



Corpus linguistics of the vernacular:

“catching a cold” in text types that complement Google Books data

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—**CADOH**—
**Corpus of
American
Discourses
On
Health**

Text Types	
talk shows	op-ed letters
movie scripts	magazines
online forums	short stories
radio broadcasts	blogs/comments

Causes Mentioned in 233 “catch/caught a cold” Tokens	
cold/wet/chilly	51%
virus	25%
no cause mentioned	19%
other causes	4%

- 1) “You know, you don’t get a **cold** by going out in the **cold** weather after a shower despite what my mother told me.” (TV talk show, 2002)
- 2) “Good night, kids. Don't catch **cold** -- it's gettin' **cold** already.” (Movie transcript, 1999)
- 3) “you can not catch a **cold** from being **cold** you catch a cold from germs” (Online answer forum, 2010)
- 4) “One of the worst things she used to do was turn off the **air conditioner** on 95 degree days because she didn't want to catch a **cold**.” (Cosmopolitan magazine, 2002)
- 5) “You could go outdoors with **wet hair** every day and you wouldn't catch a **cold** – provided you're a hermit.” (Men’s Health magazine, 2003)

