

associate	tackle	agony	put down
vivid	respectable	sequence	distribute
off and on	finally	extraordinary	rigid
reputation	hold back	tedious	turn in

- 1) Alan was always in trouble with the police when he was young but he's now a respectable married man.
- 2) The people who had been hurt in the car accident lay screaming in agony.
- 3) Because his condition's not serious they've put his name down on the hospital waiting list.
- 4) The second part of the book describes the strange sequence of events that lead to the King's fall from power.
- 5) When I saw my little boy crying bitterly over the death of his pet

- dog, I could hardly hold back my tears.
- 6) They are going to distribute those clothes and blankets among the flood victims (受害者).
- 7) Linda managed to support herself by working off and on as a waitress.
- 8) Parts of my childhood are so vivid to me that they could be memories of yesterday.
- 9) People often associate the old days with good times, and seem to forget the hardship they suffered.
- 10) Andrew finally decided, after much thought, to leave his job.
- 11) Jane's worried she won't be able to turn in her paper on time.
- 12) The President came under attack from all sides for his inability to tackle the country's severe social problems.

- 1) They have sent George to the newspaper's Paris office. (assign)
George has been assigned to the newspaper's Paris office.
- 2) What the man told us was well beyond what was usual, so I didn't know whether to believe him or not. (extraordinary)
The man's story was so extraordinary that I didn't know whether to believe him or not.
- 3) A clear picture was formed in her mind of how she would look in twenty years' time. (image)
She had a clear image of how she would look in twenty years' time.
- 4) On an order from the officer the soldiers opened fire. (command)
When the officer gave the command the soldiers opened fire.
- 5) We'll keep producing bikes as long as they remain in demand. (turn out)
As long as people keep buying bikes we'll keep turning them out.

Model:

Lying on the sofa, the boy finally _____ the unwelcome task, took the homework sheet out of his notebook, and _____. (scan, face up to)
Lying on the sofa, the boy finally *faced up to* the unwelcome task, took the home-work sheet out of his notebook, and *scanned it*.

- 1) Mr. Green has a reputation as a dull lecturer. He's rigid and old-fashioned, and doesn't seem to have the faintest idea of how to inspire.

2) David's essays are long and tedious to read. What's more his arguments are often based on out of date ideas.

(out of date, what's more, tedious)

3) I was pleasantly surprised at my ability to compose an essay that the professor chose to read to the class. It was without doubt one of the happiest moments in my school career, but I did my best to avoid showing pleasure. When the professor offered me his congratulations, however, I could hardly hold back a smile.

(career, avoid, compose, hold back)

Context

In most cases, writers try to avoid repeating the same words or phrases, using, instead, words that are similar in meaning in that particular context. Here are some examples from the text:

1. *I found English grammar dull and difficult.*
... *in that most tedious of subjects.*
2. *The topic on which my eyes stopped ...*
This title produced ...
3. *I would write something else for Mr. Fleagle ...*
... *no time left to compose a proper, respectable essay for Mr. Fleagle.*

1. Many people know who *wrote* the song, but it seems none has any idea of who composed the music.
2. The first time she met the class, Miss White wore a severe black dress and *plain* black shoes.
3. Our neighbor's seven-year-old son has got a *severe pain* in his chest. Last night we heard him crying off and on in agony.
4. My cousin first met his future wife Ruth in *very unusual* circumstances — they were both trying to get into the same taxi. I often think the whole thing was quite extraordinary.
5. The policeman asked the old lady to try to recall as much about the accident as possible, but all she could *remember* was seeing a car racing in her direction and her husband knocked down.
6. In the old days *orders* from the head of a family had to be obeyed. His wish was taken as a command.
7. When my car was stopped by the police, I suddenly had a

- some traffic rule or other without realizing it. Then I heard one of them say I was violating the law by not wearing a seat belt.
8. Jim did not anticipate any trouble, but we considered everything carefully and *expected* the worst.

You have learned quite a few English collocations, probably without realizing it. For example, you can say "He is **good at** math", but **NOT** "He is good with math"; "I prefer **black tea** (红茶)", but **NOT** "I prefer red tea". Similarly, you can say "I was **bored with / by** his lectures", but **NOT** "I was bored at his lectures"; you can say "The teacher **assigned** a lot of homework **to** the class" or "... **assigned** the class a lot of homework", but **NOT** "... assigned a lot of homework for the class"; you can say "**Congratulations on** your success", but **NOT** "Congratulations to / for your success". Collocation is, therefore, the way in which some words are often used together, or a regular combination of words.

To improve your English, it is very important to have a good command of collocation. For it will help you use words in an appropriate and idiomatic way.

adjective + preposition

Now we are going to focus on adjective and preposition collocations. Many adjectives go with a particular preposition in a certain context, such as **afraid of**, **interested in**.

1. My sister was angry at finding me asleep instead of doing my share of the housework.
2. Adam is so hungry for success that he'll spare no efforts to achieve it.
3. I'm tired of you telling me what to do all the time.
4. You'll have to be patient with my aunt — she's old and forgetful.
5. Virginia is famous as the birthplace of American presidents.
6. Are you all clear now about what you have to do?
7. Their views on the question are opposite to ours.
8. Fats and sugar are very rich in energy but poor in vitamins and minerals.
9. When I finally met him, I found he was completely different from his photograph.
10. How much you get paid is dependent on / upon how much you produce.

Dear Aunt Pat,

Dec.1, 1943

Today my English teacher chose my essay to read to the class. I had tried to make it funny — and it worked! Everybody laughed. Even prim Mr. Fleagle had to struggle to hold back (1) a smile. Afterwards lots of people offered me their congratulations.

I was more surprised than anybody. As you know, I used to find our English exercises rather tedious (2), but this time when I scanned (3) the list of essay titles one caught my eye. It was “The Art of Eating Spaghetti.” Do you recall (4) that night in Belleville when you made us all spaghetti? It remains vivid (5) to me. Especially all the good-humored arguments we had about the proper way to eat it. So that’s what I wrote about.

I’ve had the idea off and on (6) for some time now that one day I might take up writing. If I can turn out/in (7) more work like that perhaps I really will be able to make a career (8) of it.

Best wishes,
Russell

About twenty of us schoolchildren had been fortunate enough to receive invitations to a film-studio (电影摄影棚) to take part in a crowd-scene. Although our “act” would only last (1) for three minutes, we were given the opportunity to see quite a number of interesting things.

Soon after we arrived, bright lights were turned on. Since it was very hot in the studio, it came as a surprise (2) to us to see one of the actors put on a heavy overcoat. He pulled (3) a hat down over his eyes, put his hands in his pockets, and started walking along a winding path. A big fan began blowing (4) small white feathers down on him, and soon the bare trees were covered in “snow”. Two more fans were turned on, and a “strong wind” whistled through

the trees. The first actor was dragging through the snow when the second, dressed (5) as a beggar, began walking towards him trembling with cold.

The next scene (6) was a complete contrast (对照). The way it was filmed was quite extraordinary (7). Pictures taken on an island in the Indian Ocean were shown on a glass screen. An actor and an actress stood in front of the image (8) so that they looked as if they were at the water's edge on an island.

Since it was our turn (9) next, we were left wondering what scene would be prepared for us. For a full three minutes in our lives we would be experiencing the excitement (10) of being film "stars"!

instructions	dressed	image	surprise	excitement
scene	shaking	pulled	blowing	sequence
turn	extraordinary	severe	last	anticipate

1) 那是个正规宴会,我照妈妈对我讲的那样穿着礼服去了。(formal)
As it was a formal dinner party, I wore formal dress, as Mother told me to.

2) 他的女友劝他趁抽烟的坏习惯尚未根深蒂固之前把它改掉。
 (take hold)
His girlfriend advised him to get out off/get rid of his bad habit of smoking before it took hold.

3) 他们预料到下几个月电的需求量很大, 决定增加生产。(anticipate)
Anticipating that the demand for electricity will be high during the next few months, they have decided to increase its production.

4) 据说比尔因一再违反公司的安全规章而被解雇。(violate)
It is said that Bill has been fired for continually violating the company's safety rules. / Bill is said to have been fired for continually violating the company's safety rules.

5) 据报道地方政府已采取适当措施避免严重缺水(water shortage)的可能性。(avoid, severe)
It is reported that the government has taken proper measures to avoid the possibility of a severe water shortage. / The local government is reported to have taken proper measures to avoid the possibility of a severe water shortage.

苏珊(Susan)因车祸失去了双腿。有一段时间，她真不知如何面对自己再也不能行走的事实。

一天，苏珊在浏览杂志时，被一个真实故事吸引住了。那个故事生动地描写了一个残疾(disabled)姑娘是如何成为一位作家的。苏珊读后深受鼓舞，开始相信她最终也会成为一个有用的人生活下去。

inspire

vivid

scan

face up to

finally

*Susan lost her legs because of / in a car accident. For a time, she didn't know how to **face up to** the fact that she would never (be able to) walk again.*

*One day, while **scanning** (through) some magazines, a true story caught her eye/she was attracted by a true story. It gave a **vivid** description of how a disabled girl became a writer. Greatly **inspired**, Susan began to feel that she, too, would **finally** be able to lead a useful life.*