

C Collocation in text

Notice how collocation (verb + noun, verb + adjective, adjective + noun, etc.) forms such an important part of a typical passage of English.

Neighbours refuse to mend fences

WHEN BARRY HUNT put a three-metre wire fence round his garden, neighbour Adam Clark thought it was **a real eyesore**, and asked him to remove it. Mr Hunt **took offence** and **made it clear that** he would **do no such thing**. One year on, the two men still haven't **reached agreement**, and now **face the prospect** of having to **settle their dispute** in court. 'It's absurd,' said Mr Clark. 'He **holds me entirely responsible** and refuses to **take any of the blame**. The sad truth is, we've **reached the point** where neither of us will **back down**.'

spotlight **entirely**

Entirely means 'completely' and is often used with these words: **entirely different**; **entirely responsible**; **agree entirely**.
Not entirely is used to soften what you are saying and is often used with these words: **I'm not entirely sure/happy/satisfied**.

Glossary

a real eyesore	a building or object that is very unpleasant to look at.
take offence (at sth)	show you are angry or upset about sth, or feeling insulted by it.
make it clear (that)	say sth to make sb understand a situation.
do no such thing	refuse to do the thing you have been asked to do.
reach (an) agreement	successfully arrive at an agreement (reach a conclusion/compromise/verdict).
face the prospect (of/that . . .)	recognize the possibility that sth may happen.
settle a dispute	end an argument between people (settle an argument).
hold sb responsible (for sth)	think that sb should be blamed for sth.
take the blame (for sth)	accept responsibility for sth.
reach the point (where/when)	arrive at a time or stage at which sth happens.
back down	stop asking for sth, or stop saying you will do sth.

8 Cross out the word that doesn't follow the underlined word.

- You can reach: a) an agreement b) a compromise c) a conversation
- You can settle: a) a discussion b) an argument c) a dispute
- You can take: a) offence b) the blame c) enjoyment
- Entirely: a) different b) similar c) responsible
- Not entirely: a) sad b) satisfied c) sure

9 Complete the sentences with a suitable word in each space.

- Stella thinks the new cinema is a real _____ and I _____ agree; it's very ugly.
- He _____ me completely responsible, but I refuse to _____ all the blame.
- It wasn't my fault and I _____ that very clear to my boss.
- How are you going to _____ this dispute if no one is prepared to _____ down?
- We've tried to get him to agree to it, but he'll do no _____.
- He feels we've _____ the point where we must decide, but I'm not _____ sure.
- If we lose our first few opening games, we face the _____ of a difficult season.
- I'm afraid he took _____ at something I said, so now we'll never _____ agreement.

