

COMMUNICATION

Advanced collocations

LEVEL

Intermediate (B2)

NUMBER

EN_B2_3073X

LANGUAGE

English



Learning outcomes

- I can identify and recall some collocations with the verbs *to hit*, *to run*, *to play*, *to set* and *to draw*.
- I can accurately use these collocations within a conversation.





Warm-up

How many collocations can you think of for the verbs below?

For example: **hit** the road

1

hit

2

run

3

play

Advanced collocations with *hit*

Complete the example sentences (a-e) with the correct collocation (1-5). You might have to change the form of the verb. Then, **rephrase** each collocation in your own words.

1

hit the shops

2

hit the headlines

3

hit the road

4

hit the sack

5

hit the ground running

a

The story about the earthquake in California

b

I really wanted to _____ at my new job, so I worked as hard as possible.

c

I need a new outfit for the wedding. I guess I'll _____ this weekend!

d

I am exhausted, goodnight everyone, I'm _____!

e

I'm really tired, I think we will _____ soon, I want to be home before midnight.

More advanced collocations with *hit*

hit the roof



My mum was furious when she heard about the party, she really **hit the roof!**

hit the nail on the head



That's exactly what he should do, you've really **hit the nail on the head!**

don't know what hit you



Before I knew it, I was the owner of a dog. I **don't know what hit me**, I didn't intend to adopt him, but I couldn't resist!



Collocations with **set**

Had you heard any of these collocations (1-5) before?

Match the collocation to the correct example sentence.

1 **set an alarm**

2 **set a bad example**

3 **set a goal**

4 **set conditions**

5 **set the table**

a Lisa, please finish all your vegetables, don't _____ to your little sister!

b We have to _____ for the sale. We need a minimum offer price of €50,000.

c I've _____ of learning ten new English words a day!

d Could someone _____ please? Dinner is almost ready!

e We have to get up really early tomorrow so I think we should _____.



Using collocations

Write your answers to the questions below into the chat..

Choose one of your classmate's answers and ask them a follow-up questions.

Do you **set an alarm** in the mornings?

What **goals have you set** recently?

Have you ever **hit the roof**?

How often do you **hit the shops**?

What do you consider **setting a bad example**?

What time do you normally **hit the sack**?



Categorise the collocations

Which phrase goes with which verb?

1

...some comfort
from

2

...it safe

3

...a comparison

4

... out of time

5

...attention to

6

...it cool

7

... the risk of

8

...with fire

9

... it by ear

10

...breath

draw

run

play



Fill in the gaps

Complete the sentences using the collocations in the red box.

- 1 I think we can _____ between the two situations, they have similar causes.
- 2 I'm sorry you didn't get the job but at least you can _____ knowing you did well.
- 3 If we don't act fast, we _____ losing the sale, I think they need to secure something as soon as possible.
- 4 Thank you all so much for attending. I'm afraid we have _____ so please address any further questions to our speakers by email.
- 5 We don't have any plans for the holiday, we're just going to take it as it comes and _____.

- (a) run out of time
- (b) draw comfort from
- (c) draw a comparison
- (d) play it by ear
- (e) run the risk of



Playing it cool

**Why is it
sometimes a good
idea to play it cool?**

**When might you do this?
Have you ever done this?**





Discuss

Complete the activity **in breakout rooms** or **as a class**.

If using breakout rooms, share one thing that you learned about a classmate when you return to the main group.

- 1 **Describe** a time when you **played it safe** and another time when you **played with fire**.
- 2 If you could go back, **would you change anything** about how you acted?
- 3 In general, are you someone who likes to take **risks**, or are you more **cautious**?





Test your memory!

Your teacher will set a timer for **2 minutes**.

Write down as many collocations from today's lesson as you can remember for these verbs.
Who remembered the most?

1

run

2

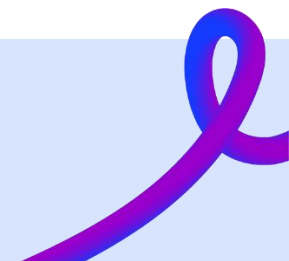
draw

3

set

4

play





End of the lesson

Idiom

It goes without saying

Meaning: use this when something is obvious

Example: It goes without saying that you'll stay with us, right?



Additional practice



Respond to the statements

Read the statements. **Answer** the questions in the red box.

Here are some of the collocations you learned in today's lesson. Respond to the statements, using the prompts below to get you started:

- Do you know anyone who talks a lot, and very fast? What is it like to make conversation with them?
- Do you read the headlines every day? How does it make you feel?
- Do you have siblings? Are you the oldest, youngest or a middle child? How important is it to set an example?

*She talks so much and so fast that she barely stops to **draw breath**!*

*This is just the latest disaster to **hit the headlines**. I can't keep up with all this bad news.*

*The older siblings always **set an example** for the younger ones.*



Help out a friend

Complete the activity below.



Your best friend is learning English but they really are struggling with learning advanced collocations. You offer to help them...

Pick six of your favourite advanced collocations.

Now **tell** a story from your life using the advanced collocation. This will really help your friend as then they can see the advanced collocation in use!



Writing activity

Write at least 200 words on the **subject of your choice** using as many advanced collocations as you can.



Answer key

P.4: 1. (c) 2. (a) 3. (e) 4. (d) 5. (b)

P.6: 1. (e) 2. (a) 3. (c) 4. (b) 5. (d)

P.8: draw 1, 3, 5, 10 run 4, 7 play 2, 6, 8, 9

P.9: 1. (c) 2. (b) 3. (e) 4. (a) 5. (d)



Summary

Collocations with *hit*:

- *hit the shops; hit the headlines; hit the road; hit the sack; hit the ground running; hit the roof; hit the nail on the head; don't know what hit you*
- *We need to **hit the road** early to avoid traffic.*
- *Dean **hit the roof** when he saw how messy the house was.*

Collocations with *set*:

- *set an alarm; set a bad example; set a goal; set conditions; set the table*
- *Arriving late **sets a bad example** to the pupils.*
- *Please **set the table** for dinner.*



Vocabulary

hit the shops

hit the headlines

hit the road

hit the sack

hit the ground running

hit the roof

hit the nail on the head

don't know what hit you

set an alarm

set a bad example

set a goal

set conditions

set the table

