelSut uld not place this slim woman with thick red hair lapping her head in curls . " Mrs Files ? What ha

### VERB INTRANSITIVE: EXPLOITATION

529 Hermet ome a star shape in the water . It [the water] is lapping , lapping , stroking your breasts , your

### NOUN

530 StPetr uld be difficult to hear an idling motor over the lap and rush of the sea in the channel , when I s

## 5 ANIMAL DRINKING

### VERB; SYNTACTIC NORM: [CREATURE] lap (up) [LIQUID]

531 MaNews , Glos , found his labrador legless after it had lapped up a bucket of his home brew . <h1> Crying  
532 Migrat in a minute a dozen skinks had homed in and were lapping up the liquid . <p\_117> Aride is another

## Immediate context analysis

533 Catlor ge floor , where some has spilled . If it [a cat] laps up a little of this , the ethylene glycol ma  
534 ZP351W direction . Soon the three [dogs] were gratefully lapping up cold , life-restoring liquid from a sm

### Exploitation

535 Slayer d reentered the priest 's house where the boy was lapping a second bowl of soup as hungrily as a st

## 6 PERSON ABSORBING (AND ENJOYING) INFORMATION, PRAISE, etc

**VERB; SYNTACTIC NORM: [PERSON] lap up [INFORMATION/BOOK/WRITER/PLEASURE/  
PRAISE/EXPERIENCE – PLEASURABLE]**

536 BooksA already so popular with the media that they will lap her up . It is a fun glitzy read , and I hope  
537 TSpice rawling out of the woodwork , eyes like saucers , lapping it all up . It makes me so angry \_ any on  
538 WilWar , apparently . " <p\_71> " I am ? But the men are lapping it up \_ so are their floozies . Listen to  
539 WhRose aturally , I can resist anything but flattery and lapped it up like a hungry cat does milk . Of cou  
540 LostPr ilk , crouched , shivering , near to the fire . " Lapping it up like a weak kitten , " thought Ferg  
541 PGoers drag her into the dark shed . Probably she would lap it up . They usually did . Underneath all the  
542 DTrick low-up would gross you out completely . But Karen lapped it up and came back for more . <p\_101> " I  
543 JaneJo . Francis and Christopher dissolved in laughter , lapped theirs up and declared it very good . Marc  
544 Papers ronweiser false letters and die of laughter as he lapped them up . Probably she had some old typing  
545 TSFrie and the later Yeats ; and I discovered that they lapped this up as if slaking a mental thirst . In  
546 GjWldA f the machine ! You can tell from the way it gets lapped up . .PP OVERNIGHT FILE <h1> A 50-year ody  
547 LverPB now Alex , who is single and lives in London , is lapping up Buddymania from signing sessions outsi  
548 GoodFB liers . <p\_17> If you enjoy a whodunnit , you 'll lap up Janet Laurence 's Hotel Morgue ( Macmillan  
549 CntNeF r and now five month old Teka is fighting fit and lapping up all the attention . .PP Teka has tried  
550 DHouse r way . Le\lonie hunched on the bedside chair and lapped up comics , while The\lre\2se dozed . <p\_9  
551 KylieM married . And viewers on both sides of the globe lapped up every sugary second to the dream story-  
552 ManEnd elve young boys and girls clustered around him to lap up his words of wisdom . <page=246> <p\_246> "  
553 SoundA t , technical matters aside , the whole thing was lapped up keenly by the crowd . Rumoured appearan  
554 MaFeat hout even waiting to be asked " what 's up ? " he laps up the attention . Prompting some to suggest  
555 SoundA sformation . Faced with a braying crowd intent on lapping up their heroes '/\$ every command , Chuck  
556 Castle ded over one of the family heirlooms ? Marc would lap up the opportunity to use it against her . An

## 7 SEDIMENTOLOGY TERM

557 Sedimt set thickness when they begin to " float " on the lap , a process aided by the diamond-impregnated  
558 Sedimt ee and introduce no dimensional errors into final lapping . <p\_94> Mounts must be left to cure unde  
559 Sedimt samples , a hacksaw will produce a face ready for lapping . The surface need not be perfectly flat  
560 Sedimt f . The section is then returned to the Precision Lapping Machine with paraffin oil and 600F grit a  
561 Sedimt mplete removal of abrasive from both specimen and lap before moving on to finer grades . It is also  
562 Sedimt etres thick and lapped flat or polished , using a lapping compound with paraffin oil lubricant . <p  
563 Sedimt time is not critical . For critical work , final lapping is done with 0.25 &micro; m diamond paste  
564 Sedimt s also has the advantage of freeing the precision lapping machine for preparing successive batches  
565 Sedimt ion stages . With a properly maintained precision lapping machine , it should easily be possible to  
566 Sedimt is accomplished on a precision free abrasive flat lapping machine ( Fig/NP. 4.5b ) . The slices are  
567 Sedimt face , truing </reg> and conditioning of the lead lap must be done frequently , and care taken to e  
568 Sedimt during this process . After washing and change of lap paper , polishing is continued with 1 &micro;  
569 Sedimt as lubricant . <p\_87> One or more faces are then lapped smooth either by hand or by an automatic l  
570 Sedimt plied to the first face , which is mounted on the lapped surface of the slide . The assembly is the  
571 Sedimt G THE CUT FACE </h4> <p\_102> Sawn faces should be lapped to at least 600F Carborundum stage . For g

## 8 UNCLASSIFIED

572 Butter s , her inflamed stirrings of the senses \_ all be lapped away . A louder shout than usual took her  
573 LImage as as swiftly melted into the next as a tiny wave lapped by a faster following . His hands were mov  
574 Hunter writhed in an agony of pleasure . Merciless , he lapped her , sucked her , grazed her with his tee  
575 Father he street , open his trousers and feel her tongue lap him and her lips close on him . But the momen  
576 Ireln d tuesque elderly lady in curly grey hair , several laps of necklaces and a sweeping gown that may ha  
577 ChuKuo own bitterly , her hands pulling anxiously at the lap of her dress , then stood angrily . <p\_228> "  
578 Butter robe around his undried nakedness , relishing the lap of texture on wet skin . The candles were all  
579 Indigo ed . From beyond the reef the big fish swam in to lap , the monsters the islanders most feared , th  
580 StRaiB to be in good health . <p\_4> Eight copper firebox lap rivets had to be renewed and the six large fl

581 GuitaE r guitar " and a mysterious thing called the Kona lap steel ... .PP " That 's an instrument made by  
582 884507 rtant to take great care to seal all side and end laps with Rockwell sealing strip using two strips  
583 EngDth nged over the last seventy years . <page=85> <h1> Lapped in Lead , Encased in Oak : The Coffin </h1

## 9 NAMES and NOISE

584 EMysts nd to fall into alignment with others was Gill 's Lap , high on Ashdown Forest . This was movingly  
585 EMysts through the medium of sound . On visiting Gill 's Lap pine clump , it seemed to him that the sound  
586 GtRace he training bill . <p\_82> The colt was named Phar Lap , Sinhalese for " lightning " . He was gelde  
587 GtRace > What was established beyond doubt was that Phar Lap , winner of thirty-seven of his fifty-one rac  
588 CmpGBO gh C/C + + 386 compiler and mdb debugger and Phar Lap Software Inc 's 386Link object linker , sourc  
589 GtRace as not bothered . One slap from his whip and Phar Lap cruised into the lead again , winning by two  
590 GtRace ke a move , and in a matter of a few strides Phar Lap had stormed up from last to first . Coming ro  
591 GtRace lford : " He was the best . " <page=84> <ct> Phar Lap relaxes in his private sandbath during his pr  
592 GtRace 13--2 , and Reveille Boy was 72--10 . <p\_83> Phar Lap was ridden by Bill " Urn " Elliott , who got  
593 GtRace \_ Phar Lap . <p\_82> " The Red Terror " , as Phar Lap was to become known , was a freak of breedin  
594 BGSRpt Kong , Sir David Wilson , on the geology of Chek Lap Kok , the site of the planned new airport for  
596 envd47 ee islands in the world \_ Lamma , Lantau and Chek Lap Kok . Discovered in 1953 by Hong Kong herpet  
596 envd47 opulation of rare tree frogs on Hong Kong 's Chek Lap Kok island is to be destroyed to make way for  
597 Nuke00 P protein could efficiently inhibit the action of LAP [ 27 ] . This was apparently not the case in  
598 krwl02 Representatives , the NDPL gained 51 seats , the LAP eight , the LUP three and the UP two . <ct> 1  
599 dogWhe <p\_341> It was necessary to find another name for lap ii/us . Swainson ( 1840 ) had called this ani  
600 dogWhe , later , Norwich Crag , the shells are all of N. lap ii/us . The advance and subsequent retreat of

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Immediate constituent analysis, in linguistics, a system of grammatical analysis that divides sentences into successive layers, or constituents, until, in the final layer, each constituent consists of only a word or meaningful part of a word. (A constituent is any word or construction that enters i.Â Encyclopaedia Britannica's editors oversee subject areas in which they have extensive knowledge, whether from years of experience gained by working on that content or via study for an advanced degree. See Article History. Alternative Title: IC analysis. A synchronic morphological analysis is most effectively accomplished by the procedure known as the analysis into immediate constituents (IC's). Immediate constituents are any of the two meaningful parts forming a larger linguistic unity. The main opposition dealt with is the opposition of stem and affix. It is a kind of segmentation revealing not the history of the word but its m o t i v a t i o n, i.e. the data the listener has to go by in understanding it. The method is based on the fact that a word characterized by morphological divisibility (analysable into morphemes) is involved in c Discourse analysis is concerned with the relationship between language and the contexts it is used in. It is not a methodology of teaching and knowledge of discourse is not always useful to the language teacher.Â It occurs sometimes very broad in meanings. Originally the word 'discourse' comes from Latin 'discursus' which denoted 'conversation, speech'. However, discourse refers to too wide an area of human existence.Â The study of discourse has developed in a variety of disciplines-sociolinguistics, anthropology, sociology, and social psychology. Thus discourse analysis takes different theoretical perspectives and analytic approaches. Conjoint Analysis Usage. Conjoint studies aid in advertising . By research the company can selected the most desirable attributes to be marketed. For example, after conjoint analysis, the company determines that brand and hardware configuration of the phone is most important to its users. It would then design advertisements that well promote these attributes and that do not focus on price which is a secondary concern in this case. The most common usage is new product development . Conjoint analysis identifies opportunities by fusing attributes to generate new products and services that are not