



Understanding Collocations

Definition

Collocations: Words that frequently occur together.

Understanding and using collocations improves fluency and makes your language sound more natural.

Types of Collocations

Adverb + Adjective	utterly ridiculous
Adjective + Noun	heavy rain
Noun + Noun	a bar of soap
Noun + Verb	lions roar
Verb + Noun	commit suicide
Verb + Expression with Preposition	burst into tears
Verb + Adverb	wave frantically

Why Use Collocations?

- **Sound Natural:** Using collocations makes your English sound more authentic.
- **Enhance Clarity:** They help you express ideas more precisely.
- **Improve Writing:** Collocations add sophistication to your writing.

Common Collocations by Category

Time

Spend time	Spend time <i>wisely</i>
Kill time	Kill time <i>reading</i>
Make time	Make time <i>for hobbies</i>
In the meantime	In the meantime, <i>we wait</i>
Time flies	Time flies <i>so fast</i>

Money

Make money	Make money <i>online</i>
Save money	Save money <i>for future</i>
Waste money	Waste money <i>on useless things</i>
Invest money	Invest money <i>wisely</i>
Earn money	Earn money <i>through hard work</i>

Weather

Heavy rain	Heavy rain <i>is falling</i>
Strong wind	Strong wind <i>is blowing</i>
Light snow	Light snow <i>is expected</i>
Freezing cold	Freezing cold <i>weather</i>
Scorching heat	Scorching heat <i>in the desert</i>

More Examples and Usage

Collocations with 'Take'

Take a break	It's important to <i>take a break</i> during work.
Take a chance	I decided to <i>take a chance</i> on the new job offer.
Take responsibility	He needs to <i>take responsibility</i> for his actions.
Take care	<i>Take care</i> and see you soon!

Collocations with 'Do'

Do homework	Remember to <i>do your homework</i> .
Do a favor	Can you <i>do me a favor</i> ?
Do your best	Just <i>do your best</i> .
Do business	They <i>do business</i> internationally.

Collocations with 'Get'

Get ready	<i>Get ready</i> for the party!
Get started	Let's <i>get started</i> on the project.
Get together	We should <i>get together</i> soon.
Get in touch	<i>Get in touch</i> when you can.

Tips for Learning Collocations

Effective Strategies

- **Read Widely:** Expose yourself to a variety of texts to see collocations in context.
- **Note Collocations:** When you encounter a new collocation, write it down with its context.
- **Use a Dictionary:** Consult a collocation dictionary to find common word pairings.
- **Practice Regularly:** Use collocations in your own writing and speaking.
- **Real-life examples:** Look for collocations in newspapers, movies, and conversations.

Resources

- **Collocation Dictionaries:** Oxford Collocations Dictionary, Macmillan Collocations Dictionary.
- **Online Resources:** Websites and apps dedicated to learning collocations.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- **Literal Translation:** Avoid translating word-for-word from your native language.
- **Mixing Collocations:** Be careful not to mix up similar collocations.
- **Ignoring Context:** Always consider the context when using collocations.