

87 Common collocations



1 Verb + noun

Collocations are words that often go together. Verb + noun collocations sometimes change the meaning of the verb, e.g. *run + a business*.

VERB + NOUN	EXAMPLES
take a photo an exam turns action a chance	<i>When do you take your final medical exams?</i> <i>In this game, you take turns to throw the dice and answer questions.</i> <i>The police need to take action against these thieves.</i>
miss the bus a penalty the point a person	<i>I was late for work because I missed the bus again.</i> <i>You've missed the point of my argument – you don't understand.</i>
run a race a shop a business	<i>Radcliffe ran a good race and won by over thirty seconds.</i> <i>My brothers and I have been running the family business for years.</i>
tell a story the truth a joke	<i>Go to bed! Your father won't tell you a story if you misbehave.</i> <i>There's no point in discussing this if you don't tell the truth.</i>
start work the car an argument	<i>Why couldn't you start the car this morning?</i> <i>I knew that he wanted to start an argument, so I refused to speak.</i>
make a mistake the bed a promise	<i>I think you've made a mistake in these accounts.</i> <i>Don't make promises if you can't do what you say!</i>

2 Verb + noun + preposition

VERB + NOUN + PREPOSITION	EXAMPLES
take part in pity on care of	<i>Aren't you going to take part in the swimming competition?</i> <i>I don't take care of the children much because I work full-time.</i>
make friends with the most of	<i>I haven't made friends with many people here.</i> <i>The weather's awful here but we're trying to make the most of it.</i>
run the risk of	<i>You run the risk of hurting yourself if you don't rest after your injury.</i>
have confidence in	<i>The company has problems, but I have confidence in my managers.</i>

3 Adjective + noun

ADJECTIVE + NOUN	EXAMPLES
strong swimmer smell wind coffee	<i>I'm not a very strong swimmer.</i> <i>Last night's strong wind has blown down a lot of trees.</i>
heavy rain traffic smoker industry meal	<i>There was very heavy traffic on the motorway last night.</i> <i>The heavy industry outside the town creates employment.</i>
great difficulty time interest success	<i>I had a great time at your party – thanks for inviting me.</i> <i>The athletics team had great success at the Olympics.</i>
good/bad habit luck news	<i>Biting your nails is a really bad habit – I wish you'd stop.</i>
light meal rain coat	<i>The weather wasn't too bad – just a little light rain most days.</i>

⚠ You often can't translate directly from other languages. Always check in a good dictionary:
 ✗ *We had a little **thin rain** yesterday.* ✓ *We had a little **light rain** yesterday.*


Practice

1 Put a line through the incorrect collocation in each group.

- 0 take ... care of / an exam / ~~the risk of~~ / turns
 1 make ... friends with / a mistake / a photo / a promise
 2 (a) heavy ... industry / luck / smoker / traffic
 3 (a) great ... difficulty / interest / smoker / time
 4 tell ... a joke / a promise / a story / the truth
 5 (a) strong ... coffee / rain / swimmer / wind

2 Now complete the correct collocations for the words/phrases you have put a line through in Exercise 1. Add a verb or adjective.

- 0 run the risk of 2 4
 1 3 5

3 Read the sentences and complete the collocations. Use a verb in the correct form, or an adjective.  4.43 Listen and check.

- 0 Will you make the beds before you go out this morning?
 1 The secret of a good joke is not to laugh when you get near the end.
 2 It isn't very cold in Milan in March, so a coat or jacket should be enough.
 3 That new perfume has such a smell that I find it annoying.
 4 We urge you to confidence in your government in these difficult times.
 5 This workshop will teach you all you need to know to your own business.
 6 Please listen – you're the point. I'm not trying to criticise you at all.
 7 We advise early booking as there is always interest in this excursion.
 8 We've only got a day's holiday left, so we'd better the most of it.

4 **GRAMMAR IN USE** Complete the email with collocations. Take a word from Box A and one from Box B.  4.44 Listen and check.

A ~~bad~~ great great heavy started strong strong take took

B argument coffee difficulty ~~luck~~ part pity rain success swimmers

Subject Sports Competition

Hi Mags

I've just come back from the inter-school sports competition – chaos! I suppose we had (0) bad luck with the weather, as there was (1) for most of the day, but the organisation was terrible. There were over 50 children running the 100-metre race, and the teacher in charge put them all on the track at the same time. I tried to talk to him about it, but he wouldn't listen and very nearly (2) an with me.

Also, the swimming went badly. You know that we have some very (3) at the school, who usually have (4) in these inter-school competitions, but there was something wrong with the water in the pool – too many chemicals, perhaps – and the girls had (5) in keeping their eyes open under the water. After a couple of races, their eyes were really red, so I (6) on them and told them we wouldn't allow any more of our swimmers to (7) in the competition.

Anyway, I think next year we should ensure that we hold the competition at our school. Right now, I need a nice (8)! See you tomorrow ...

Jason

Module 17

UNIT 87

- 1** 1 a photo 2 luck 3 smoker 4 a promise
5 rain
- 2** 1 take a photo 2 bad/good luck 3 heavy
smoker 4 make a promise 5 heavy/light rain
- 3** 1 telling 2 light 3 strong 4 have 5 run
6 missing 7 great 8 make
- 4** 1 heavy rain 2 started, argument 3 strong
swimmers 4 great success 5 great difficulty
6 took pity 7 take part 8 strong coffee

UNIT 88

- 1** 1 F 2 D 3 I 4 G 5 E 6 A 7 C 8 H
- 2** 1 with 2 of 3 between 4 at 5 about
6 to 7 for 8 for 9 in 10 in

3 Model answers

- 1 *I have a good relationship with most of my classmates.*
2 *I was surprised by the price of petrol last week.*
3 *The main advantage is that I can watch films in the
original language.*
4 *Yes, I belong to a photography club.*
5 *Yes, I have an allergic reaction to cats.*
6 *I am most scared of heights.*

UNIT 89

- 1** 1 C 2 I 3 E 4 A 5 H 6 D 7 F 8 B
- 2** 1 about 2 - 3 in 4 - 5 to 6 on 7 with
8 him
- 3** 1 apologised ~~of~~ for
2 apply ~~for~~ a job
3 entering ~~into~~
4 agree ~~with~~
5 laughing ~~to~~ at
6 searching ~~for~~
7 phone ~~to~~ the shop
8 ~~to~~ at

UNIT 90

- 1** 1 1B, 2A 2 1B, 2A 3 1A, 2B 4 1B, 2A 5 1A, 2B
- 2** 1 A really strange thing happened to me this
morning.
2 Please don't stare at the people on the bus. /
Don't stare at the people on the bus, please.
3 I'm staying at home to care for my daughter.
4 What did you think of Heather's new apartment?
5 All of Bert's grandchildren take after him.
6 I'm not going to stand for your dreadful behaviour.
- 3** 1 thinking 2 feel 3 came 4 talking 5 ask
6 see 7 look 8 think

UNIT 91

- 1** 1 out 2 up 3 down 4 down 5 off 6 in
7 up 8 up
- 2** 1 set off 2 keep up with 3 make (them) out
4 making up for 5 Look out 6 catching (you)
up 7 give up 8 turned (the race) round

- 3** 1 I have filled it in already.
2 Look the meaning up in a dictionary. / Look up
the meaning in a dictionary.
3 I looked it up in the dictionary.
4 Are you looking forward to your holiday?
5 I've been looking forward to it for weeks.
6 Can you write the address down for me? /
Can you write down the address for me?

- 4** 1 setting off, depart
2 pull down, move ↓
3 eat up, complete
4 lift (me) up move ↑
5 take (my tooth) out, remove
6 sit down, move ↓
- 5** 1 give up 2 made up 3 work out 4 turn (me)
down 5 give (all our books) back 6 put up
with 7 cut (our weight) down
- 6** 1 ~~cut on sweets and chocolates down~~ down on
sweets and chocolates
2 ✓
3 ~~make out it~~ make it out
4 ~~keep up them with~~ keep up with them
5 ~~work the answers to these awful number puzzles
in this magazine out~~ work out the answers to
these awful number puzzles in this magazine
6 ✓
7 ~~take off them~~ take them off
8 ~~make it up for~~ make up for it

UNIT 92

- 1** 1 They're taking/doing an exam.
2 She's doing her make-up.
3 He's taking (some) medicine.
4 He's having/taking a shower.
5 They're making a mess.
- 2** 1 got ready 2 get help 3 got (to) the answer
4 you get older 5 got better
- 3** 1 made 2 done 3 made 4 do 5 have
6 take 7 get 8 get 9 doing 10 take
11 doing 12 getting

UNIT 93

- 1** 1 lived 2 reminds 3 come 4 keep 5 left
6 remember 7 leave 8 stay
- 2** 1 leave 2 bring 3 keep 4 keep 5 lived
6 remember 7 stayed 8 reminded
- 3** 1 take/bring dogs 2 leave the windows
3 stay at 4 remember 5 keep your baggage
6 keep (on)

UNIT 94

- 1** 1 injured 2 sensible 3 sympathetic
4 amusing 5 valuable 6 an injured
7 sensitive 8 damaged
- 2** 1 enjoyable 2 sensitive 3 injured
4 damaged 5 valuable 6 likeable
- 3** 1 valuable 2 expensive 3 hurt/wounded
4 sensible 5 likeable 6 enjoyable