

English collocations in use with answers Printable PDF

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 and 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	
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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

an introduction to english language

An Introduction to English Language

The English language is one of the most widely spoken and influential languages in the world today. From global business and international diplomacy to entertainment and technology, English serves as a vital communication tool across countless domains. Understanding the roots, development, and characteristics of the English language is essential for learners, educators, linguists, and anyone interested in global communication. This comprehensive guide aims to provide an insightful introduction to the English language, exploring its history, structure, global significance, and future trends.

Historical Background of the English Language

The Origins of English

English is a Germanic language that originated in early medieval England. Its roots can be traced back to the Anglo-Saxon tribes—Angles, Saxons, and Jutes—that migrated to the British Isles around the 5th century AD. The language spoken by these tribes formed the basis of Old English.

The Evolution Through Ages

The history of English is marked by several distinct periods:

- **Old English (c. 450-1150 AD):** Characterized by Germanic roots, Old English was heavily

influenced by Norse invaders and Latin church influence.

- **Middle English (c. 1150?1500 AD):** Marked by Norman conquest in 1066, which introduced Norman French vocabulary and grammar influences.

- **Early Modern English (c. 1500?1700 AD):** The Renaissance brought a revival of classical learning, expanding vocabulary and standardizing spelling and grammar.

- **Modern English (1700 AD to present):** The language continued to evolve with colonial expansion, technological advances, and globalization, leading to the diverse forms of English spoken today.

The Role of Literary and Cultural Influences

English literature, from Geoffrey Chaucer's Canterbury Tales to William Shakespeare's plays and modern authors like J.K. Rowling, has significantly shaped the language's development. Cultural exchanges through colonization, trade, and diplomacy have also contributed to the vocabulary and idiomatic expressions in English.

The Structure and Features of the English Language

Phonology and Pronunciation

English phonology includes a wide range of vowel and consonant sounds. The pronunciation varies significantly across different regions and accents, which adds to the language's richness but also presents challenges for learners.

Vocabulary and Lexicon

English boasts one of the largest vocabularies among languages, with estimates ranging from 150,000 to over a million words, considering technical and scientific terms. This extensive lexicon is a result of:

- Borrowings from Latin, French, Greek, and other languages
- Coining of new terms during technological and scientific advancements
- Slang and colloquialisms evolving over time

Grammar and Syntax

English grammar is characterized by:

- Relatively simple verb conjugation compared to other languages

- Use of auxiliary verbs for tense and aspect (e.g., be, have, do)
- Flexible word order, with Subject-Verb-Object being standard
- Extensive use of prepositions and articles

Writing System

English uses the Latin alphabet, consisting of 26 letters. Its orthography (spelling system) can be complex due to historical spelling conventions, silent letters, and irregular pronunciation rules.

The Global Significance of the English Language

English as a Global Lingua Franca

Today, English is regarded as the world's primary lingua franca—an auxiliary language used for international communication. It is the official or working language in over 50 countries and widely used in international organizations like the United Nations and the International Olympic Committee.

English in Business and Commerce

English dominates international business, finance, and trade. Many multinational corporations operate primarily in English, and proficiency is often a prerequisite for global career opportunities.

English in Science, Technology, and Education

A significant portion of scientific research, technological development, and academic publications are in English. Universities worldwide offer courses in English to attract international students.

English in Media and Entertainment

English-language media, including movies, music, television, and literature, have a global reach. Hollywood films, English pop music, and online streaming platforms have popularized the language worldwide.

English on the Internet and Social Media

English is the dominant language on the internet, accounting for a large percentage of online content. Social media platforms facilitate global interaction primarily in English, further fostering its universal status.

Learning and Teaching the English Language

Why Learn English?

Learning English offers numerous benefits:

- Access to a vast amount of information and educational resources
- Enhanced employability and career prospects
- Ability to communicate with people worldwide
- Participation in global culture and entertainment

Methods of Learning English

Effective approaches include:

- Classroom instruction with trained teachers
- Online courses and language learning apps
- Immersive experiences through travel and cultural exchange
- Practice with native speakers or language exchange partners

Challenges in Learning English

Some common difficulties faced by learners are:

- Complex spelling and pronunciation rules
- Irregular verb forms
- Idiomatic expressions and phrasal verbs
- Regional accents and dialects

The Future of the English Language

Emerging Trends

English continues to evolve with technological innovations:

- Increased influence of digital communication and social media
- Emergence of new slang and internet vernacular
- Globalization leading to more diverse accents and dialects
- Integration of loanwords from other languages due to cultural exchange

Potential Challenges

As the language grows, there are concerns about:

- Language homogenization potentially overshadowing regional dialects
- Loss of linguistic diversity
- Difficulty in maintaining standardization across different regions

Conclusion

The English language remains a dynamic and influential means of communication. Its rich history, extensive vocabulary, and widespread use make it an invaluable global asset. Whether for personal growth, academic pursuits, or professional development, learning English opens doors to countless opportunities. As the world continues to embrace globalization and technological innovation, the role of English is poised to expand further, shaping the future of international communication.

Keywords for SEO Optimization:

- Introduction to English language
- History of English
- English language structure
- Global importance of English
- Learn English online
- English language development
- English as a lingua franca
- Benefits of learning English
- Future of the English language
- English language learning tips

Introduction to the English Language: A Comprehensive Overview

The English language, often regarded as the global lingua franca, has a rich history, complex structure, and widespread influence that permeates nearly every corner of the world. As one of the most widely spoken and studied languages today, understanding its fundamentals offers invaluable insights into its role in communication, culture, and international relations. This detailed exploration delves into the origins, evolution, grammatical features, vocabulary, phonetics, and the significance of English in contemporary society.

Historical Background of the English Language

Origins and Early Development

The roots of English trace back over 1,400 years to the Germanic tribes—namely the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes—who migrated to the British Isles around the 5th century AD. These tribes brought with them their languages, which gradually coalesced into what we now call Old English.

Key points about early English:

- Old English (circa 450–1150 AD): Characterized by a complex system of inflections, a vocabulary heavily influenced by Latin and Norse, and a rich oral tradition including epic poetry like *Beowulf*.
- Influence of Latin and Norse: Latin arrived through Christian missionaries, while Norse influence increased due to Viking invasions, shaping vocabulary and syntax.

Middle English and the Norman Conquest

The Norman Conquest of 1066 marked a pivotal turning point:

- Norman French influence: The ruling class spoke Norman French, which heavily influenced the vocabulary, especially in law, governance, art, and cuisine.
- Language features: Middle English (circa 1150–1500) saw simplification of inflectional endings and an expansion of vocabulary.

Early Modern English and the Renaissance

From the late 15th to the early 17th century:

- The Renaissance: Brought a revival of classical learning and an influx of Latin and Greek words.
- The printing press: Invented by Johannes Gutenberg, it standardized spelling and grammar, making literature more accessible.
- Notable figures: William Shakespeare and the King James Bible significantly shaped the language.

Modern English and Global Spread

Since the 17th century:

- Colonial expansion: British colonization spread English worldwide.
- Industrial Revolution: Facilitated international trade and communication.
- Contemporary English: Continues to evolve with influences from numerous languages and cultures, especially in the digital age.

Structural Aspects of the English Language

Phonetics and Pronunciation

English phonetics is known for its complexity and variability:

- Consonant and vowel sounds: The language features approximately 24 consonant sounds and around 20 vowel sounds, with many variations.
- Spelling and pronunciation discrepancies: Due to historical influences, English spelling often does not align directly with pronunciation (e.g., though vs. through).

Grammar and Syntax

English grammar, while relatively straightforward compared to some languages, has distinctive features:

- Parts of speech: Nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections.
- Sentence structure: Typically follows a Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) order.
- Tenses: Present, past, future, along with perfect and progressive aspects.
- Agreement: Subject-verb agreement in number and person.
- Modifiers: Use of adjectives and adverbs to add detail.

Vocabulary and Lexicon

English boasts an extensive vocabulary, estimated at over a million words:

- Loanwords: Borrowed extensively from Latin, French, Greek, German, and many other languages.
- Synonyms and antonyms: Rich variety of words with nuanced differences, offering precision and expressiveness.
- Neologisms: Continual creation of new words, especially in technology and popular culture.

Unique Features of the English Language

Orthography and Spelling

English spelling can be irregular due to its diverse origins:

- Historical influences: Words retain spellings from older forms or borrowed languages.
- Examples: Knight, psychology, colonel.
- Spelling reforms: There have been proposals but no widespread standardization.

Idioms and Phrasal Verbs

Idiomatic expressions and phrasal verbs are integral:

- Idioms: Phrases whose meanings are not deducible from individual words (e.g., kick the bucket).
- Phrasal verbs: Verb + particle combinations with idiomatic meanings (e.g., look up, give in).

Varieties and Dialects

English manifests in numerous dialects:

- British English: Variations like Cockney, Received Pronunciation.
- American English: Distinct vocabulary and pronunciation.
- Other varieties: Australian, Canadian, Indian English, each with unique features.

The Role of English in the Modern World

Global Lingua Franca

English is the primary language of:

- International diplomacy
- Business and commerce
- Science and technology
- Entertainment and media

English in Education and Research

- Most scientific journals publish in English.
- Universities worldwide offer courses in English.
- English proficiency is often a requirement for international careers.

The Digital Age and English

- Dominance in internet content, social media, and digital communication.
- Emergence of digital slang, memes, and abbreviations, influencing language evolution.

Cultural Impact

- English-language music, films, and literature shape global pop culture.
- Cultural exchange and understanding facilitated through shared language.

Learning and Teaching English

Methods and Approaches

- Traditional grammar-translation
- Communicative language teaching
- Immersive and bilingual approaches
- Use of technology and online platforms

Challenges for Learners

- Irregular spelling and pronunciation
- Idiomatic expressions
- Extensive vocabulary
- Variations in dialects and accents

Resources and Tools

- Language apps (Duolingo, Babbel)

- Online courses and tutorials
- Media and literature in English
- Language exchange programs

Conclusion

The English language remains a dynamic, influential, and complex means of communication. Its history reflects centuries of cultural exchange and adaptation, shaping a language that is both diverse and adaptable. For learners, educators, and global citizens alike, understanding English's structure, history, and role in society unlocks numerous opportunities for connection, learning, and cultural appreciation. As it continues to evolve in the digital age, English's significance is poised to grow, cementing its status as a cornerstone of international communication.

In summary, mastering the English language provides access to a vast repository of knowledge, culture, and opportunities. Its rich history and widespread use make it a fascinating subject of study and an essential skill in today's interconnected world. Whether for academic pursuits, professional advancement, or cultural engagement, an introduction to English opens the door to endless possibilities.

QuestionAnswer What are the key features that define the English language? English is a West Germanic language characterized by a rich vocabulary, extensive use of loanwords, and a flexible grammar system. It is known for its adaptability, widespread global use, and its role as a lingua franca in international communication. How did the English language develop over time? English evolved from the Anglo-Saxon languages brought to Britain by Germanic tribes around the 5th century. It was later influenced by Norman French, Latin, and other languages, leading to the Modern English we use today. This development spans Old English, Middle English, and Modern English periods. Why is English considered a global language? English is considered a global language because it is the primary or secondary language in many countries, used extensively in international business, science, technology, entertainment, and diplomacy, making it a key tool for global communication. What are the main components of learning the English language? Learning English involves mastering four main components: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Additionally, understanding grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and cultural context are essential for effective communication. How has the internet influenced the spread and evolution of the English language? The internet has accelerated the global spread of English, introduced new slang, abbreviations, and digital communication styles, and facilitated intercultural exchange, thereby continuously shaping and evolving the language in real-time.

Related keywords: English language, language learning, linguistics, grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, syntax, phonetics, language skills, language history

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