

Collocation

What is collocation?

■ **COLLOCATION** is the way in which particular words tend to occur or belong together. For example, you can say:

- *Meals will be served outside on the terrace, **weather permitting**.*
BUT NOT *Meals will be served outside on the terrace, **weather allowing**.*

Both these sentences seem to mean the same thing: **allow** and **permit** have very similar meanings. But in this combination only **permitting** is correct. It **COLLOCATES** with **weather** and **allowing** does not.

Types of collocation

- In order to write and speak natural and correct English, you need to know, for example:
 - which adjectives are used with a particular noun
 - which nouns a particular adjective is used with
 - which verbs are used with a particular noun
 - which adverbs are used to intensify a particular adjective

Collocation in this dictionary

- To find out which adjectives to use with a particular noun, look at the examples at the entry for the noun. Typical adjectives used with the noun are separated by a slash (/):

Can you say 'pink wine'?

wine ⓘ **A1** /waɪn/ noun, verb

■ **noun** 1 ⓘ **A1** [U, C] an alcoholic drink made from the juice of GRAPES that has been left to FERMENT. There are many different kinds of wine: *sparkling wine* ◇ *red/rosé/white wine* ◇ *a selection of fine wines* ◇ *a glass/bottle of wine* ◇ *He never drank wine, beer or spirits.* ➔ see also RED WINE, TABLE WINE, WHITE WINE

(No, **rosé**)

If you look up an adjective you will see what nouns are commonly used with it:

Which words can be used with the adjective 'heady'?

heady /'hedɪ/ adj. (**head-ier**, **head-i-est**) 1 [usually before noun] having a strong effect on your senses; making you feel excited and confident **SYN** *intoxicating*: *the heady days of youth* ◇ *the heady scent of hot spices* ◇ *a heady mixture of desire and fear* ➔ **SYNONYMS** AT EXCITING

(days, scent, mixture)

Look at the examples in a noun entry to find out what verbs can be used with it:

Which verbs are used with 'mortgage'?

mort-gage ⓘ **B2** /'mɔːrɡɪdʒ; NAmE 'mɔːrɡ-/ noun, verb
■ **noun** (also informal **home 'loan**) a legal agreement by which a bank or similar organization lends you money to buy a house, etc., and you pay the money back over a particular number of years; the sum of money that you borrow: *to apply for/take out/pay off a mortgage* ◇ *mortgage rates* (= of interest) ◇ *a mortgage on the house* ◇ *a mortgage of £60000* ◇ *monthly mortgage payments* ➔ **WORD-FINDER NOTE** at HOME ➔ see also ENDOWMENT MORTGAGE,

(apply for, take out, pay off)

If you look up an adjective, you will see which adverbs you can use to intensify it:

'Strongly' or 'bitterly' disappointed?

dis-ap-point-ed ⓘ **B1** /dɪsə'pɔɪntɪd/ adj. upset because sth you hoped for has not happened or been as good, successful, etc. as you expected: *The singer has promised to refund any disappointed fans.* ◇ *~at/by/about sth* *They were bitterly disappointed at the result of the game.* ◇ *~in/with sb/sth* *I'm disappointed in you—I really thought I could trust you!* ◇ *~to see, hear, etc.* *He was disappointed to see she wasn't at the party.* ◇ *~(that)...* *I'm disappointed (that) it was sold out.* ◇ *~(not) to be...* *She was disappointed not to be chosen.* ➔ **dis-ap-point-edly**

(bitterly)

Important collocations are printed in bold type within the examples. If the meaning of the collocation is not obvious there is a short explanation after it in brackets.

having unexpected luck
hoping you will be lucky

luck ⓘ **A2** /lʌk/ noun, verb

■ **noun** [U] 1 ⓘ **A2** good things that happen to you by chance, not because of your own efforts or abilities: **with (any) ~** *With any luck, we'll be home before dark.* ◇ (BrE) *With a bit of luck, we'll finish on time.* ◇ *~with (doing) sth* *So far I have had no luck with finding a job.* ◇ *I could hardly believe my luck when he said yes.* ◇ *It was a stroke of luck that we found you.* ◇ **by ~** *By sheer luck nobody was hurt in the explosion.* ◇ *We wish her luck in her new career.* ◇ **in ~** *You're in luck (= lucky)—there's one ticket left.* ◇ **out of ~** *You're out of luck. She's not here.* ◇ *What a piece of luck!* ➔ see also BEGINNER'S LUCK

hoping someone else will be lucky

not being lucky