

USE OF COLLOCATIONS

Collocations are one of the most complicated aspect to teach.

When introducing collocations, teachers should:

- Become more aware of phrases and collocations themselves;
- Make their students aware of phrases and collocations;
- Keep an eye on usefulness and be aware of overloading students;
- Feed in phrases on a “little but often” basis;
- Introduce phrases in context and drill them as short chunks;
- Point out patterns in phrases;
- Be ready to answer students questions briefly;
- Keep written records of phrases;
- Reinforce and recycle the phrases as much as they can.

In the following pages you can find some examples of exercises with collocations:

Which word does NOT collocate with the word in capitals?

GRIEF	express	alleviate	establish	give way to
MONEY	squander	procure	hoard	fritter away
A SUGGESTION	accept	appeal	offer	consider
SUCCESS	offer	achieve	merit	jeopardize
A JOURNEY	break	complete	fail	set off on
ENERGY	spare	conserve	derive	consume
THE ENVIRONMENT	damage	work	affect	improve

Can you think of a word that connect each set of four below?

transplant	HEART	failure
rate		disease

river	BANK	manager
payment		blood

sheet	TIME	spare
management		day

nagging	PAIN	throbbing
threshold		labour

curry	MILD	winter
climate		coffee

charge	SERVICE	express
room		military

Look at the collocations: does the word in the centre collocate before or after the given words?

Things you can do on holiday

Match the verbs on the left with a suitable word or words on the right. Write the answers in the boxes at the bottom of the page:

1	buy	A	a really good time
2	eat	B	postcards home
3	get	C	on the beach
4	go	D	museums and art galleries
5	go on	E	a suntan
6	have	F	speaking a foreign language
7	hire	G	in the pool
8	lie	H	some souvenirs
9	meet	I	a car
10	practice	J	sightseeing
11	send	K	lots of photographs
12	swim	L	at local restaurants
13	take	M	new people
14	visit	N	an excursion

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
H	L	E	J	N	A	I	C	M	F	B	G	K	D

Collocational grid (verbs)

Decide which verb/s can be used with the expressions on the right:

get	make	do	have	take	
✓		✓		✓	the washing
	✓		✓		an arrangement
✓	✓		✓	✓	a phone call
✓			✓	✓	a look
				✓	a photograph
		✓			a favour
✓			✓		a headache
	✓		✓		an argument
✓					married
	✓		✓		a baby
✓	✓		✓	✓	a drink

Collocational grid (adjectives)

Decide which adjective/s can be used with the nouns/adverbs on the right:

wide	broad	
✓		door
✓	✓	street
✓	✓	river
	✓	smile
	✓	shoulders
	✓	nose
✓		gap
	✓	accent
✓		world
✓	✓	range
✓		variety
✓		apart
✓		awake