



# Paragraph Writing

A collocation is a familiar grouping of words, especially words that habitually appear together and thereby convey meaning by association.

Example

a light wind, a faint smell, a heavy smoker, wide awake, sound asleep, fast asleep, broad accent, broad agreement

# Collocations



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".

Look at these examples:

natural English...

the fast train  
fast food

a quick shower  
a quick meal

unnatural English...

the ~~quick~~ train  
~~quick~~ food

a ~~fast~~ shower  
a ~~fast~~ meal

1. A collocation is two or more words that

A. often go together

B. have similar meanings

C. must be used together

## **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 collectively rather than as single words.

## How to learn collocations

- Be **aware**,
- try to **recognize** them when you see or hear them.
- 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.
- Revise and practice
- Learn collocations in groups that work for you.

If you learn and use many collocations, your English will sound

- A. more unusual
- B. more grammatical
- C. more natural

# TYPES

## 1. adverb + adjective

- 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**.
- He was writhing on the ground in **excruciating pain**.

## •3. noun + noun

- Let's give Mr Jones a **round of applause**.
- I'd like to buy two **bars of soap** please.



#### 4. noun + verb

- The **lion** started **to roar** when it heard the **dog barking**.
- The **bomb went off** when he started the car engine.

#### 5. verb + noun

- 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.

#### 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**.

#### 7. verb + adverb

- Mary **whispered softly** in John's ear.
- I **vaguely remember** that it was growing dark when we left.

Which is a common adverb + adjective collocation?

A. richly decorated

B. richly wealthy

C. greedily rich

# Examples of Collocation

## Collocations

- below normal
- pick you up
- do your hair
- make a noise - create disturbance
- break down - To cry, to weep
- Key issue – Important issue

**Choose which one of the following verbs (Miss, Get, Do and Make) goes well with the expressions below:**

- |                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| a) _____ a goal         | b) _____ peace            |
| c) _____ lost           | d) _____ a home           |
| e) _____ an appointment | f) _____ a lesson         |
| g) _____ homework       | h) _____ the cooking      |
| i) _____ ready          | j) _____ progress         |
| k) _____ someone's help | l) _____ nothing          |
| m) _____ an effort      | n) _____ one's best       |
| o) _____ furniture      | p) _____ the shopping     |
| q) _____ trouble        | r) _____ someone a favour |

**Rearrange the words in a sentence, following the rules of collocation:**

- a. At /my teacher, but then the/ first I couldn't understand/ lessons became easier.
- b. We know/ and it's all in/ about the problem, /hand.
- c. The new /good at/ line!/ keeping /teacher isn't very/ the students in.
- d. She's a bit on /as the company/edge at the moment/ is downsizing.
- e. Food is getting /which has been under /scarce in the city, /siege for the last month.

# Choose Correct Collocation

- He \_\_\_\_\_ laughter when he realised his mistake.

A. Exploded in

B. broke in

C. burst into

D. broke into

# Collocations

- go astray - become lost
- round of applause- a show of appreciation
- take an exam - write an exam
- keep in touch - stay in contact with someone
- richly decorated - Beautifully decorated
- burst into tears - to cry
- run out of time - to have no time left
- save a seat- reserve a seat
- come to a decision making - a final decision about something
- a quick meal - a meal that does not require much time to get prepared
- Take time - make time for something
- Take charge- become responsible
- get over something – to forget