

available	go ahead	keep in touch	absolutely
urge	estimate	reunion	hang out
destination	or something	go by	every now and then
mostly	know by heart	right away	reference

- 1) There was no wind and the oak tree behind the house was standing absolutely still.
- 2) If you don't want to buy a kite, you can make your own using directions available in books at your local library.
- 3) The girl walked steadily north, pausing every now and then to check her direction.
- 4) The trade unions are urging / urged employers to invest more money in staff training.
- 5) As a sailing ship has a destination, so we must have a definite goal in our life.
- 6) Before people knew how to make and use metals, engineering constructions were mostly built of wood or stone.
- 7) You'll probably find Dave at the school disco — he often hangs out there.
- 8) If your house has been broken into, don't touch anything. Call the police right away.
- 9) We had a family reunion where I saw relatives I hadn't seen for 20 years.
- 10) I guess Henry has been busy writing an article or something recently. That's why he couldn't accept the invitation.
- 11) Scientists estimate that smoking reduces life expectancy by around 12 years on average.
- 12) Although it is unlikely that everyone will be able to come, they are still going ahead with the plan to hold a class reunion.

- 1) He seemed to be still anxious about his failure in the examination.
(on one's mind)

It seemed that his failure in the examination was still on his mind.

- 2) The sight of his team losing in the final minutes of the game left him so upset that he was completely unable to say a word. (choke up)

He was completely choked up by the sight of his team losing in the final minutes of the game.

- 3) Her study so fully occupied her that she forgot to have dinner.

(be lost in)

She was so lost in study that she forgot to have dinner.

- 4) I am afraid I won't be able to accomplish the project on time because something has unexpectedly happened.

(come up)

Something has come up and I am afraid I won't be able to accomplish the project on time.

- 5) They calculated that the cost of equipping the new hospital would probably be \$2 million.

(estimate)

The cost of equipping the new hospital was estimated at \$2 million.

Model:

We should all _____ with old friends more than we do. But things _____ we just don't seem to find the time. (keep in touch, come up)

We should all keep in touch with old friends more than we do. But things come up and we just don't seem to find the time.

- 1) A couple of flights at Pudong airport were postponed this morning because of the awful weather. It is estimated that over one thousand passengers were held up. (awful, postpone, estimate)

- 2) My professor assigned me some reference books on computer science to read.

Unfortunately they are not available in our school library. I am kind of worried about it. (available, kind of, reference)

- 3) Michael is not much of a teacher. He often skips from one subject to another so it is difficult for his students to follow him. Besides he just lets them go ahead with exercises without making sure they have understood what they are expected to do.

(skip, go ahead, not much of a)

noun + preposition

In this unit we are going to focus on noun and preposition collocations. Many nouns often have dependent prepositions which simply have to be learnt together, such as a couple of, delight at, a reputation for.

1. I noticed she avoids making any reference to her first husband in her latest book.
2. The railway industry must keep pace with the growing demand for transportation.
3. Ann has a fine reputation for being an old hand at cooking Italian food.
4. Reading letters from childhood friends often reminds me of the days we spent together collecting sea-shells on the beach and gathering wild fruit in the woods.
5. Bill's lecture aroused our interest in IT, i.e. information technology.
6. Professor Smith's devotion to teaching has made a deep impression on all the students in her department.
7. My parents called me yesterday offering me their congratulations on my good record.
8. Having lived in this neighborhood for about ten years, the old man valued his friendship with his neighbor Peter.

Have you ever thought about questions like these? We can say *a table leg*, but why NOT "a man leg"? It is possible to say *little food left*, *no washing machine available at the store*, but why NOT "little left food", "no available washing machine at the store"? It is correct to say *All children love sweets*, *All of them enjoyed the party*, but why NOT "All of children love sweets", "All they enjoyed the party"?

Problems of this kind are, as a matter of fact, related to usage. Usage deals with the way particular words are used in a language. As English usage often causes difficulties for Chinese students, we must be careful with it.

Ways of making an opinion sound less definite

Now we are going to focus on ways of making an opinion sound less definite. When you are describing something in a vague or uncertain way you often use the following expressions:

something, or something, kind of / sort of, more or less

1. We're expecting 150 guests at the party, more or less.
2. I've kind of / sort of heard of him, but I don't know who he is.
3. Something has happened to worry him, but we don't know what it is.

4. He wasn't sure why but he felt kind of / sort of sorry for her.
5. It will take more or less a whole day to paint the ceiling.
6. I thought I heard Mom say Martin saved a child from drowning or something.

NSIVE EXERCISES

Poor old Ed. It made me all choked up (1) when I heard the news about his death. He meant an awful (2) lot to me. We had known each other practically (3) all our lives, ever since we grew up in the same neighborhood (4). I should have written to him before, but I'm not much good at correspondence (5). All my available (6) time is taken up driving the cab. I'm on the go all day, driving from one destination (7) to another. We used to get together, but it's been a long time since our last reunion (8). Mostly (9) we just kept in touch with the occasional card. I'd been meaning to write a proper letter for a long time, but kept postponing (10) it. Then last week I finally got round to it, only to get the bad news just as I was on my way to the mail box. Whoever says you should never put off till tomorrow what you can do today is absolutely (11) right.

When he got the call that his son was ill in California and not expected to live for long, Bill didn't know how (1) he was going to get the money for his wife and himself to make the trip. Bill had worked as a truck driver his entire life, but he never managed to have any savings (2).

So with embarrassment (3) Bill walked the mile to the filling station (加油站) and told the owner, "My son is really sick and I've got no cash. Can you trust (赊账给) me for the phone call to California?"

"Pick up the phone (4) and talk as long as you need to," was the answer. As he started to dial (拨电话号码), he was interrupted (5) by a stranger, jumping down from the

cab (驾驶室) of a truck and asking, "Aren't you Bill Beasley? Your son was one of my best friends when we were growing up together. When I went off to college, I lost touch (6) with him. Heard you say he's sick?"

After the call Bill was told that that truck driver had paid for it and left him an envelope (7). He opened it and pulled out two pieces of paper. One read, "You were the first truck driver my dad trusted enough to let me go along with." The second one was a signed (8) check with an attached message (9): "Fill out the amount needed (10) for you and your wife to make the trip. Merry Christmas!"

message	interrupted	operate	envelope	embarrassment
signed	touch	how	communicated	phone
anxiety	needed	urged	savings	correspondence

- 1) 半个小时过去了, 但末班车还没来。我们只好走回家。(go by)
Half an hour **had gone by**, but the last bus hadn't come yet. We had to walk home.
- 2) 玛丽看上去对汉语考试很担心, 因为她还没有背熟课文。(learn ... by heart)
Mary looks as if she is very worried about the Chinese exam because she hasn't **learned the texts by heart**.
- 3) 既然篮球赛已被推迟, 我们不妨去参观博物馆。(postpone)
Since the basketball match has been **postponed**, we might as well visit the museum.
- 4) 整个二次世界大战期间他一直和父母住在澳大利亚。(all the way)
He stayed in Australia with his parents **all the way** through World War II.
- 5) 自1985年从南京大学毕业至今, 可以说我与我的大学同学失去了联系。(kind of, lose touch)
Since I graduated from Nanjing University in 1985, I have **lost touch** with my classmates.

和远方的朋友保持联系不是一件容易的事。对我来说，情形就是这样。

离开旧街区和朋友们的朋友们已有几年了。我一直打算给他们写信，可是总有这样那样的事儿，似乎就是抽不出空。但是我一直记挂着他们，我想我今后一定会努力与他们保持通信联系的。

a couple of keep in touch with come up neighborhood
on one's mind keep up correspondence

It is not easy to **keep in touch with** friends when they are far away. This is certainly true in my case.

It has been **a couple of** years since I left my old **neighborhood** and all the friends I had there. I've been meaning to write to them but something or other **comes up** and I just don't seem to find the time. They are always **on my mind**, however, and I think I will certainly make an effort to **keep up correspondence** with them in future.