

Collocations

A collocation is a group of words that usually go together. For example-

Natural English...	Unnatural English...
↳ the fast train	↳ the quick train
↳ fast food	↳ quick food
↳ a quick shower	↳ a fast shower
↳ a quick meal	↳ a fast meal

In English, we usually say 'get married to someone'. Many languages use 'with' after 'marry' e.g., -She got married to Ronald & She married with Ronald. "Married with" certainly seems more logical but this is not the normal way in English. If you learn the whole phrase ('get married to someone'), then you will not make this mistake.

If you use the normal collocation your English will sound a lot better and more natural. It will also be easier for native speakers to understand you. Collocations are very, very important. It's very difficult to give a list of collocations, because there are so many.

Set phrases, verb patterns, and idioms are really just strong examples of collocations too. Hereunder you can find a few short lists of collocations to give you more of an idea about them.

collocations

Have	Do	Make
have a bath	do business	make a difference
have a drink	do nothing	make a mess
have a good time	do someone a favour	make a mistake
have a haircut	do the cooking	make a noise
have a holiday	do the housework	make an effort
have a problem	do the shopping	make furniture
have a relationship	do the washing up	make money
have a rest	do your best	make progress
have lunch	do your hair	make room
have sympathy	do your homework	make trouble

Pay	Save	Keep
pay a fine	save electricity	keep a diary
pay attention	save energy	keep a promise
pay by credit card	save money	keep a secret
pay interest	save one's strength	keep an appointment
pay someone a compliment	save someone a seat	keep calm
pay someone a visit	save someone's life	keep control
pay the bill	save space	keep in touch
pay the price	save time	keep quiet
pay your respects	save yourself from trouble	keep someone's place
		keep the change

collocations		
Come	Go	Get
come close	go abroad	get a job
come complete with	go astray	get a shock
come direct	go bad	get angry
come early	go bald	get divorced
come first	go bankrupt	get drunk
come into view	go blind	get frightened
come last	go crazy	get home
come late	go dark	get lost
come on time	go deaf	get married
come prepared	go fishing	get nowhere
come right back	go mad	get permission
come second	go missing	get pregnant
come to a compromise	go on foot	get ready
come to a decision	go online	get started
come to an agreement	go out of business	get the impression
come to an end	go overseas	get the message
come to a standstill	go quiet	get the sack
come to terms with	go sailing	get upset
come to a total of	go to war	get wet
come under attack	go yellow	get worried

Strong		
strong argument	a strong commitment	a strong opinion
strong emphasis	strong criticism	a strong smell
strong evidence	strong denial	a strong taste
a strong contrast	a strong feeling	strong resistance

collocations

Take	Break	Catch
take a break take a chance take a look take a rest take a seat take a taxi take an exam take notes take(someone's) place take (someone's)temperature	break a habit break a leg break a promise break a record break a window break (someone's) heart break the ice break the law break the news break the rules	catch a ball catch a bus catch a chill catch a cold catch a thief catch fire catch sight of catch someone's attention catch (someone's) eye catch the flu
Big	Great + feelings	Great + qualities
a big accomplishment a big decision a big disappointment a big failure a big improvement a big mistake a big surprise	great admiration great anger great enjoyment great excitement great fun great happiness great joy	great power great pride great skill great strength great understanding great wisdom great wealth
Large	Heavy	Deep
a large amount a large collection a large number (of) a large population a large proportion a large quantity a large scale	heavy rain heavy snow/ heavy fog a heavy drinker a heavy smoker a heavy drug user heavy traffic heavy taxes	deep depression deep devotion in deep thought in deep trouble in a deep sleep