

I have picked ridiculously simple examples. I don't think any of us would look up легкий. However, these phrases illustrate the concept of "smart collocations."

All the dictionaries will find phrases (collocations, idioms, etc.) if you select and search for the whole phrase. But what if you don't realize that it is a phrase, and you search for a single word only? This is where Context's "smart collocations" are really, well, "smart." It finds the collocations for you. Consider the following phrases (all contain a form of легкий, which I'll search for in each example):

крекинг добавочных легких углеводородов

In Lingvo:

If you highlight only the word легких, you will get meanings for only the single word. Clicking through the windows that open, you will find a link to "добавочное легкое" in the third window. Click on that, and you'll get the medical meaning "accessory lung," which makes no sense here. Lingvo doesn't recognize the complete collocation (all 4 words) from just the one word.

In Context:

In Context, if you place the cursor on (but don't highlight) легких and click on the toolbar icon in Word, Context will find four collocations in its various dictionaries:

1. добавочное легкое (medical)
2. легкие углеводороды (oil and gas)
3. крекинг добавочных легких углеводородов (polytechnic) — the entire phrase
4. легкий крекинг (environment and polytechnic)

In other words, if you didn't know that "легких" was part of a 4-word phrase and you searched for just the single word, you would still be given the correction translation for the entire phrase ("extraneous cracking"), because Context recognizes that "легких" is in the middle of a longer phrase. The last collocation above (#4) shows that it will find a collocation even when the words are in reverse order. Below each collocation, there will be the translation of the individual word that you selected. You can use forward and backwards arrows on the toolbar to move from the originally selected word to the other words in the phrase.

легкая болезнь

In Lingvo:

If you search for легкая, you will not get any medical meanings at all, even though it clearly is being used in a medical context. You won't get the word "lung," and you won't get the phrase "mild illness/disease/malaise." There are no results shown from the medical dictionary. You would have to search for the entire phrase to get the correct translation.

In Context:

If you search for the single word in Context, it automatically finds these phrases in its dictionaries:

1. легкая болезнь
2. легкая форма болезни
3. легкий приступ болезни

легкий как перышко

In Lingvo:

Searching for only the first word, does not bring up the translation for the phrase.

In Context:

Context automatically finds these phrases:

1. легкий как перышко
2. она легкая как перышко
3. легкий как пух
4. легкий как паутина

CONTEXT:

A green dot means that there is a translation of the entire phrase (the one(s) found in the document) in that dictionary.
 A yellow dot means there is a translation of only the single selected word.
 A red dot means that the single word is found only within phrases other than the ones found in the document.

The Context icon with arrows for moving to other words in the phrase.

Cursor is on the single word **легких**. The entire phrase has not been selected.

In Context, if you place the cursor on (but don't highlight) **легких** and click on the toolbar icon in Word, Context will find four collocations in its various dictionaries:

1. добавочное легкое (medical)
2. легкие углеводороды (oil and gas)
3. **крекинг добавочных **легких** углеводородов** (polytechnic) — the entire phrase
4. **легкий крекинг** (environment and polytechnic)

In other words, if you didn't know that "легких" was part of a 4-word phrase and you searched for just the single word, you would still be given the correction translation for the entire phrase ("extraneous cracking"), because Context recognizes that "легких" is in the middle of a longer phrase. The last collocation above (#4) shows that it will find a collocation even when the words are in reverse order. Below each collocation, there will be the translation of the individual word that you selected. You can use forward and backwards arrows on the toolbar to move from the originally selected word to the other words in the phrase.

Both phrases from the Polytechnic dictionary are immediately displayed in the main window. You don't have to search for them. The single word translation(s) appear below the collocations.

легкий прил
lightweight

MULTITRAN: