

ENGLISH COLLOCATIONS IN USE WITH ANSWERS Workbook

English Collocations in Use with Answers

Understanding and mastering collocations is an essential part of becoming fluent and natural in English. Collocations are words that are commonly used together, and knowing them helps you speak and write more confidently and accurately. This article explores various English collocations in use with answers, providing clear explanations, examples, and practice exercises to enhance your language skills.

What Are Collocations?

A collocation is a combination of words that frequently go together. These combinations sound natural to native speakers but may be challenging for learners because they often cannot be guessed solely based on the meaning of individual words. For example, we say "make a decision" rather than "do a decision," and "strong coffee" rather than "powerful coffee."

Types of Collocations

Understanding different types of collocations can help you use them more effectively:

1. Adjective + Noun

- Strong coffee
- Heavy rain
- Fast car
- Beautiful scenery

2. Verb + Noun

- Make a decision
- Do homework
- Take a shower
- Save time

3. Noun + Noun

- Traffic jam
- Data analysis
- Business meeting
- Research project

4. Verb + Adverb

- Run quickly
- Speak fluently
- Work hard
- Arrive early

5. Preposition + Noun

- In charge of
- On purpose
- At risk
- By chance

Common English Collocations with Answers

Below are some frequently used collocations, categorized for easier learning, with example sentences to show their correct usage.

1. Collocations with "make"

- Make a decision ? She had to make a decision about her career.
- Make an effort ? You should make an effort to improve your English.
- Make progress ? He is making progress in his studies.
- Make a mistake ? Everyone makes mistakes.

2. Collocations with "do"

- Do homework ? I need to do my homework before dinner.

- Do the dishes ? Can you do the dishes tonight?
- Do business ? They do business with clients worldwide.
- Do exercise ? It's important to do exercise regularly.

3. Collocations with "take"

- Take a break ? Let's take a short break.
- Take a photo ? Can you take a photo of us?
- Take responsibility ? She is willing to take responsibility for her actions.
- Take a nap ? I like to take a nap in the afternoon.

4. Collocations with "have"

- Have a conversation ? They had a long conversation about politics.
- Have breakfast/lunch/dinner ? We usually have breakfast at 7 a.m.
- Have a good time ? We had a good time at the party.
- Have an idea ? Do you have any ideas for the project?

5. Collocations with "get"

- Get up ? I get up early every day.
- Get ready ? She is getting ready for her trip.
- Get lost ? If you get lost, ask someone for directions.
- Get a job ? He managed to get a job in London.

Useful Tips for Learning Collocations

Learning collocations can be challenging, but these tips can make the process easier:

1. Use Collocation Dictionaries

- Specialized dictionaries help you find common word combinations.

2. Read Extensively

- Exposure to authentic language through books, articles, and conversations helps you observe

collocations in context.

3. Practice in Context

- Use collocations in your speaking and writing exercises to reinforce memory.

4. Keep a Vocabulary Notebook

- Record new collocations and review them regularly.

5. Use Collocation Exercises

- Complete exercises and quizzes to test your knowledge.

Practice Exercises with Answers

Test your understanding of common collocations with these exercises.

Exercise 1: Fill in the blanks with the correct collocation

- She decided to ____ a decision about moving to a new city.
- They need to ____ a meeting to discuss the project.
- After working all day, I like to ____ a quick ____.
- The company aims to ____ progress in the next quarter.
- He always ____ a lot of ____ before exams.

Answers:

- make
- hold
- take, nap
- make
- does, effort

Exercise 2: Match the collocation with its meaning

- a) Make a mistake
- b) Do exercise
- c) Take responsibility
- d) Have a good time
- e) Get lost

- To enjoy oneself
- To become confused about one's location
- To be accountable for something
- To commit an error
- To perform physical activity

Answers:

- a) 4. To commit an error
- b) 5. To perform physical activity
- c) 3. To be accountable for something
- d) 1. To enjoy oneself
- e) 2. To become confused about one's location

Conclusion

Mastering collocations is a key step toward fluency and natural communication in English. By familiarizing yourself with common word combinations, practicing them in context, and incorporating them into your speaking and writing, you'll develop greater confidence and accuracy. Remember, consistent practice and exposure are essential ? so read widely, listen to native speakers, and keep a record of new collocations you encounter. With dedication, you'll find that using collocations becomes second nature, making your English sound more natural and polished.

Additional Resources for Learning Collocations

- Collocation dictionaries: Such as "Oxford Collocations Dictionary"
- Online exercises: Websites like BBC Learning English, British Council
- Apps: Quizlet, Anki for flashcards
- Reading materials: Newspapers, magazines, and novels in English

Happy learning!

English Collocations in Use with Answers: A Comprehensive Review

Understanding English collocations in use with answers is fundamental for learners aiming to enhance their fluency and naturalness in speaking and writing English. Collocations are words that frequently go together; they are the building blocks of idiomatic and fluent language, helping learners sound more native-like. This review explores the significance of collocations, the structure and features of collocation dictionaries, the value of practice exercises with answers, and tips for effectively mastering collocations.

What Are Collocations and Why Are They Important?

Collocations refer to the habitual juxtaposition of words that native speakers commonly use together. For example, "make a decision," "strong coffee," or "heavy rain." Learning collocations is crucial because it:

- Improves fluency and naturalness in speech and writing.
- Helps avoid awkward or unnatural phrasing.
- Enhances vocabulary retention by understanding how words typically combine.
- Assists in comprehension during listening and reading.

Features of Collocations:

- They can be classified into different types: verb + noun, adjective + noun, adverb + adjective, etc.
- Collocations are often fixed or semi-fixed, meaning they can sometimes be flexible but generally follow patterns.
- They vary depending on context, register, and idiomatic usage.

Features of "English Collocations in Use" with Answers

The resource titled "English Collocations in Use with Answers" (commonly associated with books by Michael McCarthy and Felicity O'Dell) offers learners a structured way to understand and practice

collocations.

Key Features:

- Structured Units: Divided by themes (e.g., work, environment, emotions), making it easier to focus on relevant vocabulary.
- Clear Explanations: Each collocation is explained in context, with example sentences.
- Practice Exercises: Followed by answers, enabling self-assessment.
- Real-Life Usage: Examples reflect natural language, helping learners grasp how collocations are used authentically.
- Progressive Difficulty: From basic to more complex collocations, suitable for various levels.

Benefits of Using "Collocations in Use" with Answers

Incorporating exercises with answers into your learning process offers several advantages:

- Immediate Feedback: Self-check exercises allow learners to identify mistakes and correct them instantly.
- Reinforcement of Learning: Repetition through practice consolidates collocation patterns.
- Confidence Building: Correct answers reduce uncertainty, encouraging more speaking and writing.
- Self-Directed Learning: Enables learners to practice independently at their own pace.

Features (Pros and Cons):

| Pros | Cons |

|-----|-----|

| Facilitates active recall through exercises | May require supplementary materials for advanced learners |

| Provides clear, contextualized examples | Some exercises might be too simple for advanced learners |

| Boosts confidence with immediate answer keys | Limited scope if used without broader context |

| Suitable for self-study and classroom use | Needs regular updates to include new collocations |

Types of Exercises with Answers and Their Effectiveness

The core strength of "English Collocations in Use" with answers lies in its variety of exercise types, each serving different learning objectives:

Fill-in-the-Blank Exercises

These exercises require learners to choose the correct collocation to complete sentences.

Example:

"She has a lot of ____ (experience / experienced) in teaching."

Answer: experience

Effectiveness:

- Reinforces pattern recognition.
- Builds context-specific usage.

Matching Exercises

Learners match collocations with their meanings or with example sentences.

Example:

Match the collocation with its meaning:

- "Make an effort"
- "Heavy rain"
- "Take a decision"

Effectiveness:

- Enhances understanding of collocation functions.
- Improves association skills.

Multiple Choice Questions

Learners select the most appropriate collocation in a context.

Example:

"During the meeting, she was very ____ (concerned / concerned about) the project."

Answer: concerned about

Effectiveness:

- Tests contextual understanding.
- Prepares learners for real-world language use.

Sentence Rewriting and Correction

Learners correct incorrect collocations in sentences.

Example:

Incorrect: "He has a big responsibility."

Corrected: "He has a big responsibility." (or "He bears a big responsibility.")

Effectiveness:

- Develops editing skills.
- Reinforces correct collocation usage.

Strategies for Maximizing Learning with Collocations in Use with Answers

To get the most out of these resources, consider the following tips:

- Active Practice: Do exercises regularly, not just passively read answers.
- Contextual Learning: Try to incorporate new collocations into your own speaking and writing.
- Use in Conversation: Practice collocations in real dialogues or language exchanges.
- Create Personal Lists: Keep a vocabulary journal of collocations you learn and review it periodically.

- Focus on Patterns: Notice the grammatical patterns of collocations (e.g., noun + adjective, verb + preposition).

Limitations and Challenges

While "English Collocations in Use with Answers" is a valuable resource, it has some limitations:

- Limited Scope for Advanced Learners: May not cover highly idiomatic or less common collocations.
- Contextual Variations: Some collocations may vary with dialects or registers, which exercises might not fully capture.
- Need for Supplementary Practice: Relying solely on these exercises might lead to mechanical memorization rather than genuine fluency.

Final Thoughts

"English Collocations in Use with Answers" is an indispensable resource for learners seeking to improve their language proficiency through contextualized, practice-based learning. Its structured exercises, immediate feedback, and focus on real-life usage make it a valuable tool for building a natural, fluent command of English.

When combined with active speaking, writing practice, and exposure to authentic language media, these exercises can significantly accelerate your mastery of collocations. Remember, the key to success is consistent practice, contextual application, and an awareness of the patterns that make your English sound more native-like.

Harness the power of collocations, and watch your confidence and competence in English soar!

Question What are collocations in English? Collocations are words that frequently go together or are commonly used together in the English language, helping to make speech and writing sound natural and fluent. Why is it important to learn collocations? Learning collocations helps improve fluency, makes your language sound more natural, and reduces the chances of using incorrect word combinations. Can you give an example of common collocations with the word 'make'? Sure! Examples include 'make a decision', 'make an effort', and 'make a mistake'. What's the difference between 'strong' and 'powerful' collocations? 'Strong' collocates with words like 'tea', 'wind', or 'evidence', while 'powerful' collocates with words like 'engine', 'speech', or 'weapon'. How can I practice learning collocations effectively? Practice by reading extensively, noting common word combinations, using them in sentences, and doing exercises specifically focused on collocations. Are collocations the same as idioms? No, collocations are common word pairings, while idioms are phrases with meanings that are different from the literal words. What are some

common collocations with the verb 'take'? Examples include 'take a break', 'take a photo', and 'take responsibility'. How do collocations help in IELTS or other exams? Using correct collocations can improve your lexical resource score by demonstrating natural and accurate language use. Is it enough to just memorize collocations? While memorization helps, it's more effective to understand their usage and practice using them in context to achieve fluency. Where can I find resources to learn English collocations? You can use books like 'English Collocations in Use', online platforms, vocabulary apps, and extensive reading materials to learn collocations.

Related keywords: English collocations, collocations in use, collocation examples, collocation practice, English vocabulary, language learning, vocabulary building, collocation exercises, English idioms, language proficiency

English collocations in advanced use

English collocations in advanced use are essential for achieving fluency and sophistication in language. While basic collocations, such as "make a decision" or "strong coffee," are familiar to most learners, mastering advanced collocations elevates your command of English, making your speech and writing more natural, precise, and impactful. This article explores the nuances of advanced collocations, their importance, and practical tips to incorporate them into your language use effectively.

Understanding Advanced Collocations in English

What Are Collocations?

Collocations are words that commonly appear together, forming natural phrase combinations. They are ingrained in our language patterns and often go beyond simple word pairing, reflecting cultural and contextual meanings. For example, in English, we say "fast car" rather than "quick car," because "fast" collocates naturally with "car" in everyday speech.

Why Focus on Advanced Collocations?

Advanced collocations are more nuanced and less predictable than basic ones. They often involve:

- Idiomatic expressions
- Formal or academic language
- Technical or specialized vocabulary

- Complex or abstract ideas

Mastering these helps non-native speakers sound more natural and can be crucial in professional, academic, or literary contexts.

The Significance of Advanced Collocations for Language Proficiency

Understanding and using advanced collocations offers multiple benefits:

- **Enhanced Fluency:** Natural and effortless speech.
- **Improved Comprehension:** Better understanding of authentic texts and conversations.
- **Elevated Writing Skills:** More sophisticated and precise expression.
- **Increased Credibility:** Using appropriate collocations makes communication more convincing.

Categories of Advanced Collocations

Advanced collocations can be categorized based on their usage contexts:

1. Academic and Formal Collocations

These are common in scholarly writing and professional communication.

- Conduct research
- Make an effort
- Raise awareness
- Significant impact
- In-depth analysis

2. Idiomatic Collocations

Idioms and fixed expressions that are often used in advanced conversation and writing.

- Break new ground
- Hit the nail on the head
- State of the art
- On the brink of
- Under the umbrella of

3. Technical and Specialized Collocations

Common in fields like science, law, business, and technology.

- Legal obligations
- Economic growth
- Data analysis
- Market share
- Innovative solutions

4. Abstract and Conceptual Collocations

Used to describe ideas, emotions, and intangible concepts.

- Profound influence
- Deep understanding
- Strong commitment
- Significant difference
- Complex issue

Strategies for Mastering Advanced Collocations

Achieving proficiency with advanced collocations requires deliberate practice and strategic approaches:

1. Exposure to Authentic Material

Consume a wide range of high-quality resources:

- Academic journals
- Professional reports
- Literary works
- Newspapers and magazines
- Podcasts and lectures

Note the collocations used and try to understand their context.

2. Use Collocation Dictionaries

Specialized dictionaries (e.g., Oxford Collocations Dictionary) are invaluable for discovering common word partnerships, especially for advanced vocabulary.

3. Practice in Context

Incorporate new collocations into your speaking and writing:

- Write essays or reports using advanced collocations
- Engage in discussion or debates
- Record yourself and analyze your usage

4. Learn Collocations in Phrases, Not Just Words

Memorize fixed or semi-fixed phrases to internalize natural usage patterns.

5. Create Collocation Lists and Mind Maps

Organize collocations thematically to facilitate recall and understanding.

6. Use Technology and Apps

Leverage language learning apps that focus on collocations, such as Quizlet, Anki, or specialized vocabulary trainers.

Common Challenges in Using Advanced Collocations

While mastering advanced collocations is rewarding, learners often face difficulties:

- Remembering which words collocate naturally
- Understanding subtle differences in meaning
- Applying collocations appropriately in different contexts
- Overusing or misusing collocations, leading to unnatural language

To overcome these, continuous practice, feedback from native speakers or teachers, and exposure to high-quality language materials are essential.

Examples of Advanced Collocations in Sentences

To better understand their usage, here are practical examples:

- The researchers conducted an **in-depth analysis** of the data collected from multiple sources.
- The new policy has the **significant impact** on small businesses.
- She showed a **deep understanding** of the complex legal issues involved.
- Our company aims to **innovative solutions** to meet evolving market needs.
- During the seminar, the speaker **raised awareness** about climate change challenges.

Conclusion: Elevate Your English with Advanced Collocations

Mastering advanced collocations is a vital step toward achieving fluency and sophistication in English. They enable you to express ideas more precisely, understand complex texts, and communicate confidently in professional and academic settings. Incorporate authentic materials into your learning, utilize specialized resources, and practice actively to internalize these word partnerships. Over time, your language will become more natural, polished, and impactful.

Remember, learning advanced collocations is a gradual process that requires persistence. The more you expose yourself to high-level language use and intentionally practice integrating new collocations, the more effortless and intuitive your language skills will become. Whether you're preparing for academic exams, professional communication, or simply aiming to speak English with greater confidence, mastering advanced collocations is an invaluable investment in your language journey.

English collocations in advanced use have become an essential aspect of mastering the nuances of the language, especially for non-native speakers aiming for fluency and sophistication. Collocations?words that frequently go together?are the subtle yet powerful tools that elevate language from basic communication to nuanced expression. In advanced English, collocations go beyond simple pairings; they involve idiomatic expressions, phrasal verbs, and context-dependent word combinations that require a deep understanding of language patterns, cultural connotations, and stylistic registers. This article explores the intricate world of advanced collocations, their significance in effective communication, and strategies for their mastery.

Understanding Collocations: The Foundation of Fluent English

What Are Collocations?

Collocations are combinations of words that are commonly used together more frequently than by chance. They are often predictable, but not necessarily obvious, and their correct use is crucial for achieving natural-sounding language. Examples include phrases like "make an effort," "strong coffee," or "heavy rain." These pairings are so ingrained that native speakers instinctively recognize them, whereas learners may find them challenging to acquire.

The Difference Between Collocations, Phrases, and Idioms

While related, these terms have distinct meanings:

- Collocations: Regular word pairings, such as "commit a crime" or "fast car." They follow predictable patterns but are not idiomatic.
- Phrases: Larger units of meaning that can include collocations, e.g., "as a matter of fact."
- Idioms: Expressions with figurative meanings that often cannot be deduced from the literal meanings, like "kick the bucket."

Understanding these distinctions is vital for advanced learners aiming to refine their language proficiency.

The Significance of Collocations in Advanced English

Enhancing Naturalness and Fluency

Mastery of collocations allows speakers and writers to sound more natural and fluent. Instead of awkwardly translating from their native language, users employ familiar word combinations that resonate with native speakers. This naturalness reduces misunderstandings and fosters better intercultural communication.

Improving Precision and Expressiveness

Advanced collocations enable nuanced expression, allowing speakers to convey specific shades of meaning. For instance, choosing "exacerbate a problem" versus "worsen a problem" can subtly influence the tone and emphasis of an argument.

Building a Sophisticated Vocabulary

A rich repertoire of collocations enriches one's vocabulary, making language more varied and expressive. It also demonstrates linguistic competence, which is especially important in academic, professional, and literary contexts.

Types of Advanced Collocations and Their Characteristics

Adjective + Noun Collocations

These are common in formal writing and speech, offering precision and style.

- Examples: "robust argument," "stringent regulations," "deep understanding."

Verb + Noun Collocations

These form the backbone of sentence structures, especially in academic and professional discourse.

- Examples: "conduct research," "carry out an experiment," "make a decision."

Noun + Noun Collocations

Often used in technical or formal contexts, these collocations add specificity.

- Examples: "a surge of energy," "data analysis," "public opinion."

Preposition + Noun Collocations

These are idiomatic and often tricky, as prepositions can be used in various ways.

- Examples: "in charge of," "on the basis of," "by means of."

Phrasal Verbs and Multi-word Verbs

Phrasal verbs are especially prominent in advanced English, often carrying idiomatic meanings.

- Examples: "bring about," "look into," "give up," "set aside."

Strategies for Mastering Advanced Collocations

1. Extensive Exposure and Reading

Reading diverse and authentic materials?academic papers, newspapers, literature, and professional texts?exposes learners to natural collocation patterns. Noticing recurring word pairings helps internalize them.

2. Use of Collocation Dictionaries and Resources

Specialized lexicons like the Oxford Collocations Dictionary or online corpora provide comprehensive lists of collocations, categorized by grammatical patterns and contexts. These

resources are invaluable for deliberate study.

3. Contextual Learning and Practice

Learning collocations in context?through example sentences, dialogues, or real-life usage?deepens understanding. Practice via writing, speaking, and editing helps solidify their use.

4. Creating Personal Collocation Lists

Maintaining a personalized vocabulary journal that tracks new and challenging collocations encourages active recall and reinforcement.

5. Engaging with Native Speakers and Language Partners

Conversational practice with native speakers provides immediate feedback on collocation usage and helps develop intuitive recognition.

Common Challenges and Pitfalls in Advanced Collocation Use

1. Overgeneralization and Inaccuracy

Learners may incorrectly assume that words are interchangeable, leading to awkward or incorrect collocations, e.g., "strong rain" instead of "heavy rain." Recognizing the specific collocational constraints is essential.

2. Cultural Context and Register

Some collocations are context-dependent or register-specific. Formal collocations differ from colloquial ones, and misuse can cause miscommunication or impression of inauthenticity.

3. Collocation Variability

Certain collocations have multiple acceptable variants, but their nuances differ slightly. For example, "make an effort" versus "put effort into"?each has distinct connotations and usage contexts.

4. Avoiding Collocational Errors in Writing and Speech

Incorrect collocation use can undermine credibility. Continuous practice, exposure, and feedback are necessary to minimize errors.

Advanced Collocations in Academic and Professional Contexts

Academic Discourse

In scholarly writing, precise collocations lend authority and clarity. Phrases like "significant impact," "empirical evidence," or "theoretical framework" showcase mastery and professionalism.

Business and Professional Communication

Effective business language relies heavily on advanced collocations. Examples include "sustainable growth," "competitive advantage," or "strategic partnership." Mastery of these expressions facilitates negotiations, reports, and presentations.

Literary and Creative Writing

Authors employ sophisticated collocations to craft vivid imagery or nuanced characters, such as "bitterly disappointed" or "radiant beauty." These enrich the text and engage the reader emotionally.

The Role of Technology and Corpora in Collocation Acquisition

Corpus-Based Approaches

Modern language learning benefits immensely from corpus linguistics. Large databases of authentic language use enable learners to identify natural collocations and observe their frequency and variation across contexts.

Natural Language Processing (NLP) Tools

Tools such as collocation extractors, concordancers, and AI-driven language models assist learners and writers in discovering and verifying collocations, making advanced use more accessible.

Automated Feedback and Correction

Language learning platforms increasingly incorporate AI to provide feedback on collocation use, guiding learners toward more native-like proficiency.

Conclusion: The Road to Mastery in Advanced Collocations

Achieving mastery over advanced English collocations is a continuous journey that combines exposure, deliberate practice, and cultural understanding. Their use enhances clarity, sophistication, and authenticity in communication. For advanced learners, integrating collocations seamlessly into speech and writing transforms basic competence into linguistic excellence. As language evolves, so do collocation patterns, making ongoing learning and adaptation crucial. Embracing technological

tools, engaging with authentic materials, and cultivating an intuitive feel for word partnerships will ultimately lead to a nuanced command of English that resonates with native speakers and elevates one's expressive potential.

In summary, mastery of advanced collocations is not merely about memorizing word pairings but about understanding their contextual appropriateness, connotations, and stylistic nuances. It requires a strategic approach, patience, and a keen eye for language patterns. In doing so, learners and professionals can unlock a new level of linguistic sophistication that significantly enhances their ability to communicate effectively, persuasively, and elegantly in English.

Question Answer How can advanced English collocations improve the clarity and professionalism of my writing? Using advanced collocations enhances your writing by making it more natural and precise, helping your ideas flow smoothly and conveying a higher level of language proficiency that appeals to professional and academic audiences. What are some strategies for mastering complex collocations in English? Strategies include reading extensively in your field, noting common collocations, practicing them in context, using collocation dictionaries, and engaging in active exercises like sentence creation and paraphrasing to reinforce their correct usage. How do collocations differ in advanced English compared to basic usage? Advanced collocations often involve more formal, idiomatic, or specialized word combinations that are less predictable and more context-dependent, requiring a deeper understanding of nuance and register beyond common beginner collocations. Can you recommend resources or tools to learn advanced English collocations effectively? Yes, resources such as the Oxford Collocations Dictionary, academic journals, corpora like the COCA (Corpus of Contemporary American English), and online platforms like Sketch Engine or Grammarly can help you identify and practice advanced collocations in various contexts. Why is it important to understand collocations in advanced English for non-native speakers? Understanding advanced collocations enables non-native speakers to communicate more naturally and fluently, reduces misunderstandings, and helps achieve a higher level of language competence suitable for academic, professional, and sophisticated contexts.

Related keywords: English collocations, advanced English, collocation dictionaries, language proficiency, vocabulary building, idiomatic expressions, lexical bundles, phraseology, English fluency, language learning

Read the full article online: [English collocations in advanced use](#)