

# COMMUNICATION SKILLS- VOCABULARY BUILDING -II

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# collocations

Word partnerships or words that are commonly used together by native speakers.

**Word** + **Word** = Collocation

## Why learn collocations?

- Your language will be more natural and more easily understood.
- You will have alternative and richer ways of expressing yourself.
- It is easier for our brains to remember and use language in chunks or blocks rather than single words.

## How to learn collocations

- Be aware of collocations, and try to recognize them when you see or hear them.

## Collocate



Strong tea/coffee  
Tall tree  
Heavy rain  
Rich taste  
Big mistake  
Great fun  
Sweet dreams

## Don't Collocate



Powerful tea/coffee  
High tree  
Weighty rain  
Deep taste  
Large mistake  
Big fun  
Nice dreams

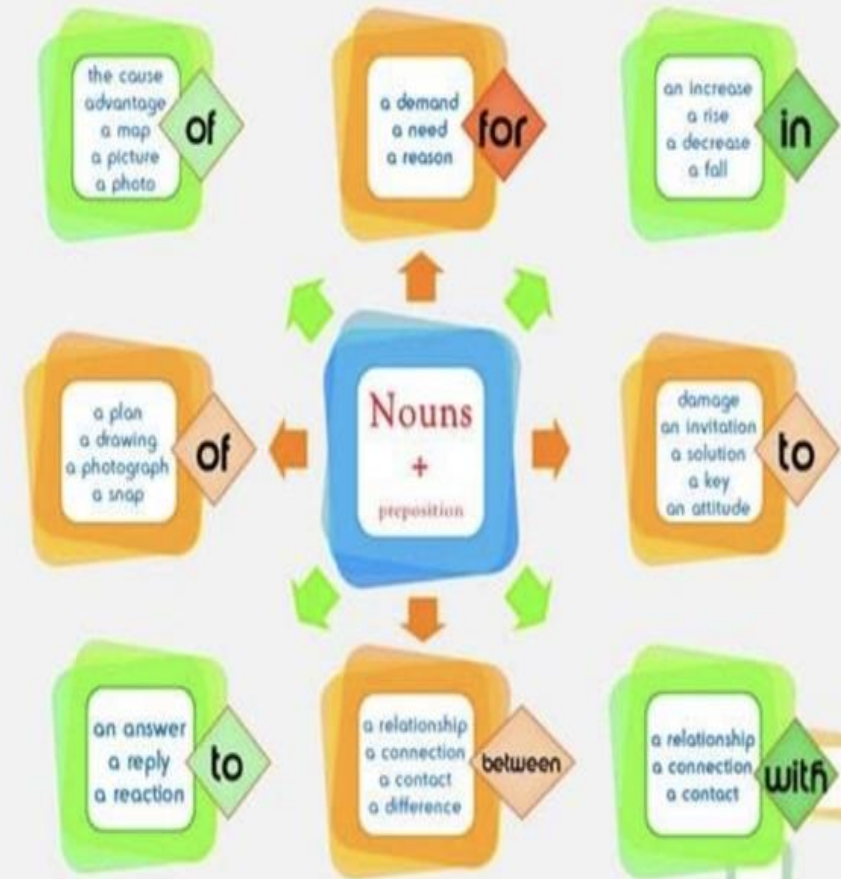
### What is a collocation?

A collocation is two or more words that often go together. These combinations just sound "right" to native English speakers, who use them all the time. On the other hand, other combinations may be unnatural and just sound "wrong". Look at these examples :

natural English...	unnatural English...
the <b>fast</b> train	the <del>quick</del> train
<b>fast</b> food	<del>quick</del> food
a <b>quick</b> shower	a <del>fast</del> shower
a <b>quick</b> meal	a <del>fast</del> meal

## NOUNS + PREPOSITIONS

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## Sample Collocations

There are several different types of collocation. Collocations can be adjective + adverb, noun + noun, verb + noun and so on. Below you can see seven main types of collocation in sample sentences.

### 1. adverb + adjective

- Invading that country was an **utterly stupid** thing to do.
- We entered a **richly decorated** room.
- Are you **fully aware** of the implications of your action?

**COLLOCATIONS**  
adverbs + adjectives

a pair or group of words that are often used together

collocation

These collocations use adverbs to make the adjective stronger.

**ridiculously easy**  
This test is **ridiculously easy**! I didn't even study, but I will get a high score.

**utterly ridiculous**  
That's **utterly ridiculous**. Ben didn't steal your favorite pen from work yesterday. He wasn't even in the office yesterday.

**highly successful**  
Janet is a **highly successful** businesswoman. She owns several restaurants and hotels around the country.

**deeply concerned**  
Are you okay? I am **deeply concerned** about you. You have been depressed since you lost your job.

**strongly opposed**  
Roger is **strongly opposed** to anything bad for his health. He doesn't eat junk food and doesn't drink or smoke.

American English at State **A E**

### 2. adjective + noun

- The doctor ordered him to take **regular exercise**.
- The Titanic sank on its **maiden voyage**.
- He was writhing on the ground in **excruciating pain**.

## ADJECTIVE + NOUN

- A soft drink                      A soft voice (≠ a loud voice)
- Strong coffee (≠ weak coffee)  
a strong/heavy accent (≠ a slight accent)  
*I can't understand his English because he has such a strong accent.*
- Hard work (hard physically or mentally)  
A great success (very successful)  
*It was hard work organizing the conference, but I think it was a great success.*
- Heavy traffic ( a lot of cars on the road)  
Heavy rain (raining a lot)  
A heavy smoker  
*There's always heavy traffic during rush hour.  
I used to be a heavy smoker.  
The plane could not take off because of heavy rain*

### 3. noun + noun

- Let's give Mr Jones a **round of applause**.
- The **ceasefire agreement** came into effect at 11am.
- I'd like to buy two **bars of soap** please.

### 4. noun + verb

- The **lion** started **to roar** when it heard the **dog barking**.
- **Snow** was **falling** as our **plane** **took off**.
- The **bomb** **went off** when he started the car engine.

## 7. verb + adverb

- She **placed** her keys **gently** on the table and sat down.
- Mary **whispered softly** in John's ear.
- I **vaguely remember** that it was growing dark when we left.

## Verb collocations

have	do	make
have a bath	do business	make a difference
have a drink	do nothing	make a mess
have a good time	do someone a favour	make a mistake
have a haircut	do the cooking	make a noise

have a holiday have a problem have a relationship have a rest have lunch have sympathy	do the housework do the shopping do the washing up do your best do your hair do your homework	make an effort make furniture make money make progress make room make trouble
<b>take</b>	<b>break</b>	<b>catch</b>
take a break take a chance take a look take a rest take a seat take a taxi take an exam take notes take someone's place take someone's temperature	break a habit break a leg break a promise break a record break a window break someone's heart break the ice break the law break the news to someone break the rules	catch a ball catch a bus catch a chill catch a cold catch a thief catch fire catch sight of catch someone's attention catch someone's eye catch the flu

pay	save	keep
pay a fine pay attention pay by credit card pay cash pay interest pay someone a compliment pay someone a visit pay the bill pay the price	save electricity save energy save money save one's strength save someone a seat save someone's life save something to a disk save space save time	keep a diary keep a promise keep a secret keep an appointment keep calm keep control keep in touch keep quiet keep someone's place

# COMMON COLLOCATIONS



## Have

Have a bath  
Have a drink  
Have a good time  
Have a haircut  
Have a holiday  
Have a problem  
Have a relationship  
Have a rest  
Have lunch  
Have sympathy

## Break

Break a leg  
Break a habit  
Break a record  
Break a promise  
Break a window  
Break someone's heart  
Break the ice  
Break the law  
Break the news to someone  
Break the rules

## Pay

Pay a fine  
Pay attention  
Pay by credit card  
Pay cash  
Pay interest  
Pay someone a compliment  
Pay someone a visit  
Pay the bill  
Pay the price  
Pay your respects

## Make

Make a difference  
Make a mess  
Make a mistake  
Make a noise  
Make an effort  
Make furniture  
Make money  
Make progress  
Make room  
Make trouble



# COLLOCATIONS

## DO

- Do a favour
- Do the cooking
- Do the housework
- Do the shopping
- Do the washing up

## MAKE

- Make a difference
- Make a mess
- Make a mistake
- Make a noise
- Make an effort

## HAVE

- Have a good time
- Have a bath
- Have a drink
- Have a haircut
- Have a holiday

## TAKE

- Take a break
- Take a chance
- Take a look
- Take a rest
- Take a seat

# VERB COLLOCATIONS

COME	GO	GET	KEEP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Come close</li> <li>• Come complete with</li> <li>• Come first</li> <li>• Come into view</li> <li>• Come last</li> <li>• Come prepared</li> <li>• Come right back</li> <li>• Come second</li> <li>• Come to a compromise</li> <li>• Come to a decision</li> <li>• Come to an agreement</li> <li>• Come to an end</li> <li>• Come to a standstill</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Go astray</li> <li>• Go bad</li> <li>• Go bald</li> <li>• Go bankrupt</li> <li>• Go blind</li> <li>• Go crazy</li> <li>• Go dark</li> <li>• Go deaf</li> <li>• Go mad</li> <li>• Go missing</li> <li>• Go online</li> <li>• Go out of business</li> <li>• Go overseas</li> <li>• Go quiet</li> <li>• Go sailing</li> <li>• Go to war</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get a job</li> <li>• Get angry</li> <li>• Get a shock</li> <li>• Get married</li> <li>• Get drunk</li> <li>• Get frightened</li> <li>• Get lost</li> <li>• Get permission</li> <li>• Get pregnant</li> <li>• Get started</li> <li>• Get the impression</li> <li>• Get the message</li> <li>• Get the sack</li> <li>• Get upset</li> <li>• Get wet</li> <li>• Get worried</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep a diary</li> <li>• Keep a promise</li> <li>• Keep a secret</li> <li>• Keep an appointment</li> <li>• Keep calm</li> <li>• Keep control</li> <li>• Keep in touch</li> <li>• Keep quiet</li> <li>• Keep someone's place</li> <li>• Keep the change</li> </ul>

## Common Collocations



## ADVERBS + ADVERBS

