

Advanced collocations

GRAMMAR

LEVEL
Intermediate

NUMBER
EN_BE_3A18G

LANGUAGE
English





Goals

- Can identify and recall some collocations with the verbs 'to hit', 'to run', 'to play', 'to set' and 'to draw'.
- Can accurately use these collocations within a work or business conversation.







Preview and warm-up!

- In this class you will learn lots of **advanced collocations**.
- You will also learn some additional **business-related collocations**.



What **advanced collocations** do you already know?



Advanced collocations with *hit*

hit the shops

I need a new outfit for my sister's wedding so I'm going to **hit the shops** this weekend!



hit the headlines

The story about the earthquake in California **hit the headlines**.



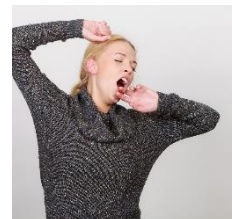
hit the road

I am really tired, I think we will **hit the road** soon, I want to be home before midnight.



hit the sack

I am exhausted, goodnight everyone, I'm going to **hit the sack**!





Advanced collocations with *hit*

hit the ground running

I really wanted to **hit the ground running** at my new job, so I worked as hard as possible.



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!





Advanced collocations with *set*

set an alarm

We have to get up really early tomorrow so I think we should **set an alarm**.



set a bad example

Lisa, please finish all your vegetables, don't **set a bad example** for your little sister!



set a goal

I've **set myself the goal** of learning ten new English words a day!



set conditions

We have **set some conditions** for the sale, we need a minimum offer price of €50,000 and they need to be able to move in this winter.





Using collocations

Answer the questions below using advanced collocations.





Practise some more!



Of the advanced collocations you have learnt so far, which 3 do you find most challenging? And which do you find most useful? Make a sentence with each of them!

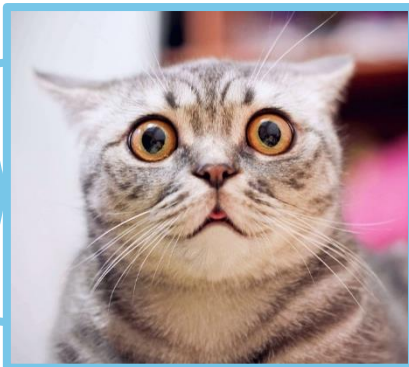


Storytelling time

Can you tell a short story using each of the photos below? Incorporate the advanced collocation on the card beside the picture in your story.

Be as imaginative as you can!

don't know what
hit you



hit the nail on
the head



hit the ground
running



set conditions





Advanced collocations with *draw*

**draw some
comfort from**

I'm sorry you didn't get the job but at least you can **draw some comfort from** knowing you did well.



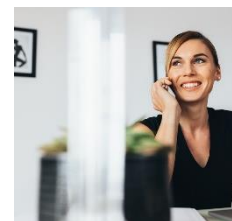
**draw a
comparison**

I think we can **draw a comparison** between the two cases, they have similar causes.



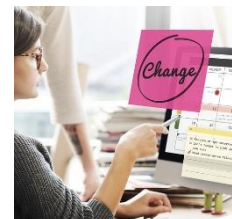
draw breath

She speaks so fast, she barely **draws breath** between her sentences!



**draw attention
to**

We would like to **draw your attention to** the changes to the schedule, it is very important you take note of them.





Advanced collocations with *run*

run the risk of

If we don't act fast we **run the risk of** losing the sale, I think they need to secure something as soon as possible.



run out of time

Thank you all so much for attending today, I'm afraid we have **run out of time** so please address any further questions to our speakers by email.



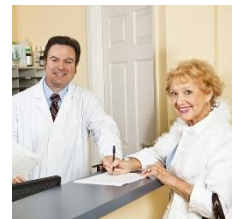
run a computer program

We have no IT access this morning, the IT department needs to upgrade and **run some new computer programs** on the system.



run tests

They are not sure what is wrong with her so the hospital is **running a lot of tests**.





Advanced collocations with *play*

play it safe

I think I'll **play it safe** and give them a gift voucher as a present, I don't know their taste and I don't want to give them something they don't like.



play with fire

You're going to ask the boss for holidays next week? You're **playing with fire**, he's in a really bad mood today!



play it cool

Oh my goodness, that's my favourite Oscar-winning actor over there! I'm a big fan but I don't want to look silly, I need to **play it cool**.



play it by ear

We don't have any plans for the holiday, we're just going to take it as it comes and **play it by ear**.





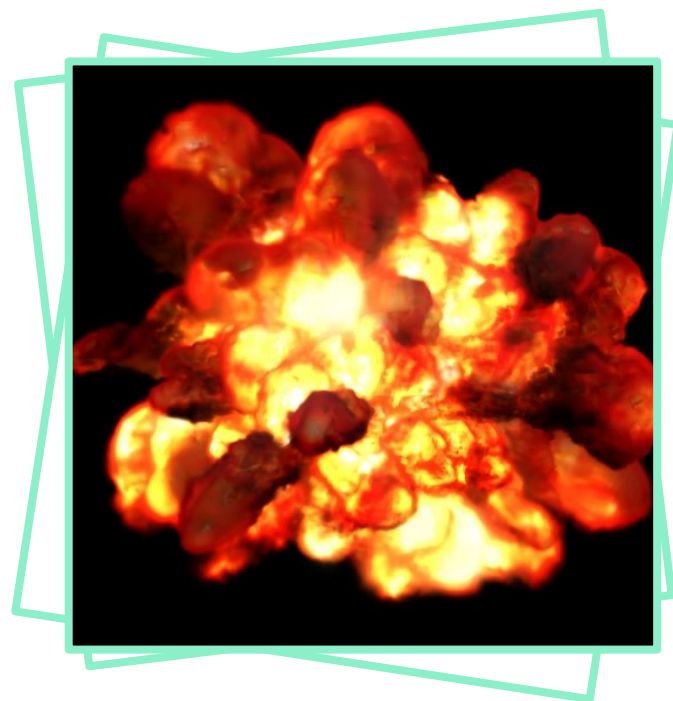
Playing it safe and playing with fire

Playing it safe and **playing with fire** are opposites.

Think of a time when you played it safe and another time when you played with fire.

Tell your teacher about your experiences.

Would you play with fire again or do you prefer to play it safe?





Playing it cool

**Why is it sometimes a good idea
to play it cool?
When might you do this?**





Thinking about what you have learnt so far

How many of the advanced collocations that you have learnt so far in this lesson can you remember? Try to note as many examples as you can below. Can you think of an example for each one?

Advanced collocations

draw

run

set

play

The image shows a worksheet for a collocation exercise. It features a large area with several blue teardrop-shaped outlines. One teardrop contains the text 'Advanced collocations'. Other teardrops contain the words 'draw', 'run', 'set', and 'play'. There are also two circular inset images: one of a person with curly hair looking thoughtful, and another of a person with long dark hair giving a thumbs up while sitting at a desk with a laptop.



Help out a friend

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!





Business-related collocations

reject an offer

They **rejected our offer** straightaway; they said it was far too low.

make a loss

This has been a bad year for the company/ We have **made a big loss**.

make a profit

Hopefully, next year will be a much better year and we will **make a huge profit!**

**go out of
business**

The last thing we want is for the company to close; we don't want **to go out of business**.



Business-related collocations

go bankrupt

It's really sad what happened to that fashion chain, they lost all their money and **went bankrupt!**



**go into
partnership
with**

Green foods and Happy Shopper supermarket are **going into partnership with** each other.



take on staff

Our business is growing fast, we are **taking on lots of new staff.**



lay off staff

Unfortunately, the company has performed very badly this year and we need to **lay off staff.**





Check your understanding



Look again at the advanced collocations for use in a business context.
Can you explain to your teacher in your own words what each means?



Thinking about your working life

What do you do for work?
What is a typical working week like? Which advanced collocations can you imagine needing to use often?
Give examples of how you would use them.





Thinking about the high street and bankruptcy

In the past ten years many popular high street chains in the UK have gone bankrupt. This is not a situation that is just particular to the UK. Discuss with your teacher the reasons why this may have happened. Use the hints on the cards below to help you. Draw a comparison between shopping behaviour and the situation in your home country.

internet
shopping

poor economy

out of town
shopping centres

changing
shopping habits



Talking about news that has hit the headlines

Look at the headlines on the cards below.
What might the story behind each headline be?
Can you think of any similar stories you have read recently?
Discuss them with your teacher.



Leading car manufacturers forced to **lay off** 300 staff!

Everyone's favourite high street shop has **gone bankrupt!**

Internet company **makes huge profit!**

Will this popular bookshop **go out of business?**



Reflect on the goals

Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.

yes

no





Reflect on this lesson

Think about everything you have seen in this lesson.
What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?



If you have time, go over
the most difficult slides again





Homework writing activity

**Look at the advanced collocations on the cards below.
Can you write an example sentence with each?**

set a bad
example

play it safe

run out of time

dismiss an offer

take on staff

draw a parallel





Homework writing activity

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

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