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English Collocations in Use

Методичні рекомендації
з вивчення колокацій англійської мови



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Методичні рекомендації укладено з метою ознайомлення цільової аудиторії з особливостями вживання в англійській мові колокацій – стійких словосполучень, які мають ознаки синтаксично і семантично цілісної одиниці. Вивчення колокацій має бути пріоритетом під час вивчення англійської мови. Досконале володіння англійською мовою передбачає не лише вивчення лексики і граматики, але й знання стійких словосполучень. Це дозволяє розуміти носіїв мови та висловлюватися природно. Збагачення власного лексикону готовими комбінаціями забезпечує бездоганну комунікацію у всіх її проявах: читання, говоріння, письмо, сприйняття на слух.

Методичні рекомендації складаються з 21 тематичного розділу. Кожен розділ містить текст, в якому англійські колокації подаються з поясненнями та у природному контексті. Після тексту рекомендується виконати завдання на перевірку рівня засвоєння тематичного набору сталих виразів.

Рекомендовано для використання під час мовної практики, практичних занять та самостійної роботи з англійської мови здобувачами вищої освіти денної та заочної форми навчання. Стане у нагоді для викладачів англійської мови, здобувачів вищої освіти, а також для усіх, хто вивчає англійську мову чи готується до складання міжнародних іспитів з англійської мови, таких як Cambridge FCE, CAE, CPE and IELTS.

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Introduction

Collocations are combinations of words which frequently appear together. These combinations just sound "right" to native English speakers, who use them all the time. On the other hand, other combinations may be unnatural and just sound "wrong". A good knowledge of collocations (typical word combinations) is essential for fluent and natural-sounding English. Using collocations will improve your style of written and spoken English. Knowledge of collocations is often tested in examinations such as Cambridge FCE, CAE, CPE and IELTS.

These guidelines contain explanations and practice of English collocations for intermediate-level (B1 to B2) learners of English. They are useful for both self-study and classroom activities as they give hundreds of collocations in typical contexts to the following topics:

- Family
- Relationships
- Appearance
- Character & Behavior
- Feelings
- Houses and Apartments
- Eating
- Movies / Books
- Music
- Sports
- Health & Sickness
- Computers
- Study
- Academic English
- Work
- Business
- Money

- Travel
- Weather
- City
- Countryside

Each Unit presents a definite topic. First, it is recommended to study the text which contains the most popular topical collocations. Then, it is useful to do the task after the text to practice the collocations suggested. As an additional task, students can make their own sentences or stories using the collocations under study.

How words work together for fluent and natural English:

natural English	unnatural English
the fast train	the quick train
fast food	quick food
a quick shower	a fast shower
a quick meal	a fast meal
make friends	get friends
make mistakes	do mistakes
make an effort	do an effort
do homework	make homework

Why learn collocations?

- Your language will be more natural and more easily understood.
- You will have alternative and richer ways of expressing yourself.
- It is easier for our brains to remember and use language in chunks or blocks rather than as single words.
 - You will gain higher scores in academic exams because it will help to vary your speech or your writing.
 - You will improve your comprehensive reading skills when you read academic books or articles which are written by skillful writers.

How to learn collocations

- Be aware of collocations, and try to recognize them when you see or hear them.

- Treat collocations as single blocks of language. Think of them as individual blocks or chunks, and learn *strongly support*, not strongly + support.

When you learn a new word, write down other words that collocate with it (*remember rightly, remember distinctly, remember vaguely, remember vividly*).

- Read as much as possible. Reading is an excellent way to learn vocabulary and collocations in context and naturally.

- Revise what you learn regularly. Practise using new collocations in context as soon as possible after learning them.

- Learn collocations in groups that work for you. You could learn them by topic (family, weather, work, money, sports, travel, health, computers, etc) or by a particular word (*take action, take a chance, take an exam*).

- You can find information on collocations in any good learner's dictionary. And you can also find specialized dictionaries of collocations.

Types of collocation

There are several different types of collocation made from combinations of verb, noun, adjective etc. Some of the most common types are:

- **adverb + adjective:** completely satisfied bitterly cold, badly hurt, bitterly disappointed, fully aware, utterly stupid, fast asleep, seriously ill, etc.

- **adjective + noun:** empty promise, tough question, alternative medicine, bad breath, bad temper, big brother, big money, regular exercise, clean energy, common knowledge, bright idea, broken home, casual clothes, etc.

- **noun + noun:** action movie, abuse of power, block of flats, contact details, desk job, interest rate, job opportunity, junk food, living conditions, etc.

- **verb + noun:** commit suicide launch a product, play a joke/trick, create opportunities, do homework, make the bed, abuse drugs, accept a challenge, accept an apology, commit murder, etc.

- **noun + verb:** phone rings, lion roars, the plane took off, etc.

- **verb + expression with preposition:** burst into tears, run out of money, be filled with horror.
- **verb + adverb:** eat properly, need badly, try hard, do likewise, fight hard, read aloud, whisper softly, vaguely remember, etc.
- **adverb + adverb:** all along, almost certainly, far away, hardly ever, just now, long ago, quite a lot/a bit, right away, straight ahead, quite often, etc.
- **adjective + adjective:** boiling hot, neat and tidy, safe and sound, black and white, right or wrong, etc.
- **verb + verb:** can't afford, can't help, can't stand, don't care, don't mind, keep going, make believe, etc.

Sample Collocations

Below you can see sample sentences with the main types of collocation:

1. adverb + adjective

- Invading that country was an **utterly stupid** thing to do.
- We entered a **richly decorated** room.
- Are you **fully aware** of the implications of your action?

2. adjective + noun

- The doctor ordered him to take **regular exercise**.
- The Titanic sank on its **maiden voyage**.
- He was writhing on the ground in **excruciating pain**.

3. noun + noun

- Let's give Mr Jones a **round of applause**.
- The **ceasefire agreement** came into effect at 11am.
- I'd like to buy two **bars of soap** please.

4. verb + noun

- The prisoner was hanged for **committing murder**.
- I always try to **do my homework** in the morning, after **making my bed**.
- He has been asked to **give a presentation** about his work.

5. noun + verb

- The **lion** started **to roar** when it heard the **dog barking**.
- **Snow was falling** as our **plane took off**.
- The **bomb went off** when he started the car engine.

6. verb + expression with preposition

- We had to return home because we **had run out of money**.
- At first her eyes **filled with horror**, and then she **burst into tears**.
- Their behaviour was enough to **drive anybody to crime**.

7. verb + adverb

- She **placed** her keys **gently** on the table and sat down.
- Mary **whispered softly** in John's ear.
- I **vaguely remember** that it was growing dark when we left.

8. adverb + adverb

- He is unemployed and **down and out**.
- It's your last chance, I am afraid. It's **now or never**.
- **Sooner or later** he will realize that she is not the woman for him.

9. adjective + adjective

- I am **sick and tired** at hearing you complain.
- Despite flying through a storm we arrived **safe and sound**.
- Make sure all is **neat and tidy**!

10. verb + verb

- He **can't stand** pain any more.
- I **don't mind** your smoking here.
- Playing with a baby he **couldn't help** smiling.

Improve your fluency and sound more natural in English. Learn collocations in context, with lots of the topics suggested. Be confident about what you are learning and how English is really spoken and written, thanks to these guidelines. Get better at studying by yourself, with study tips and follow-up activities. Learning correct word combinations will also help you avoid common errors.

Unit 1: Family



Let's begin our study of collocations by learning some common expressions about the family. Your parents and siblings (brothers and sisters) are your **immediate family** – and your **extended family** includes all your relatives – uncles, cousins, great-aunts, etc.

You can use a **family tree** to diagram the relationships among your **family members**. A person who is related to you by a long series of connections can be called a **distant relative**.

If you're lucky, you have a **loving family** or a **close-knit family** – these expressions refer to a family that has good relationships, where everyone loves each other and helps each other. If you were raised in a loving family, then you probably had a **carefree childhood** – that means you had nothing to worry about when you were young.

On the other hand, a family in which the relationships are bad or unhealthy can be called a **dysfunctional family**. If the children experience abuse, poverty, or problems with the law, we can say they had a **troubled childhood**.

Perhaps the parents went through a **bitter divorce** – that means a separation in which there were bad/angry feelings between the husband and wife. It's also possible to have a **messy divorce**, with a prolonged legal battle involving lots of conflicts about the separation of the former couple's assets (money and possessions). The decisions about the separation of assets are made in the **divorce settlement**. A family in which there are divorces or separations is sometimes called a **broken home**.

Sometimes the mother and father fight over **custody** of the children – that refers to who has the primary responsibility of caring for the kids. A judge can **grant joint custody** – that means the ex-husband and ex-wife share the responsibility or **sole custody** to only one parent. For example, a judge might **award sole custody** to the mother, and the father has to **pay child support** – regular payments to help with expenses for the kids.

If it was a **mutual divorce/separation** – that means the ex-husband and ex-wife agreed to separate without fighting – then they will probably stay **on good terms with each other** (meaning to have a polite relationship without conflicts).

If a woman **gets pregnant** without being married or in a relationship, then she will become a **single mother**. Some women in this situation choose to **have an abortion**, and others prefer to **give the baby up for adoption**. The time when the baby is planned to arrive is called the **due date** – you can also say the **baby is due** in mid-October, for example.

After the woman **has the baby** (or **gives birth** to the baby), the baby is **given to the adoptive parents**, who will **raise the child** or **bring up the child** as if it was their own. Sometimes, when the **adopted child** is older, he or she tries to find their **birth mother** (biological mother).

Task 1

Circle the best word to complete each sentence:

1. A friend of mine **gave / took / went** birth to her son at home with the help of a nurse.
2. A number of the kids in my classroom come from **broken / damaged / hurt** homes.
3. After a **hostile / cruel / bitter** divorce from his wife of 20 years, the actor married a woman young enough to be his daughter.
4. I see my **excepted / expanded / extended** family once a year, during our annual family vacation.

5. I was raised in a very **joyful / loving / tender** family, in which everyone helped each other.

6. I was **created / grown / raised** by my grandparents after my parents passed away.

7. I'm on good **friends / relations / terms** with all my former boyfriends.

8. John had a **carefree / careful / careless** childhood, growing up with happily married parents and three brothers.

9. Many women regret **giving / having / taking** an abortion years afterwards.

10. My aunt's going through a **messy / sloppy / untidy** divorce; she's paying a fortune in legal fees.

11. My husband doesn't get along with a few of my family **people / individuals / members**.

12. Although my salary is low, I get child **assistance / provision / support** from my ex-husband.

13. My sister **got / had / made** pregnant immediately after she got married.

14. My son is making a diagram of our family **roots / tree / web** for a school project.

15. My wife is pregnant with twins. They're **come / due / here** in February.

16. Sally was granted sole **custody / guardian / keeping** of the children from her first marriage.

17. Teenagers who had a **distressed / troubled / worsened** childhood often have behavior problems in school.

18. The celebrity wrote a book about his **debilitated / defective / dysfunctional** family.

19. The divorce **contract / reimbursement / settlement** awarded the wife \$500,000.

20. There are four people in my **close / immediate / neighboring** family.

21. They have three biological children and two **adopted / adoptive / adopting** children.