

CAMBRIDGE

# English Collocations **in** Advanced **Use**

How words  
work together  
for fluent and  
natural English

Self-study and  
classroom use

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## Learning about collocations

- 1 Introducing collocations
- 2 Strong, fixed and weak collocations
- 3 Grammatical categories of collocation
- 4 Using your dictionary and other resources
- 5 Finding and working on collocations in texts
- 6 Register

## Varieties of collocations

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 7 Metaphor                           | <i>foot the bill, heavy burden, run into trouble</i>            |
| 8 Intensifying and softening adverbs | <i>deeply offensive, spotlessly clean, wildly inaccurate</i>    |
| 9 Make and verbs that mean make      | <i>make a contribution, make a habit of, turn in a profit</i>   |
| 10 Communicating                     | <i>generally speaking, talk business, get a message across</i>  |
| 11 Collocations with phrasal verbs   | <i>take up office, work up an appetite, see off an intruder</i> |

## Topics: work and study

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 12 Working life                            | <i>make a living, take up a post, move up the ladder</i>      |
| 13 New employment                          | <i>fit the job description, land a new job, menial tasks</i>  |
| 14 Thoughts and ideas                      | <i>bear in mind, widespread belief, jump to conclusions</i>   |
| 15 Business reports                        | <i>fierce competition, stimulate growth, hike in prices</i>   |
| 16 Customer services                       | <i>fit for purpose, kick up a fuss, grounds for complaint</i> |
| 17 Student life                            | <i>gifted child, mature student, thirst for knowledge</i>     |
| 18 Writing essays, assignments and reports | <i>working hypothesis, confront issues, critical analysis</i> |

## Topics: leisure and lifestyle

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 19 Social life                | <i>call for a celebration, social whirl, play host to</i>       |
| 20 Talking                    | <i>juicy gossip, broach the subject, opening gambit</i>         |
| 21 News                       | <i>declare independence, reach agreement, bow to pressure</i>   |
| 22 Current affairs            | <i>refuse point-blank, decline to comment, gauge reaction</i>   |
| 23 Festivals and celebrations | <i>date back to, movable feast, propose a toast</i>             |
| 24 Advertisements and fashion | <i>set the trend, fashion victim, flawless complexion</i>       |
| 25 Traffic and driving        | <i>lengthy delays, grind the gears, bear left</i>               |
| 26 Travel and adventure       | <i>get itchy feet, off the beaten track, leg of the journey</i> |
| 27 Sport                      | <i>keep in shape, reach fever pitch, score an own goal</i>      |
| 28 Plans and decisions        | <i>toy with an idea, tentative suggestion, deciding factor</i>  |
| 29 Film and book reviews      | <i>star-studded cast, glowing reviews, hold one's attention</i> |

## Topics: the modern world

30 Regulations and authority

31 The environment

32 Town and country life

33 Personal finance

34 The economy

35 Social issues

36 Science and technology

37 Health and medicine

38 Criminal justice

39 War and peace

*minimise danger, grant permission, faceless bureaucrats*

*dump waste, searing heat, offset carbon emissions back of beyond, rural idyll, urban regeneration*

*clear one's debts, agreed credit limit, identity theft*

*curb inflation, safeguard one's interests,*

*plummeting profits*

*antisocial behaviour, dysfunctional family, unfit for human habitation*

*harness technology, cutting edge design, wireless hotspots*

*build up resistance, adverse reaction, shake off a cold*

*custodial sentences, beyond reasonable doubt,*

*trumped-up charges*

*deploy troops, pre-emptive strike, collateral damage*

## Topics: people

40 Friendship

41 Youth and age

42 Celebrities and heroes

43 Criticising people

44 References

45 Appearance and personality

*lifelong friends, platonic relationship, heal the rift*

*child prodigy, go through a midlife crisis, senior moment*

*go into rehab, kiss and tell, heap praise on*

*bone idle, poison the atmosphere, nasty piece of work*

*act as a referee, accumulate experience, financial acumen*

*boundless energy, stubborn streak, act one's age*

## Basic concepts

46 Time and space

47 Sound

48 Making things easier

49 Difficulty

50 Quantity and size

51 Change

*cramped conditions, waste of space, go down in history*

*husky voice, incessant noise, let out a cry*

*viable options, simplicity itself, take the easy way out*

*severe blow, hinder progress, encounter difficulties*

*finite number, endless supply, unknown quantity*

*sweeping changes, would make a change, sudden shift*

## Functions

52 Stopping and starting

53 Cause and effect

54 Describing groups and amounts

55 Comparing and contrasting

56 Making an effort

57 Social English

58 Discussing issues

59 Negative situations and feelings

60 Positive situations and feelings

*bring a halt to, close off a street, dispel rumours*

*root cause, provoke an outcry, dire consequences*

*swarm of bees, flurry of activity, stroke of genius*

*bear little resemblance to, polar opposites, draw a comparison between*

*give it one's best shot, abortive attempt, worth a try*

*not lose any sleep, to be brutally honest, be on the go*

*make a commitment, give a straight answer, miss the point*

*nasty shock, take exception to, suffer at the hands of sense of achievement, state of euphoria, derive pleasure from*

Key

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