An Outline of the Semantic Network of the Preposition *Up* in American English

A Corpus Study

Tais Fernandes Mariano
Abstract

In this study an outline is presented of the semantic network of the preposition *up* in American English in sentences extracted from the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA), which was done to determine what the most common uses and meanings of the preposition are, as well as to determine if most of its possible meanings are concrete or abstract. The results show that there is a salient use and also prototypical meaning of *up*, and that these are major factors that impact the semantic network of the preposition. This study was designed to be a source of information for EFL students who struggle to understand how prepositions function in the English language, and also what the prepositions can actually represent in a sentence. Concomitantly, the goal is to give information about the preposition *up* in a way that will allow students to analyze other prepositions and perhaps even other word classes.

**Keywords**: Corpus Analysis, Semantic Networks, Preposition *Up*, American English, Second Language Learning.
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1. Introduction

When learning a second language we face multiple challenges that sometimes can lead to mistakes in the language we are learning. This can happen at any level of our studies: students who are beginners have less information about the language he or she is leaning and therefore are more likely to make mistakes, but students who are already at an advanced or even proficient level can sometimes still make mistakes or sometimes not fully understand how a word class actually works even when they use it correctly.

What if understanding how a word class functions can help us to avoid making mistakes when using it? For instance, what if the study of how prepositions work in the English language can help EFL (English as a foreign language) students to not only figure out how to use them correctly, but to actually fully understand what their meaning can represent in a sentence? I am an EFL student myself, and prepositions are among the most difficult parts to master in order to improve my English. I believe that understanding the phenomena connected to prepositions (e.g. their different kinds of uses and meanings) can help EFL students like me to understand the logic behind them, instead of just memorizing large lists of prepositions.

I have chosen to study up because it is a preposition that is used very frequently, and because of that I believe that it can be a good example of how prepositions work in the English language. Another reason for choosing up is because it is a short preposition, and short prepositions “tend to be the hardest for post-childhood learners of English to master” (Lindstromberg, 2010, p.2).

2. Aim and research questions

The aim of this essay is to investigate and outline different uses and meanings of the preposition up, as well as to examine its abstract and concrete meanings. My investigation is based on an analysis of sentences extracted from the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA). Here are a few examples:

(60) They will pass shops, the sight of which will be blocked by reporters and publicists, and walk about 150 feet up a curved staircase and into the auditorium.

(92) By the time President Jefferson sent the captains up that muddy river and out of sight, the young nation already had a Constitution, but it lacked an epic.
In (60) and (92) *up* is not necessarily used in the same way, and its meanings also varies. This fickleness of the preposition can cause confusion and frustration for students of the English language, and I hope to make this essay a valuable source of information for those who are also learning English as a second language, especially when it comes to learning how to use prepositions. In order to reach my goals, in this essay I will answer the following questions and also present the reason why they are relevant for understanding the semantic network of *up*:

1. What are the most common uses and meanings of the preposition *up*?
   1.1. Are the most common meanings of the preposition abstract or concrete?

As an EFL student myself, I believe that learning what lays behind the uses and meanings of words can be useful to prevent mistakes, especially when it comes to word classes as complex as prepositions. I have always struggled with prepositions and I have met many other students who go through the same process, including students of other languages. I am aware that not everything in language has a reason for working the way it does, but learning as much as possible about what is being studied can help any student to not only avoid mistakes, but also to learn what causes a mistake. In my opinion it is not enough get feedback from a teacher that tells me that I made a mistake while using *up*. I want to be able to know what caused my mistake because I believe that it is one of the most effective ways of learning.

### 3. Theoretical framework

This section briefly introduces the theories I have used to analyze the data I collected. Furthermore, the section presents the definition of key terms and concepts that are indispensible for my investigation.

#### 3.1 How examples are presented in the essay

The sentences that are used in the essay as examples of different uses and/or meanings of *up* will be presented: with regular numbers within parentheses when the example is a sentence extracted from COCA. In this case the number matches the number of the sentence in the list of sentences from COCA available in the appendix section of this essay. For example:
I muttered as I climbed two steps up the embankment and angled my foot to kick the mask clear of the greenery.

If one looks at the list of sentences from COCA, one will see that the example above is sentence number 44 in the list of sentences from COCA.

### 3.2 Prototype Theory

Prototype Theory aims to explain how the human mind categorizes, based on two principles: the first principle explains how the human brain tries to collect as much information as possible about a certain environment while using as little cognitive effort and resources as possible. The second principle is the principle of perceived world structure, which “states that humans rely upon correlational structure of this kind in order to form and organise categories” (Evans, 2007, p.176). Together these two principles make it possible for the human mind to create a categorization system.

A prototype

[i]s viewed as a schematic representation of the most salient or central characteristics associated with members of the category in question. According to Prototype Theory, the prototype provides structure to and serves to organise a given category [...]” (Evans, 2007, p.175).

Having the context of this essay in mind we can say that prototypes and Prototype Theory are important because they will be effective when it comes to organizing the uses and meanings of *up*, and they will also provide a way to explain how the different meanings of *up* are related and/or interact in its the semantic network.

In other words, Prototype Theory is relevant for this essay not only because it contributes to the answers to the essay’s research questions, but also because these answers will provide useful information to the EFL students who wish to use English prepositions in a correct way. It is important to remember that prepositions are among the most difficult word classes to master, not only in English, but actually in most - if not in every - language, as Lakoff explains:
Prepositions in English, as well as in other languages, have traditionally been difficult to describe, largely because of their proliferation of senses. It has only been through the advent of prototype theory that we have begun to make sense of the semantics of prepositions. (1987, p.378)

3.2.1 Important concepts in Prototype Theory

In prototype theory a *prototype* is mental representation of what agglomerates the key attributes and features of a certain category. For instance: apples will likely be considered the prototype representation of the category fruit, even though tomatoes and cucumbers technically also belong in this same category. *Categories*, in turn, are groups of entities that share certain common attributes and therefore are classified by the human brain in a process called *categorization*.

Another important concept in Prototype Theory is *radial categories*, which are categories where the members are organised in a way where

 [...] the center, or prototype, of the category is predictable. And while the noncentral members are not predictable from the central member, they are “motivated” by it, in the sense that they bear family resemblances to it. (Lakoff, 1987, p.65)

3.3 Conceptual Metaphor Theory

The Conceptual Metaphor Theory claims that metaphors are more than just figures of speech, but that they are actually a representation of the nature of human thought. Lakoff explains that

 [...] some senses of a word may be more representative than other senses. The senses of a word are related to one another more or less closely by various means, one of which is conceptual metaphor. (Lakoff, 1987, p.417)

A *conceptual metaphor* is how two different domains (source domain and the target domain) connect/interact. The *source domain* provides the structure for the metaphor, while the *target domain* is the domain that is being structured in the metaphor. Evans explains that

[a] conceptual metaphor serves to establish correspondences known as cross-domain mappings between a source domain and a target domain by projecting representations from one conceptual domain onto corresponding representations in another conceptual domain. (Evans, 2007, p.62)
Conceptual Metaphor Theory is relevant to the aim of this essay because it is a theory that provides an explanation to how *up* can be used as a metaphor and/or as a part of a metaphor. In other words, the semantic network of *up* is a prototypical structure of the possible meanings of *up*, and Conceptual Metaphor Theory provides a very important explanation to how the meanings/sense are related in this semantic network.

This theory is also useful for EFL students who want to improve their English because it can help understand the semantic network of polysemous words, such as *up*. Students can of course simply memorize patterns and become familiar with when *up* is used as a metaphor and/or part of one, but if they can understand the reason why *up* is employed it might be less frustrating and confusing, and also actually easier to memorize the meanings of *up* when it is used as a metaphor.

### 3.4 Key terms

#### 3.4.1 Semantic networks

*Semantic networks* are networks created by (and composed of) different senses/meanings that a word can have. At the center of a semantic network there is a more salient meaning of a word, and many other secondary meanings derive from the central meaning.

The range of lexical concepts associated with a given word is assumed to form a network of senses which are related by degrees, with some lexical concepts being more central and others more peripheral. Accordingly, word senses are modelled in terms of creating a lattice structure, a semantic network, with a central sense, also known as a prototype. (Evans, 2007, p.194)

![Semantic Network Diagram](image)

**Figure 1: a concise schematic diagram of the definition of the term semantic network**
Considering that semantic networks are networks of the meanings of a word, the Prototype Theory is relevant to the aim of this essay because it will help to identify which of the meanings of *up* is the prototypical meaning. Also, Conceptual Metaphor Theory is useful to understand the reasons how, when and why *up* can be used metaphorically. This interaction among semantic networks, Prototype Theory and Conceptual Metaphor Theory will be discussed in greater detail throughout the essay.

### 3.4.2 Prepositions

In order to understand the semantic network of the preposition *up* it is important to establish how it can be used in different ways, since the different uses of the preposition *up* will impact its possible meanings and therefore its semantic network, as will be shown below.

Seth Lindstromberg explains in his 2010 book *English Prepositions Explained (Revised edition)* that “[t]he most typical preposition is a word which says where one physical thing is located in relation to another” (p.6). and the prepositional use of *up* does fit in his explanation in a sentence like the example below:

(31) Mum’s close friend and Nana are also present, but my latent anger makes me feel like doing something impulsive. As Ato comes up the stairs, I feel myself snarling.

In (31) we can see that *up* has the function of locating someone named Ato who used the *stairs* to move from a lower physical level to a higher physical level. *Up* describes, therefore, the movement of one physical thing located in a lower position towards a higher position.

#### 3.4.2.1 Preposition or adverb?

In order to understand the semantic network of the preposition *up* it is also important to be able to differentiate when *up* is used as a preposition or as an adverb, and there are three ways of doing that according to what Jan Svartvik and Olof Sager explain in their 1996 *Engelsk Universitetsgrammatik* (p. 360-365).

The first way to decide if *up* is a preposition or an adverb is to observe if *up* is stressed or unstressed. If it is stressed then it is an adverb, and if it is not stressed than it is a preposition, as in the examples below:
When *up* is an adverb (stressed):

(45) In the meantime, let's go *up* to New York, Jack Cafferty standing by with his thoughts on what's going on -- Jack.

When *up* is a preposition (unstressed):

(108) He smiled, took her ticket, and helped her *up* the steps and into the car.

The second way to decide if *up* is a preposition or an adverb is to observe if *up* follows an object pronoun or reflexive pronoun, or if *up* precedes a NP (noun phrase) complement. If it follows an object pronoun or reflexive pronoun, then *up* is an adverb, and if it precedes a NP complement then it is a preposition, as in the examples below:

When *up* follows an object pronoun or reflexive pronoun (adverb):

(141) But students adored McKnight. He gave himself *up* to them for conferences and extra study dates and simple bull sessions in a way that few colleagues would imagine any longer.

When *up* precedes a NP complement (preposition):

(167) We see Big Chris walking *up* the stairs. He reaches the top and knocks on the door.

The third way to decide if *up* is a preposition or an adverb is to observe if there is an intervening adverbial between the verb and *up*, and if there is no such intervening adverbial, then *up* is an adverb:

(166) He stroked her silky hair and suggested that they all go *up* to Violet's room with the moonflowers.

However, if there is an adverbial between the verb and *up*, then *up* is a preposition:

(83) Paul was slowly climbing *up* the side of the boat, carefully placing his hands on a cleat, heavily swinging his leg over the rail.
For this essay, *up* will only be taken into account when it is considered a preposition meeting at least one of the three criteria listed above. This will be discussed with greater details later in the essay.

### 3.5 Non-prepositional uses of *up*

In order to investigate the semantic networks of *up* I began my research with a semasiological approach by looking up the word in a few dictionaries: *Oxford Advanced American Dictionary* (OALD), *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* (LDOCE) and *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* (MWD).

It was no surprise to me when I found a list of many different meanings and uses of *up* because I already knew that it is a polysemous word and therefore has a semantic network.

Besides being a preposition, the word *up* can also appear in other word classes, such as adjectives, verbs, nouns and adverbs, as one can see in the examples below, extracted from OALD:

- Our system should be *up* by this afternoon: in this sentence *up* is an adjective.
- The buyers *upped* their offer by £1000: in this sentence *up* is a verb.
- The offer seems to be on the *up* and *up*: in this sentence *up* is a noun.
- He jumped *up* from his chair: in this sentence *up* is adverb.

A simple and effective way to determine if the *up* is utilized as a preposition or as another word class is to substitute *up* for another word of the same word class one suspects *up* belongs to in a sentence. For instance, if one wishes to confirm that *up* is a preposition being used as a verb in a sentence, one can then substitute *up* for another verb, like the verb *increase* in sentences like example (IV): The buyers *increased* their offer by £1000 instead of The buyers *upped* their offer by £1000.

If the grammar of the sentence was not altered by the replacement of *up*, one can then conclude that the *up* does belong to a word class that is not preposition.

In order to avoid misunderstandings and misinterpretations throughout the essay, the term *non-prepositional use* will be used when *up* belongs to another word class other prepositions, and, in order to not digress the focus of this essay (which is to analyze *up* as a preposition), the non-prepositional uses of the *up* will be deliberately ignored, being mentioned only when necessary.
Notice that it does not necessarily mean, however, that the non-prepositional uses of *up* are not semantically connected to the prepositional uses of *up*.

4. **Material and method**

In order to gather information about how prepositions are used in American English, I analyzed a list of sentences generated by the *Corpus of Contemporary American English* (COCA). Besides the fact that COCA focuses on American English, the decision to use this corpus instead of any other was made because it is currently the largest corpus of the English language, containing more than 560 million words, with an average of 20 million words being added each year. One can say, therefore, that COCA is a very up to date corpus.

A total of 200 sentences from COCA were extracted from COCA, and 34 were analyzed because in these 34 sentences *up* was actually used as a preposition. I gathered the data by searching in the corpus for *up* as a preposition by writing *up* on the list search section, and inserting preposition (prep.ALL) as Part of Speech (PoS). A sample of the result of this search can be found below in table 1, and the full list with all 200 sentences can be found in the appendix section of this essay.

All sentences were extracted from the result of the same search and in the same day. The number of sentences analyzed is 200 because the corpus limits the number of views the users can see within 24 hours, and doing another search after 24 hours would mean extracting sentences from another list generated by the corpus.

While conducting my research on COCA I noticed that in many occurrences the corpus tags *up* as a preposition even though it is actually an adverb. In attempt to clarify this issue, I contacted Mark E. Davies, American linguist and creator of COCA. Mr. Davies explained by email that

> It is virtually impossible to distinguish between preposition and particle in some cases, e.g.: he looked up the ladder (preposition) he looked up the word in the dictionary (particle) but the tagger does the best it can. (Mark Davies, PC)

From Davies’ explanation one can conclude that COCA tends to not only show prepositions even when one searches for prepositions in the corpus from particles, and for this essay the sentences where the *up* belongs in another word class than preposition will be deliberately left out.
It is important to mention that during my research I noticed that what Mr Davies calls *particle* can also be called *adverbs* in the context of this essay. Lindstromberg explains that *particle* is a term used “in order to avoid having to decide, for instance, whether *up* is a preposition or an adverb [...]” (p. 270).

I noticed that the lists of sentences in COCA seem to be generated randomly, because with every new search the corpus generates a new list of sentences. Thus, the sentences that are part of the sample in table 1 were randomly chosen as well.


**Table 1: sample of the list with 200 sentences extracted from COCA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nr</th>
<th>Sentence</th>
<th>Comments about <em>up</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(01)</td>
<td>You know, should you be on the chopper when at least in the initial phases there weren't many of them around and they were taking relief aid <em>up</em> north.</td>
<td><em>Up</em> is a preposition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(13)</td>
<td>&quot;I think we elevated the pitch <em>up</em> to mediocre,&quot; he said.</td>
<td><em>Up</em> is an adverb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(52)</td>
<td>Some of the vampires try to flee, scurrying <em>up</em> the stairs, but the exit quickly becomes clogged with liquefying bodies -- -- then Blade's CAR-15 jams. .</td>
<td><em>Up</em> is a preposition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(48)</td>
<td>Jordan and Flea fill sand bags to shore <em>up</em> the walls of their hide-site.</td>
<td><em>Up</em> is a preposition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(60)</td>
<td>They will pass shops, the sight of which will be blocked by reporters and publicists, and walk about 150 feet <em>up</em> a curved staircase and into the auditorium.</td>
<td><em>Up</em> is a preposition</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In pursuance of clarifying the result of the analysis I created table 2, which is a table of the most common meanings/senses of *up* when it is used as a preposition, found while researching a few English dictionaries: OALD, LDOCE, and MWD. Please notice that not every meaning of *up* is in every dictionary, but in table 2 one can see a list of the meanings that are listed in all three dictionaries.

A system of codes that goes from letter A to letter D is also a part of table 2. Each letter corresponds to one single meaning that *up* can have as a preposition. This system was
introduced in order to facilitate both the analysis itself and the results of the analysis that influence the outline of the meanings of *up* in this essay.

**Table 2: the most common meanings of *up* as a preposition**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meaning of the preposition</th>
<th>Meaning’s code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Up</em> represents/indicates motion that something or someone is in, to, into, or towards a higher position, place, or level.</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Up</em> represents/indicates that someone or something is along or further along a path, street or road.</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Up</em> represents/indicates that someone or something is going towards the place where a river starts.*</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Up</em> represents/indicates that someone or something is in or is going towards the north (literally)*</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* These meanings of *up* may look too specific, but they were, in fact, listed in all dictionaries mentioned above.

**4.1 Outlining the semantic network of *up***

As discussed before, there is a salient meaning of a word in the center of a semantic network, and secondary meanings of a word derive from this salient/central meaning. Thus, one can say that the possible meanings that *up* can have derive from a salient/prototype meaning, both for *up* as preposition and for *up* in other word classes. It is also possible to say that both *up* as a preposition and *up* in other word classes seem to share the same semantic network. However, this process does not necessarily take place in the same way for these both uses of *up*, as will be discussed later in the essay.

**4.2 Does *up* occur more often with a concrete or with an abstract sense?**

When outlining the semantic network of a word it is important to consider if the meanings are concrete or abstract in order to avoid being ethnocentric, afterall, depending on what the mother tongue of the student is, there might not be an equivalent translation for all senses of *up*. It is, therefore, important for EFL students to understand that perhaps a concrete sense of *up* that exists in English does not have a perfect equivalent sense in his or her mother tongue, or vice versa. Ethnocentrism is a phenomenon that happens when the student distorts concepts
that exist in a second language because of his or her native language. (Dirven, R., & Verspoor, M., 2004, p. 133)

Evans explains that “[w]hen we attempt to describe the meanings of words from a language different from our own, there is a third problem. Most words don’t have precise equivalents across languages.” (p.133), and what is a concrete concept in a language might be an abstract concept in another language, or vice-versa.

I decided to investigate if *up* occurs more often with a concrete or an abstract sense because ethnocentrism can cause not only confusion, but also lead to mistakes when the EFL students wants to translate a sense in English to his or her mother tongue. Ethnocentrism can also cause misinterpretation of words in English due to a culture bias view of said words. Learning about what concrete and what abstract meanings a word in English can have, and also learning the reason why a sense is concrete or abstract in English may not only help the student understand what he or she is reading, but it may also be useful when the student wants to translate a word or a sentence. In other words, not knowing what meanings of *up* are abstract and/or concrete might lead to mistakes and/or misinterpretations of the semantic network of *up*.

It can be confusing for an EFL student, especially for beginners, to understand why *up* occurs in the following sentences:

(77) There is no fee or registration for the two-person vessels, and 15 minutes *up* the coast and beyond view are deserted beaches for the taking.

(109) With the wet field conditions, we decided to give it to him and let him pound it *up* the middle or let the quarterback keep it.

(180) As generations of Angelenos did before us, we ride with our groceries from Grand Central Market *up* Bunker Hill.

As an EFL student myself, I know that ethnocentrism can be an even more prominent issue when it comes to polysemous words, such as the preposition *up*.

Prepositions are function words that can express the connection between two or more different elements of a sentence. They can also express abstract connections through, metaphors, for example. Consequently, one can say that prepositions can have metaphorical meanings. These meanings can derive from the original/literal meaning of the prepositions.
The more abstract relations indicated by prepositions can often be seen as metaphorical extensions of their literal meanings. This is particularly the case with prepositions which refer to space. Basic spatial prepositions are often extended metaphorically to more abstract meaning. Carter, R., & McCarthy, M. (2006, p.465)

*Up* is a preposition that, when employed with its literal sense, has a spatial meaning. In other words, the concrete meanings that *up* can have refer to when it is used to describe something that is physical, such as objects and events. These basic senses derive from "human embodied experience" (Evans, 2007, p.10).

However, *up* can also be used with an abstract sense in order to express non-spatial notions. These abstract senses/meanings are those that are connected or that can refer to ideas or concepts. A striking feature of abstract senses is that they do not have a physical referent, or, in other words they are "not directly grounded in embodied experience" (Evans, 2007, p.1)

However, the notion of *concrete* and *abstract* is not always sharp and well-defined. Sometimes these different kinds of senses can overlap, creating a hybrid kind of sense that is, for example, concrete with a certain degree of abstract (less-concrete), or abstract with a certain degree of concrete at the same time (less-abstract). In order to highlight this possibility of overlapping I divided the different kinds of senses in three different categories:

- Concrete: for the senses of *up* that are 100% concrete/spatial/physical.
- Abstract: for the senses that are 100% abstract.
- Mixed: for the senses where the senses are somehow a hybrid between concrete and abstract.

In order to determine if the preposition *up* occur more often with a concrete or with an abstract sense, I first analyzed what sort of sense (concrete, abstract, or mixed) is the most common one, and then I also analyzed what sort of sense (concrete, abstract, or mixed) is the most common for each of the most common meanings of *up* as a preposition according to the information provided in table 2.

It is important to bring attention to the possibility that the view/opinion about what category a certain meaning fits in can vary depending on the interpretation of said meaning by different individuals. For instance, the category that *up* belongs to in (180) *As generations of Angelenos did before us, we ride with our groceries from Grand Central Market up Bunker Hill* can vary depending on whether one is familiar or is not familiar with the fact that Grand Central Market and Bunker Hill are places located in the city of Los Angeles, and that Bunker Hill is located northwards from the Grand Central Market.
5. Results and analysis

Up was used as a preposition in 34 of the 200 sentences from COCA that were analyzed:

![Bar chart showing the uses of up as a preposition and as other word classes](chart.png)

**Figure 2: a graphic representation of the uses of up as a preposition and as other word classes**

From the numbers above and having the list from COCA as reference, one can conclude that *up* is used more often as other word classes than as a preposition. By analyzing the sentences it is also possible to see that *up* used as a preposition and *up* used as other word classes are tied to different meanings of *up*, and that the meanings of *up* when it is used as a preposition is not exactly the same as when it is used as other word classes. However, these meanings are related in several ways and in several levels, as will be shown shortly.

After analyzing the sentences, it is also possible to draw the conclusion that the prototypical use of *up* is its use as a preposition, even though the most this use is less frequent. This happens because the use of *up* as other word classes seems to derive from the use of *up* as a preposition, as will be shown in greater detail later in the essay. Additionally, the prototypical meaning/sense of *up* is when it represents/indicates motion, or, in other words that something or someone is in, to, into, or towards a higher position, place, or level, as will also be discussed further later in the essay.

In table 3 we will find a collection of samples of sentences from COCA where *up* is used as a preposition. The table also presents the correspondent meaning of each sentence.
according to table 2, which, as previously mentioned, is a table of the most common meanings/senses of *up* when it is used as a preposition, based on the meanings of *up* as a preposition available in the dictionaries that were researched.

**Table 3 - Group I: sentences where *up* is used as a preposition**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nr</th>
<th>Sentence</th>
<th>Meaning/sense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>But I move with a desperate and gasping intent, gritting my teeth against twinges of pain in my knees, and Anderson just flows <em>up</em> the hill, chitchatting, oblivious to how lucky he is to possess fresh, unblemished cartilage.</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>They climbed <em>up</em> a steep hill and finally arrived at the shelter-a sagging cinder-block fortress overlooking a twinkling city.</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>They will pass shops, the sight of which will be blocked by reporters and publicists, and walk about 150 feet <em>up</em> a curved staircase and into the auditorium.</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92</td>
<td>By the time President Jefferson sent the captains <em>up</em> that muddy river and out of sight, the young nation already had a Constitution, but it lacked an epic.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>180</td>
<td>As generations of Angelenos did before us, we ride with our groceries from Grand Central Market <em>up</em> Bunker Hill.</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As we can see in table 3, even when *up* is only used as a preposition it can still have different meanings, and one of them stands out because it is more frequent than all the other meanings *up* can have, as shown in the figure below:

---

**The possible meanings of *up* according to table 2**

![Bar chart showing the possible meanings of *up*](chart.png)

**Figure 3: a graphic representation the possible meanings of *up* according to table 2**

21
According to the information provided in table 2 and with the information provided in chart above it is possible to conclude that sense A is the most common sense/meaning of prepositional up. Thus, sense A is the prototypical sense of up when it is used as a preposition, and from this prototypical meaning we have a semantic network composed of the other senses of up. This is relevant because knowing what the prototype sense of a polysemous word is can be useful in the investigation of how the semantic network of this word is formed.

![Figure 4: a graphic representation of how the semantic network of up works](image)

Realising that sense A is the prototypical sense of up is imperative in this context because it tells us what sense of up is more representative within all the possible meanings of the prepositional up, making it easier to learn and/or guess the meaning that up can have when it is used in another way.

For instance, one cannot guess the meaning of up in (182) if one does not know that the prototypical meaning of up is sense A, which can be explained by the fact that “[...] in language acquisition studies it is found that more concrete relations are mastered before abstract ones [...]” (Dirven, R., & Verspoor, M., 2004, p. 194). This is relevant because, as stated earlier in the essay, up is a preposition that, when employed with its literal sense, has a spatial meaning. In other words, the concrete meanings that up can have refer to when it is used to describe something that is physical, such as objects and events.

(182) They turned in here and followed the stream-bed up the canyon.

Notice that simply knowing what sense A is will not necessarily determine that one knows what up means in (182). However, considering that in the semantic network of a word the meanings of said word are related, it is possible to say that if one does not know what the
prototypical meaning of a word is one will not be able to understand or guess the meaning of *up* in (182). This correlation is explained by Lakoff when he states “some senses of a word may be more representative than other senses. The senses of a word are related to one another more or less closely by various means, one of which is conceptual metaphor.” (Lakoff, 1987, p.417)

5.1 Analysis of concrete, abstract and mixed senses of *up*

From the analysis used to outline the semantic network of the preposition *up* in this essay it seems to be clear that it can have meanings that are concrete, abstract, or mixed.

It is important to remember that, as previously mentioned in this essay, the notion of *concrete* and *abstract* is not always sharp and well-defined, and sometimes these different kinds of senses can overlap. In other words, I do not see a complete dichotomy between *abstract* and *concrete* specifically because there are cases where they overlap, as shall be seen in table 4. In table 4 below, we will find a collection of samples of my analysis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COCA sentence number</th>
<th>Sentence</th>
<th>What kind of meaning (using table 2 as a reference)</th>
<th>Abstract or concrete sense/meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>While I sit writing, or rather engraving these tragic memories on paper, I realize that the image that obsessed me at the first attempt to look into my past -- the image of a locomotive dragging a string of coaches up a hill -- came to me for the first time while I lay on the sofa listening to my father's breathing.</td>
<td>A - <em>Up</em> represents/indicates motion that something or someone is in, to, into, or towards a higher position, place, or level.</td>
<td>Concrete. In this case <em>up</em> refers to a physical event.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>And the front door was on the side of the house, not like the main entrances on wide porches we knew in Carolina, but concealed and sneaky. Stone steps ran up the side and down again in back, so the minister and his family could enter the church through the rear.</td>
<td>A - <em>Up</em> represents/indicates motion that something or someone is in, to, into, or towards a higher position, place, or level.</td>
<td>Mixed. In this case <em>up</em> refers to a physical object and it also connected to the idea that said object “moves” up and down (perhaps to describe its form).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Mum’s close friend and Nana are also present, but my latent anger makes me feel like doing something impulsive. As Ato comes up the stairs, I feel myself snarling.</td>
<td>A - <em>Up</em> represents/indicates motion that something or someone is in, to, into, or towards a higher position, place, or level.</td>
<td>Concrete. In this case <em>up</em> refers to a physical event.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Findings:

- In out of the 34 sentences analyzed, the preposition *up* has a concrete meaning in 25 sentences, a mixed meaning in 7 sentences, and an abstract sense in 2 sentences:

![Pie chart showing the distribution of meanings of the preposition *up*](image)

Figure 5: a graphic representation of kinds of senses *up* can have (concrete, abstract, or mixed)

6. Discussion

6.1 What are the most common uses and meanings of the prepositions *up*?

In light of the results from the analysis of the sentences from COCA, it was noticed that the most common sort of sense of the preposition *up* is concrete, which is expected since *up* is a preposition that, when employed with its literal sense, has a spatial meaning. And for the proposition to have a concrete sense it has to have this spatial meaning (in other words, if/when *up* refers to a physical object or event).

Even if the most common meanings of *up* are connected to the description of physical events, it can still have mixed and abstract senses, which shows that *up* can be used with a figurative meaning as well.

Moving on to the most common meaning/sense of the preposition *up*, it was noticed that there is a prototypical meaning of *up*, which is sense A from table 2. As it was shown, if one wants to know what the semantic network of a word is and also how the meanings of this
6.2 Are the most common meanings of the preposition abstract or concrete?

There is a connection between the kind of use of *up* and the kind of sense/meaning *up* can have: most meanings of the preposition *up* are necessarily spatial (and therefore concrete) meanings, but mixed and abstract are also possible, especially through metaphors.

As previously mentioned, in out of all 34 sentences from COCA that were analyzed for this essay, *up* was used with a concrete meaning in 27, with a mixed meaning in 7, and with an abstract meaning in 2. Therefore one can conclude that the most common meaning of the preposition *up* is concrete.

6.3 Further discussion

As an EFL student I am quite surprised by a few parts in the results of my analysis, especially about the possibility of the preposition *up* to have an abstract meaning. As I mentioned before, prepositions in general are among the hardest things to master, and perhaps it has to do with the fact that I had never analyzed meticulously how they are actually used.

I have always known that *up* can have several meanings (and so can other prepositions as well), but analyzing what can impact/create those meanings made me understand why those meanings exist, which I strongly believe will make it easier for me to use this preposition in the future, and I will also have less difficulty to interpret it.

However, it is important to remember that since this essay is about outlining the semantic networks of the preposition *up* in the sentences presented by a specific database (COCA), the results can be influenced by several factors, such as:

- If a different database is used, the results of the analysis can be at least slightly different.
- Considering the fact that COCA generates a new list of sentences with every new search, the results of the analysis of another set of 200 sentences generated by the same corpus could perhaps be different.

Another important factor is that, as previously mentioned, the meaning of a word can be directly connected to each person’s experience of the world, thus perhaps if this research was conducted by another EFL student, the results could be different, especially if the other
student had another mother tongue than the one I have (which is Portuguese). Also, if a native speaker of American English would conduct the research, I strongly believe that the results could be different as well.

These reservations about the result of my analysis only reflect the possibility that the results themselves would most likely be different if the circumstances (e.g. research method, researcher, etc) in which my research was conducted were different.

7. Conclusion

The purpose of this study was to investigate which the most common uses and meanings of the preposition *up* are in order to understand how its semantic network is formed and also how it works. The study was conducted through the analysis of 34 sentences, extracted from a list of 200 sentences extracted from the *Corpus of Contemporary American English* (COCA). In the analysis itself the different uses and meanings were investigated separately, and the results were compared within each of these categories.

With regard to the result of the analysis, it was noticed that the semantic network of the preposition *up* is highly affected by its prototypical meaning, since it seems to be the source of the other possible meanings the preposition can have.

In conclusion, it can be fruitful for EFL students to understand what is and how the semantic network of a word works because it will explain many factors that can cause different kinds of mistakes and confusion. Learning what is the meaning of a word is obviously important, but when it comes to polysemous words like *up* it is also important to understand how the meanings are related and what can affect the structure of the network. Undoubtedly, this is not a universal solution that will make it possible for student to never make mistakes, but this kind of analysis can be a helpful source of information that is usually not available in dictionaries and textbooks.
References


### Appendix

**List with all 200 sentences extracted from COCA:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nr</th>
<th>Sentence from COCA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>You know, should you be on the chopper when at least in the initial phases there weren't many of them around and they were taking relief aid up north.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>&quot;So, in this sense,&quot; Nora wrote, in an e-mail exchange last week from Germany, where she's touring with Arlo, &quot;this is just another soundtrack to 'growing up Guthrie.'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Yet the political leaders of the Western world stood up to the communist threat with some constancy and determination.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>Research shows that children grow up healthiest in a world with love, communication, structure, and boundaries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>The walls are painted a drab gray, scratched up to the height that a man's arms might reach.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>President Saleh has been aligned up until -- almost until he left office with the Saudis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>That is, Stephen Winchell &amp; Associates Inc. -the for-profit marketing firm that prepares the mailings-wound up one way or another absorbing 80 percent of the $11 million the Coalition took in last year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>Their defense lived up to all the preseason hype, Joe Flacco at least showed he was healthy, and the offense squeezed the air out of the game with a run-heavy attack.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>This was the enigma that couldn't be resolved at the trial, but the jury, after six days of deliberation was eager to go home and decided it was more than likely that Almeyer, a suspicious man with darting, flinty eyes and a strange tic that drew up the left side of his mouth now and then, was the likely culprit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mom was trying to mingle with the other parents when I walked up to her.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>He vowed that if he succeeded in battle he would offer up to the Lord as a burnt offering whatever first came forth from the doors of his house to meet him.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>No matter how many times I saw the same gravestone illuminated by bare headlights, a chill reverberated from my knees up to my heart, a chill that could not be replaced by the touches of any young maiden.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>&quot; I think we elevated the pitch up to mediocre, &quot; he said.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Cailar rose up to his full height, the usual expression of humble respect for his superior slipping from his face.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>You can go up to the man who is holding the sign that says I WILL ADOPT YOUR BABY and ask him how he knows whether Jesus disapproves of abortion, or of birth control, or of homosexuality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Once Reese located the rest of the gear, he brought it up to the counter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>While I sit writing, or rather engraving these tragic memories on paper, I realize that the image that obsessed me at the first attempt to look into my past -- the image of a locomotive dragging a string of coaches up a hill -- came to me for the first time while I lay on the sofa listening to my father's breathing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Ipa closed her eyes and pulled her knees up to her chin, bracing for the whipping.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>I recalled the time the Gordons tied up to the dock -- this would have been about mid-June, only a week or so after I'd met them for the first time, which had been in the bar of Claudio's Restaurant in Greenport.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>The atmosphere is a blend of upscale hot dog stand, Greek coffee shop and high school cafeteria (with table service). Booths line one side of the room, with two steps up to a row of two-tops and four-tops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>I made it through &quot;The Armchair Birder&quot; with a pretty eclectic mix of old and new -- all the way back to the rambunctious Yardbirds and on up to contemporary chanteuse Taylor Swift.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>The grounds still smelled of sawdust, Mark thought, as he crept up to the screen door at the kitchen.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thomas, who prefers the term "probike/pro-transit" to "car-free" sums up his decision to eschew the automobile: "Why would I choose a mode of transportation that is hundreds of times more expensive, subject to delays on a daily basis, and leaves me having to go to a gym, and pay more money, at the end of the day?"

Start with 40 minutes and work up to an hour.

And the front door was on the side of the house, not like the main entrances on wide porches we knew in Carolina, but concealed and sneaky. Stone steps ran up the side and down again in back, so the minister and his family could enter the church through the rear.

He states he didn't like the nine "supreme" justices deciding that it should be up to individual states to decide.

Allen is obsessed with the classic film "Casablanca," using it as a template to untangle the triangle he has created through his affair with Dianne Keaton, the wife of his best friend, Tony Roberts, up to and including the famous closing scene at the airport when Bogart sent Ingrid Bergman off with her husband, Paul Henreid.

"I see something pink," Amy said, knowing anything pink would rev up Janie's interest.

She didn't stop-didn't dare give her conscience time to catch up to her actions.

Leading up to the boom, private lenders started offering no-down payment and low-down payment mortgages to reasonably low-risk borrowers, effectively luring away some of the FHA's most reliable borrowers with less expensive loans.

Mum's close friend and Nana are also present, but my latent anger makes me feel like doing something impulsive. As Ato comes up the stairs, I feel myself snarling.

Up close, they were impressive enough.

Tonight -- the British nanny convicted of killing the child in her care breaks her silence to reveal things you've never heard about the death of Matthew Eappen and the hours leading up to the baby being rushed to the hospital.

She made it up to him. Bought him everything he wanted, defended his right to pee in his pants in school.

Even the most repressed citizens of the world will stand up to tyrants when given the opportunity.

The nonprofit National Security Archive has fun matching up different versions of such documents, exposing the "inane and contradictory" outcomes that can result when different agencies review what's acceptable for release.

This was in contrast to the first debate, when a rear-positioned camera glimpsed what, in replay, looked to be a rectangular lump between the President's shoulder blades and a cord traveling up to his right shoulder.

One hour and eighty miles up the road later, mired in anguished thoughts of Pop and his scene with Rosie, he forced his mind to other things and, eventually, the case.

Two mascot costumed students walk up to the hall monitor.

But I move with a desperate and gasping intent, gritting my teeth against twinges of pain in my knees, and Anderson just flows up the hill, chitchatting, oblivious to how lucky he is to possess fresh, unblemished cartilage.

Since he stayed in the camp, accumulating experience, while citizens came and went, he had worked his way up to sergeant.

Additionally, Saturn's entrance into your relationship angle in April shows that you must prepare to break old patterns and face up to long-term issues.

I muttered as I climbed two steps up the embankment and angled my foot to kick the mask clear of the greenery.

In the meantime, let's go up to New York, Jack Cafferty standing by with his thoughts on what's going on -- Jack.

Meanwhile, what have you been up to?

So after a quick duck into the women's room, I marched my bod down the corridor -- long, dim, echo-prone -- listening to the shuffle of my sandals on the ancient linoleum, eyes focused balefully on the rectangle of light flowing out of Teddy's office onto the dark corridor floor, wondering what I was going to say when he told me he knew what
I'd been up to.

48 Jordan and Flea fill sand bags to shore up the walls of their hide-site.

49 The Document says that those of us, early on, who discover how to sustain this flow and integrate this knowledge will make it easier for others to open up to it later, just because of the influence we have.

50 I only ask that you live up to the best of your reputation.

51 A fast song, he swung her out and she danced back to him and he twirled her around and she swung out again and came back and he spun her around once more and when she came back up to him she said, Damn you, Tom Guthrie, I'm doing all the work.

52 Some of the vampires try to flee, scurrying up the stairs, but the exit quickly becomes clogged with liquefying bodies -- -- then Blade's CAR-15 jams.

53 The thing we need to do now is to join together and look to the future. We're up to our ears in challenges today. Let's get on with dealing with them in mutual respect and support, and that's the way to get this behind us.

54 What can I say? I've yet to meet any woman who could measure up to any of you.

55 The other story, the huge success story of this airline that up until now seemed to do everything right.

56 Waiting until she'd cried as much as she could, he rubbed her back and murmured softly. When the tears ceased, she turned drowning eyes up to his.

57 As Republicans our first concern is for those waiting tonight to begin or resume the climb up life's ladder.

58 They climbed up a steep hill and finally arrived at the shelter-a sagging cinder-block fortress overlooking a twinkling city.

59 Many of us, though, felt that it was important to open the Internet and the Web up to commercial traffic, in some part because it was the only way we could really imagine the Internet actually being able to spread all around the world.

60 They will pass shops, the sight of which will be blocked by reporters and publicists, and walk about 150 feet up a curved staircase and into the auditorium.

61 The camera recorded LeCroy walking up to the car again after the crash, first toward the driver's side, then to the rear and finally to the passenger's side.

62 The lead up to Fantastic Beasts follows the Phantom Menace playbook move for move.

63 " Well, luckily it's not up to you, " Mr. Maxwell said a bit peevishly.

64 He was a slow runner, a businessman. Had that big-title company up until last year.

65 Local doctors are reporting up to a 90 percent cure rate with this triple therapy.

66 Is the United States up to the challenge, or, as some fear and assert these days, is the United States a nation in decline?

67 When Sean was about 6 or so, he came up to me and said,' Daddy, what number do you think I'll wear when I'm an Aggie?

68 And one of the biggest challenges to this, which I'm sure it's going to be challenged up to the Supreme Court, is this whole issue of habeas corpus, this whole issue of suspending it to these detainees.

69 He cut a little girl's arm with the penknife he carried and tried to comfort her when she cried. He pulled her arm up to his lips and teeth and tasted her frightened skin: he couldn't figure out if it tasted sweet or if it tasted sour, and finally decided it was both.

70 Economic analyst Esteban Fernandez Medrano says the Kirchner government inclines toward intervention, which he says is fine up to a point.

71 Sam Vincent, his loyal Number 2, moved up to the big job.

72 Seeing this, I made a mental note to try and get out of work early so I could go into town and play nine holes before
dinner. I walked toward the side door, skipping up the steps.

73 Those kinds of things that -- as investigators, we like to get some piece of information that leads up to another piece of information, that leads us to more, and kind of builds.

74 For a detailed discussion of the events between 1940 and 1946 leading up to the enactment of the Referee Salary Act and the substance of the Act, see Judicial Conference Report, supra note 115, at 3-8; see also Horsky, supra note 230; Beatty & DeNatale, supra note 234.

75 My grandmother stood up to him in a rare demonstration that none of them, not even my mother, would understand for years.

76 Yeah, no, they don't (sic). I mean, a lot of these things, the law is written and then it? s (sic) up to the different agencies to sort of interpret them and come up with regulations.

77 There is no fee or registration for the two-person vessels, and 15 minutes up the coast and beyond view are deserted beaches for the taking.

78 Up one step as he points his left foot forward for the first time. Up another as he squeezes a golf club tightly. Up another as he lifts his left arm over his head.

79 Unpacking was always a chore: lugging stuff up the sloping grass-covered hill to the cottage where Anne had spent every summer of her life, where Sally and Mike and Luke had spent their childhood summers.

80 In the case of the new Johnson, " HO " means re-jetted carburetor ports and re-contoured exhaust ports to flow more fuel and enhance breathing at higher rpm which in turn pumps up horsepower.

81 And people would see that Grady ambulance, and there's just a certain opinion of that hospital, of the people who work there - particular the paramedics who, you know, show up to their houses every day and spend so much time in some of those projects. So for the most part, that was what you got.

82 Well, 16 years is the average length of time that people spend on death row in California, at least up until now.

83 Paul was slowly climbing up the side of the boat, carefully placing his hands on a cleat, heavily swinging his leg over the rail.

84 The white sails of the ships looked like great white wings of some large birds, and when a boat came up to their own dock and landed, everyone on the plantation was very much excited.

85 The Meggitt firearms projection screen in front of her took up most of one wall and showed a red dot on the shooter's head by his ear.

86 (415) 924-1009; rosemaryhallgarten.com up close and ornate Special details such as textured handles, beads, and assorted colors turn Tozai Home's glass magnifiers (6'L; $25 each) into real conversation pieces.

87 " What the hell are you up to? " he asked.

88 You know, I think it's -- that's going to be up to the American people.

89 Both 4122839 and a full-scale LISA mission would be sensitive to frequencies spanning a 4147880 up to a tenth of a hertz, which correspond to wavelengths of 200 million miles (300 billion km) and 2 million miles (3 billion km), respectively.

90 This is where my story begins. My story begins after Diana and I were divorced. Everything up to here is background.

91 Position 4 The Get a Leg UP Degree of difficulty: 8.5 How it's done: Stand facing your partner with your left foot turned out, perpendicular to your boy, and your right foot forward

92 By the time President Jefferson sent the captains up that muddy river and out of sight, the young nation already had a Constitution, but it lacked an epic.

93 CAPTURED BY SS The men hadn't finished eating when a military vehicle pulled up to the house.

94 Besides, he says, it's up to the Redskins " what they choose to call themselves.

95 It was a Category 5, made landfall and pushed water up the Potomac and up the Delaware and flooded the Baltimore
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>96</td>
<td>I could just walk into a virtual bank, stroll \textit{up} to a teller, and deposit real-life money the newfangled, old-fashioned way: by talking to a person.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>97</td>
<td>Then check out the incredible decor deals, easy DIY tricks, and smart buys here to rev \textit{up} your rooms without breaking the bank.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>98</td>
<td>She initially asked for a million. All of a sudden, it goes \textit{up} to $2 million.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99</td>
<td>Of course, being embarrassed to fess \textit{up} to less-than-stellar habits - including occasional cigarette use, which is the health habit women are most likely to hide - is one reason why.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>The young fathers studied \textit{up} to this point have tended to come from disadvantaged families and to have completed fewer years of education than their childless peers (Lerman, 1986, 1993a; Marsiglio, 1987).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101</td>
<td>Pick \textit{up} the phone. A conversation is often the best way to land potential # discounts, discuss special requests and area tips, and suss out house rules.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>102</td>
<td>Although Reza Shah was able to achieve important strides in the infrastructure of a chaotic and politically divided nation, his ideological appeal to Iran's imperial past failed to live \textit{up} to expectations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>103</td>
<td>The stony glare of the good general was the last thing Emma Hanley's grandfather saw as he sat at his mahogany desk in his office, pondering a lost factory -- foreclosure by some outfit \textit{up} North was imminent -- and an astonishing sweep of bad investments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>104</td>
<td>So I would find if, in fact -- and that's, of course, a big if -- there is indeed in the context of everything else we get -- and I'm not judging this \textit{up} to this point, I'm not judging it at all until the Judiciary Committee -- if the Judiciary Committee gets all the matters and has hearings and everything else, but if, at the end of the day, I concluded that the president of the United States lied under oath in a judicial court proceeding, I would have a very hard time not voting to recommend impeachment to the House.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105</td>
<td>This was the machine- actually, little more than a computer screen hooked \textit{up} to a bunch of wires and blinking lights that didn't really work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>106</td>
<td>I'm not an expert on the threshold ought to be, that's \textit{up} to law enforcement and that's not the only factor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>107</td>
<td>The zoo recently lost its Association of Zoos &amp; Aquariums accreditation because its monkey exhibits are not \textit{up} to par. The zoo is working on a new overall design which would address issues of aging exhibits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>108</td>
<td>He smiled, took her ticket, and helped her \textit{up} the steps and into the car.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>109</td>
<td>With the wet field conditions, we decided to give it to him and let him pound it \textit{up} the middle or let the quarterback keep it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110</td>
<td>Frank picked \textit{up} a little speed on the trail and headed \textit{up} to Sandy. He raised his head once and saw Sandy on the point and stood him stiff and pretty.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>111</td>
<td>John L. Allen Jr. writes regularly in his columns for The National Catholic Reporter urging the global church to wake \textit{up} to ongoing Christian bloodshed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>112</td>
<td>The wrapping paper was gorgeous \textit{up} close like this, kind of marbled-looking, less glossy than it had seemed before.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>113</td>
<td>&quot;She went on a walk with me,&quot; Shavawn blurs, as she packs \textit{up} the bone machine, &quot;And it was really scary.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>114</td>
<td>It was \textit{up} to Kathy to outline a plan of action that would mollify the bankers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>115</td>
<td>News you can use Most of the new books are just so-so. But a few hidden gems await # Chalk \textit{up} 1994 as an annus horribilis for children's books.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>116</td>
<td>\textit{Up} until this moment in the Book Store, Tom would have bet his retirement fund there wasn't enough man left in him to lift its little finger, let alone sit up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>117</td>
<td>Instead of looking into her eyes, he was staring down at their hands, at the way they were joined, their fingers laced together. He brought her hand \textit{up} to his lips, kissed the back of it, and let go. Raising his eyes to meet hers, he smiled. &quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lewrie thought with a groan as he espied Mr. Thomas Mountjoy at the top of the landing stage of the Old Mole as his boat ghosted up to it; What the Devil’s he doin’ here, and what sort of shit is he lookin’ for me t’do for him, now?

"What have you been up to, Cricky?"

He did not have the knack of later athletes -- the Namaths, Harrelsons and Sandersons -- of cultivating his personality precisely up to, but not beyond, that point at which the public becomes bored with it. Belinsky is now 35.

Each warlord has a press officer who speaks good English and lines up interviews with the foreign press.

Isn't that a problem if, you know, members of military start coming to members of Congress when they have problem instead of going up to their chain of command?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th align="left">Table 1 Relationship between differentially expressed genes after acute treatment and chronic treatment.</th>
<th># Direction of Change</th>
<th># Gene Symbol</th>
<th># Acutea</th>
<th># Chronica</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td align="left"># Arrow up</td>
<td># Arrow up</td>
<td># Armcx3, Atp10a, Jam2, Mapkbp1, Mtfmt, Sult1a1, Vps50</td>
<td># Arrow up</td>
<td># Arrow down</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

But one day when he was eleven Daddy climbed up to the top of the house, and there was a statue leaning out, a lady with what you call a block-and-tackle for bringing up furniture and, for example, zum Beispiel, a piano to the music room on the second floor.

It's only made me more determined to get to the truth. So I drove up to Cravenwood again, and tried to find some way past the gate.

The steepness of the gravel path up the mountain varies, but the sustained effort at that altitude made my heart pound wildly.

You look at everything leading up to this day, and there really isn't any of this tension.

Another possibility, which I am exploring as part of my design-based research at my K-8 school site, is to create a rubric to assess the ways the written English in Mai's script and the oral English in her video measure up to certain preselected writing standards (e.g., state or Common Core standards for K-12 and departmental, college, and university standards for college students).

I just know that women are now finally saying, 'I'm going to speak up to someone.'

Well, to a certain degree, but I think -- on the other hand, I think that while certainly a subpoena is legally different than what we've seen up to this point, I don't know that it's materially different in the eyes of the American public.

It all adds up to a remarkable feat of keeping a presidential candidacy alive without any of the traditional bases for it.

Based on site visits to 20 GEAR UP partnerships and descriptive information from 18 schools, Muraskin (2003) reported that tutoring was the most common type of support.

Few people wrote about the case in the weeks leading up to Morva's execution.

Mrs. Stewart also seemed to derive a sense of satisfaction from knowing that students opened up to her.

Maybe not, but that isn't up to you or me. It's up to an independent tribunal.

One million words had flown by, but nothing had been promised or declared, and Sandy could sense the way she and Todd were using each other up minute by minute, one talky voice drinking the other dry.

Canseco talks about playing another 10 years, which would give him a chance to live up to his early potential.

I've also learned that it's important to show the client a good sketch so they know what I'm up to before I spend weeks or months executing the finished picture.

The course consists of 2 hours of theory plus 6 hours of practice which add up to a total of 8 hours a week.

In expanding the world of Into the Woods, students might want to create a Twitter account for Jack tracing his trip up the beanstalk or to develop additional or alternative plotlines by maintaining Facebook pages for each of the characters.

But students adored McKnight. He gave himself up to them for conferences and extra study dates and simple bull sessions in a way that few colleagues would imagine any longer.
| 142 | The irate manager ran *up* to the policeman and got into his face, waving his hands wildly and yelling at the top of his voice. |
| 143 | Rage Against The Machine's first two records sound better than they used to, now that we know they were leading *up* to something. But they sure don't howl or move like The Battle of Los Angeles. |
| 144 | Out of laziness, I often shop at the place *up* the street, known for gorgeous produce and high prices (and for Nancy, the woman in the deli who gives Annabelle cookies). |
| 145 | But we're hearing some kind of that same chatter, David, that we heard pre-9/11 leading *up* to anecdotes like that taking place by the terrorists. |
| 146 | Just to get back a little bit on something that Erica had said there, these guys have to represent the entire nation and let's not forget that the point of an election is to win, and if young people don't show *up* to the polls, well, you know, why are you going to go out there and court them. |
| 147 | How many times has he said these same words to himself, alone, running on a road somewhere, kicking himself *up* a hill, using the words as high-octane fuel? |
| 148 | Need-based funds, which usually offer *up* to $4,000 per year, come in two forms: work-study programs and grants. |
| 149 | I'd like nothing more than to go away, maybe *up* to Keyser Springs, and to come back feeling good. |
| 150 | We live the time we're meant do. # Said the man hooked *up* to a diagnostic bed, brought there by an exoskeleton, his bloodstream teeming with medical nanotech. |
| 151 | The good man had been informed -- I will not discuss how -- of what he -- and *up* until recently, I -- considered to be my disgrace. I told him there was no disgrace. |
| 152 | Go *up* to the fire floor in just a sec., and assist with the evacuation. |
| 153 | But those had always been fleeting things, soon over, and she had yet to meet a man whom she thought she could be happy to see over the breakfast table every morning -- let alone give herself *up* to in the vague, darkly fascinating and slightly frightening rites of the marital bed. |
| 154 | Sienna should be asleep. # "What are you still doing *up*?" |
| 155 | IF YOU LIKE THE WAY A LEMON WEDGE PERKS *UP* YOUR ICED TEA, THINK what a burst of citrus can do for an entire meal. |
| 156 | They were very, very close. But I cite witnesses in the book, and I do leave it *up* to the readers to decide. |
| 157 | This came in handy on my journey *up* the Hoh because I lashed an internal frame pack to this lower space-the pack I'd carry during my icy climb *up* Mt. Olympus. |
| 158 | It wasn't there because they weren't invited, even so, the Salahis managed to talk their way past the Secret Service and into the star-studded State Dinner where they cozied *up* to Vice President Joe Biden, media luminaries, even the Marines posted at the door. |
| 159 | We've got three hundred officers, and I'll wind *up* doing an accidental-discharge case at least once a year. |
| 160 | Still, he helped Ned and me touch *up* the side of the house toward the backyard with some paint. |
| 161 | Description of Lesson At our high school, students learn about visual perception and the changes between RGB, CMYK, and HSV color systems through a series of lessons leading *up* to a cumulative project. |
| 162 | Win looks right through me, his eyes focusing on a scene far away, and I imagine what he is seeing--Win and Barry running through swamp water *up* to their ankles, the hounds baying in the distance, the smoke of a lone house approaching. |
| 163 | For one thing, Kenya had been a stable democracy leading *up* to the crisis, with functioning institutions; for another, the election results were so deeply riddled with irregularities - from stuffed ballot boxes to deliberately spoiled ballots - that nobody, not even the electoral commission itself, knew who had really won. |
| 164 | How much? It's *up* to the individual. |
| 165 | But the Cubs still took the cautious approach and assigned him to Class AAA Iowa, not bringing him *up* to the |
majors to stay until late May. # Wood probably is facing the same scenario.

166 He stroked her silky hair and suggested that they all go up to Violet's room with the moonflowers.

167 We see Big Chris walking up the stairs. He reaches the top and knocks on the door.

168 And I do to want take a chance to applaud the ICE agents, the DEA agents who worked this case and also the Mexican authorities who have stepped up to the plate and showed great cooperation with the United States to, to make this happen.

169 And up to that point, I didn't know that lotion was important.

170 Finally, the applause dies out. Hannah steps up to the microphone. Hannah: Mrs. Smith? One more thing.

171 He remains favoured to become his country’s first directly elected president in August, setting him up to (mis) govern the country through to 2024.


173 After two years of meetings that left him feeling " like I'm pushing 20 boulders up a hill of ice," Coburn said he has concluded that " it all comes back to leadership.

174 He held his hands up to his face and looked down at the gray smoke that was his body.

175 They're going to have to come and demonstrate clearly to the international community what they're up to.

176 But when the birds heard the ruckus, they raised their crests and fluttered up to the oak branches as the hounds sped by.

177 So she was happy to be there, and Billy was holding tightly to her hand as they walked up to the modern, handsome school.

178 When Collum came along to see what we were up to, he saw Hans at the bottom of the pond, and he dove down into the water and rescued him.

179 You know what else he said? he came to me, totally unsolicited, totally on his own, out of the blue, he came up to me, just standing there by the bar, I was talking with Merle Buschbaum, and Merle wandered off, and just Patrick and I were left, and he said, just looked right at me, like he knew, I swear, like he knew, and he was somehow trying to say, Dad, it's okay.

180 As generations of Angelenos did before us, we ride with our groceries from Grand Central Market up Bunker Hill.

181 He accused the government of not having lived up to its side of the plea bargain.

182 They turned in here and followed the stream-bed up the canyon.

183 Francesca Johnson, the Italian war bride who has been married to an Iowa farmer for 18 years, could easily have locked the door when Robert Kincaid, an interesting stranger who just happens to be a photographer for National Geographic, drives up to the family's farmhouse in a pick-up truck and asks for directions to one of the fabled local bridges he has been assigned to shoot.

184 I sweated and groaned and inched my way up the mountain, thankful that the shopkeeper had mentioned the little spring hidden near the summit off the side of the road.

185 Then, when he got right up to it, he realized... (Voiceover)... it was really a body of a naked woman.

186 He needs the Democratic majority of the assembly to do that and tellingly, the head of the Democratic assembly, the speaker is saying, it's up to Governor Spitzer to decide what to do.

187 Yeah. We've learned, first of all, that they can move up to a mile in any given 24 hours, which is a lot of distance for an animal that has to graze quite a lot.

188 But it's not all croon tunes. He enlists steel drums on a reggae rendition of O Holy Night, jazzes up What Child Is This?, adds a bossa nova beat to Silent Night and submits his original Happy Christmas and Many More.

189 The suit -- filed in a California Court -- claims Taco Bell menu items advertised with seasoned beef actually contain
a filling made up of mostly, quote, "Non-meat substances," including soybean oil and silicon dioxide that wouldn't measure up to USDA standards to be called beef.

Another cool movement is happening among smaller producers that are hooking up ours and their local scene, while shipping little bits of their beer to major city centers in the U.S.A. and even farther afield.

They walked away from us, up the block. I don't think I knew there was something wrong, they were walking close but did not touch, but I think I knew there was something strange happening, something I might want to know about.

They had to sit in it so that they could let it wiggle beneath them, let its tiny motors come alive, experience the sensation that would earn his seat the nickname "Ray's Rumble," a second-long bvvvfftttt up the left or right butt cheek.

To prove his theory he would need to build dozens of snow collection stations and place them across the globe, purchase several cameras fitted with close-up lenses, recruit an international staff of volunteers and make sure they are all hooked up to his computer database.

Consumer discretionary stocks up 30 percent, financials, telecoms, services, industrials all logging double-digit gains.

On the Baghdad University campus, a gunman walked up to a soldier standing in line to buy a soft drink, said, "Hey mister," and shot him in the head.

My father pulls up to Emergency and leans on the horn. The door on my side swings open, and a security guard in uniform pushes his face into the truck. "What's the horn for?" he asks.

That was the most ever. It all adds up to a staggering $141 billion, or about $5,300 per kid.

[...] rice and fish pretty much sum up the staple food of Bangladesh.

The right lung has three lobes, while the left has two. The liver and gallbladder fill up the right side of the abdomen, whereas the spleen and stomach dominate the left.

They'd saved me a seat, which was way cool, so I gave them a wave as I headed for the steps leading up to the loading dock. Then Rita planted herself in front of me and folded her arms.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nr</th>
<th>Sentence</th>
<th>What kind of meaning (using table 2 as a reference)</th>
<th>Abstract or concrete sense/meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>You know, should you be on the chopper when at least in the initial phases there weren't many of them around and they were taking relief aid up north.</td>
<td>D - Up represents/indicates that someone or something is in or is going towards the north (literally).</td>
<td>Mixed. In this case up refers to a physical event and it is also connected to the concept that if something is located in the north, it is up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>This was the enigma that couldn't be resolved at the trial, but the jury, after six days of deliberation was eager to go home and decided it was more than likely that Almeyer, a suspicious man with darting, flinty eyes and a strange tic that drew up the left side of his mouth now and then, was the likely culprit.</td>
<td>A - Up represents/indicates motion that something or someone is in, to, into, or towards a higher position, place, or level.</td>
<td>Concrete. In this case up refers to a physical event.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>While I sit writing, or rather engraving these tragic memories on paper, I</td>
<td>A - Up represents/indicates motion that something or someone is in, to, into, or towards a higher position, place, or level.</td>
<td>Concrete. In this case up refers to a physical event.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

List of the sentences from COCA where up is used as a preposition:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Text</th>
<th>Analysis</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>And the front door was on the side of the house, not like the main entrances on wide porches we knew in Carolina, but concealed and sneaky. Stone steps ran up the side and down again in back, so the minister and his family could enter the church through the rear.</td>
<td>A - <em>Up</em> represents/indicates motion that something or someone is in, to, into, or towards a higher position, place, or level.</td>
<td><strong>Mixed.</strong> In this case <em>up</em> refers to a physical object and it also connected to the idea that said object &quot;moves&quot; up and down (perhaps to describe its form).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Mum’s close friend and Nana are also present, but my latent anger makes me feel like doing something impulsive. As Ato comes up the stairs, I feel myself snarling.</td>
<td>A - <em>Up</em> represents/indicates motion that something or someone is in, to, into, or towards a higher position, place, or level.</td>
<td><strong>Concrete.</strong> In this case <em>up</em> refers to a physical event.</td>
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<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>One hour and eighty miles <em>up</em> the road later, mired in anguished thoughts of Pop and his scene with Rosie, he forced his mind to other things and, eventually, the case.</td>
<td>B - <em>Up</em> represents/indicates motion that something or someone is along or further along a path, street or road.</td>
<td><strong>Mixed.</strong> In this case <em>up</em> indicates both a physical event and it is also connected to the concept of somebody being along a road, but a person can only be at a certain point of a road, and not on the entire road at the same time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>But I move with a desperate and gasping intent, gritting my teeth against twinges of pain in my knees, and Anderson just flows <em>up</em> the hill, chitchatting, oblivious to how lucky he is to possess fresh, unblemished cartilage.</td>
<td>A - <em>Up</em> represents/indicates motion that something or someone is in, to, into, or towards a higher position, place, or level.</td>
<td><strong>Mixed.</strong> In this case <em>up</em> indicates both a physical event (that a person is moving) but also the idea that said person is moving upwards by flowing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>I muttered as I climbed two steps <em>up</em> the embankment and angled my foot to kick the mask clear of the greenery.</td>
<td>A - <em>Up</em> represents/indicates motion that something or someone is in, to, into, or towards a higher position, place, or level.</td>
<td><strong>Concrete.</strong> In this case <em>up</em> refers to a physical event.</td>
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<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>Some of the vampires try to flee, scurrying <em>up</em> the stairs, but the exit quickly becomes clogged with liquefying bodies —— then Blade's CAR-15 jams.</td>
<td>A - <em>Up</em> represents/indicates motion that something or someone is in, to, into, or towards a higher position, place, or level.</td>
<td><strong>Concrete.</strong> In this case <em>up</em> refers to a physical event.</td>
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<td>57</td>
<td>As Republicans our first concern is for those waiting tonight to begin or resume the climb <em>up</em> life's ladder.</td>
<td>A - <em>Up</em> represents/indicates motion that something or someone is in, to, into, or towards a higher position, place, or level.</td>
<td><strong>Abstract.</strong> In this case <em>up</em> refers to the idea/concept of someone climbing an imaginary ladder, which is a metaphor for going up said ladder = being (more) successful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>They climbed <em>up</em> a steep hill and finally arrived at the shelter—a sagging cinder-block fortress overlooking a twinkling city.</td>
<td>A - <em>Up</em> represents/indicates motion that something or someone is in, to, into, or towards a higher position, place, or level.</td>
<td><strong>Concrete.</strong> In this case <em>up</em> refers to a physical event.</td>
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<td>60</td>
<td>They will pass shops, the sight of which will be blocked by reporters and publicists, and walk about 150 feet <em>up</em> a curved staircase and into the auditorium.</td>
<td>B - <em>Up</em> represents/indicates motion that someone or something is along or further along a path, street or road.</td>
<td><strong>Concrete.</strong> In this case <em>up</em> refers to a physical event.</td>
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<tr>
<td>72</td>
<td>Seeing this, I made a mental note to try</td>
<td>A - <em>Up</em> represents/indicates motion that</td>
<td><strong>Concrete.</strong> In this case <em>up</em> refers to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77</td>
<td>There is no fee or registration for the two-person vessels, and 15 minutes <strong>up</strong> the coast and beyond view are deserted beaches for the taking.</td>
<td>B - <em>Up</em> represents/indicates that someone or something is along or further along a path, street or road.</td>
<td><strong>Mixed.</strong> In this case <em>up</em> indicates both a physical event and it is also connected to the concept of something moving along a along the coast = moving up the coast, even when somebody/something can only be at a certain point of the coast, and not on the entire coast at the same time.</td>
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<td>78</td>
<td>Up one step as he points his left foot forward for the first time. <strong>Up</strong> another as he squeezes a golf club tightly. Up another as he lifts his left arm over his head.</td>
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<td>79</td>
<td>Unpacking was always a chore: lugging stuff <strong>up</strong> the sloping grass-covered hill to the cottage where Anne had spent every summer of her life, where Sally and Mike and Luke had spent their childhood summers.</td>
<td>A - <em>Up</em> represents/indicates motion that something or someone is in, to, into, or towards a higher position, place, or level.</td>
<td><strong>Mixed.</strong> In this case <em>up</em> does refer to a physical event, but it also refer to the idea of accumulated lugging = lugging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83</td>
<td>Paul was slowly climbing <strong>up</strong> the side of the boat, carefully placing his hands on a cleat, heavily swinging his leg over the rail.</td>
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<td>92</td>
<td>By the time President Jefferson sent the captains <strong>up</strong> that muddy river and out of sight, the young nation already had a Constitution, but it lacked an epic.</td>
<td>C - <em>Up</em> represents/indicates that someone or something is going towards the place where a river starts.</td>
<td><strong>Concrete.</strong> In this case <em>up</em> indicates a physical event, where someone is literally moving towards a place that is northward.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95</td>
<td>It was a Category 5, made landfall and pushed water <strong>up</strong> the Potomac and up the Delaware and flooded the Baltimore area, after making landfall as a Category 2.</td>
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<td>103</td>
<td>The stony glare of the good general was the last thing Emma Hanley's grandfather saw as he sat at his mahogany desk in his office, pondering a lost factory -- foreclosure by some outfit <strong>up</strong> North was imminent -- and an astonishing sweep of bad investments.</td>
<td>D - <em>Up</em> represents/indicates that someone or something is in or is going towards the north (literally).</td>
<td><strong>Mixed.</strong> In this case <em>up</em> refers to the idea of an event in the north. It is also connected to the concept that if something is located in the north, it is <em>up</em>.</td>
</tr>
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<td>108</td>
<td>He smiled, took her ticket, and helped her <strong>up</strong> the steps and into the car.</td>
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<td>109</td>
<td>With the wet field conditions, we decided to give it to him and let him pound it <strong>up</strong> the middle or let the quarterback keep it.</td>
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<td>182 They turned in here and followed the stream-bed up the canyon.</td>
<td>B - <em>Up</em> represents/indicates that someone or something is along or further along a path, street or road.</td>
<td>Concrete. In this case <em>up</em> refers to a physical event.</td>
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<td>184 I sweated and groaned and inched my way up the mountain, thankful that the shopkeeper had mentioned the little spring hidden near the summit off the side of the road.</td>
<td>A - <em>Up</em> represents/indicates motion that something or someone is in, to, into, or towards a higher position, place, or level.</td>
<td>Concrete. In this case <em>up</em> refers to a physical event.</td>
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<td>191 They walked away from us, up the block. I don't think I knew there was something wrong, they were walking close but did not touch, but I think I knew there was something strange happening, something I might want to know about.</td>
<td>D - <em>Up</em> represents/indicates that someone or something is in or is going towards the north (literally).</td>
<td>Concrete. In this case <em>up</em> refers to a physical event.</td>
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<td>192 They had to sit in it so that they could let it wiggle beneath them, let its tiny motors come alive, experience the sensation that would earn his seat the nickname &quot;Ray's Rumble,&quot; a second-long bvvvffittt <em>up</em> the left or right butt cheek.</td>
<td>A - <em>Up</em> represents/indicates motion that something or someone is in, to, into, or towards a higher position, place, or level.</td>
<td>Abstract. In this case <em>up</em> refers to a sound/noise, which is not physical and therefore cannot be concrete.</td>
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