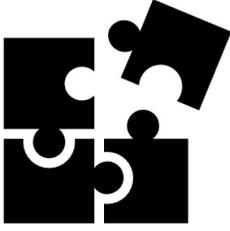


**MASTER ENGLISH COLLOCATIONS &
PHRASAL VERBS**

THE ULTIMATE PHRASAL VERBS AND
COLLOCATIONS BOOK FOR LEARNING
ENGLISH

ENGLISH VOCABULARY & GRAMMAR SERIES BOOK 1

MARC ROCHE



“Your understanding of what you read and hear is, to a very large degree, determined by your vocabulary, so improve your vocabulary daily.”

- *Winston Churchill*

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EPIGRAPH

The limits of my language are the limits of my universe.

- *Johann Wolfgang von Goethe*

Vocabulary enables us to interpret and to express. If you have a limited vocabulary, you will also have a limited vision and a limited future.

- *Jim Rohn*

FOREWORD

Congratulations, you now own a special book containing arguably the most important collocations and phrasal verbs in English. You can whip this nifty guide out whenever you want for some quick high-focus learning!

The information in this book comes from hundreds of hours of research and from my practical experience of teaching thousands of students.

The contents of this book are not exhaustive, but I've tried my best to compile the most original and valuable information possible for you.

When I first started working as a business writing coach and English exam teacher in 2009, I felt like I had a lot to learn, and fortunately I still do.

I've been lucky enough to be able to help many students improve their English vocabulary, listening, speaking, reading & writing skills over the last ten years or so.

I hope you find it useful and please feel free to email me with any comments. I'm always happy to receive feedback from readers.

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Master English Collocations & Phrasal verbs: The Ultimate Phrasal Verbs and Collocations Book for Learning English is ideal for anyone who has problems understanding, remembering and using collocations and phrasal verbs in English, and who wants to speak English fluently and confidently. Don't waste hours upon hours researching words and trying to understand their exact meaning. This book will make your learning more efficient with less of your own effort, which means more spare time to review other concepts.

This book has been written for quick reference, in order to avoid it becoming too heavy and theoretical.

This is not an exhaustive list of collocations or phrasal verbs in English, it's a curated list of some of the most common ones.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Marc is originally from Manchester and currently lives in Spain. He is a writer, teacher, trainer, and entrepreneur. He has collaborated with organizations such as the British Council, the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and University of Technology Sydney among others. Marc has also worked with multinationals such as Nike, GlaxoSmithKline or Bolsas y Mercados.

Learn more about Marc at amazon.com/author/marcroche

OTHER BOOKS BY MARC ROCHE

[IELTS Vocabulary Masterclass 8.5 \(BOOK 1\)](#)

[Grammar for IELTS 8.5 \(Book 1\)](#)

LET'S START WITH PHRASAL VERBS

Phrasal verbs are essential in order to improve your spoken and written English, as well as your listening comprehension, grammar and vocabulary skills for the exam. Learn English collocations and phrasal verbs quickly with “*Master English Collocations & Phrasal verbs: The Ultimate Phrasal Verbs and Collocations Book for Learning English*” from the English Vocabulary & Grammar Series. This book is packed full of collocations and phrasal verb exercises and explanations.

The phrasal verbs section of this book is organized by root verb, and each chapter contains explanations and review exercises.

What is a phrasal verb?

Phrasal verbs are a group of two or more words which perform the same function as another verb. A phrasal verb is a phrase that is made up of a main verb and an adverb, a preposition or both. They are idiomatic ways of expressing an action. Think of it like a sandwich:

[Main Verb] + adverb/preposition/adverb and preposition = phrasal verb

Phrasal verbs are unique to English and other Germanic languages and can cause issues for English learners. They can be transitive (they take a direct object), intransitive (they do not take a direct object), separable (they can be separated) and inseparable (they cannot be separated). We will cover the differences between these, complete with descriptions and exercises, later on.

Although the meanings differ, phrasal verbs are conjugated just like main verbs. For example, to break down conjugates like to break:

The car breaks down.

The car broke down.

Here are some common phrasal verbs to get you started:

Phrasal Verb bring up

Example *He brought up the fact that I was too short to go on the rollercoaster.*

Meaning: to mention a topic

Phrasal Verb call off

Example *She called off the wedding.*

Meaning: to cancel

Phrasal Verb carry on

Example *The bag was heavy, and my feet hurt, but I carried on with the walk.*

Meaning: to continue

Phrasal Verb deal with

Example *I can't deal with stress.*

Meaning: to handle

Phrasal Verb end up

Example *They ended up in Sheffield.*

Meaning: to reach a state or place

Phrasal Verb fall through

Example *Our plans to meet for coffee fell through.*

Meaning: to not happen

Phrasal Verb get on with (something)

Example *She was busy, so I got on with my essay.*

Meaning: to continue to do

Phrasal Verb hand in

Example *I handed in my thesis.*

Meaning: to submit

Phrasal Verb join in

Example *She joined in the conversation at the party.*

Meaning: to participate

Phrasal Verb keep up with

Example *My boss talks too fast and I can't keep up.*

Meaning: to stay at the same pace or level.

Phrasal Verb let down

Example *She was supposed to collect me at 6:00 but she didn't. She really let me down.*

Meaning: to disappoint

Phrasal Verb look forward to

Example *Are you looking forward to your holiday?*

Meaning: to be excited about something, to anticipate something good.

Phrasal Verb mix up

Example *I can't tell the twins apart; I always mix up their names.*

Meaning: to mistake one thing for another

Phrasal Verb pass away

Example *My grandfather passed away last night.*

Meaning: to die

Phrasal Verb put off

Example *I kept putting it off, even though I knew I had to do it*

Meaning: to postpone

Phrasal Verb rule out

Example *We know it wasn't John who ate Sarah's pasta, so we can rule him out*

Meaning: to eliminate

Phrasal Verb stick up for (someone)

Example *Catherine was always getting bullied, so Alex stuck up for her.*

Meaning: to defend

Phrasal Verb think over

Example *Janine told Roger that she would have to think over his proposal.*

Meaning: to consider

Phrasal Verb work out

Example

1. *It's important for your fitness that you work out three times a week.*
2. *The Math problem was difficult, but I eventually worked it out.*

Meaning:

1. to do physical exercise
2. to solve a problem

Do phrasal verbs make any sense?

If you analyze them logically, no.. but let's try to find some logic....

The meanings of phrasal verbs aren't immediately obvious, for example:

Tom broke up with Jenny.

Tom separated from Jenny.

We know that Tom didn't break Jenny into small pieces, he stopped being her boyfriend. This is an example of a phrasal verb not being directly linked to the meaning of its main verb.

However, sometimes with phrasal verbs we can work backwards to understand the logic of them. Breaking something does not have to be completely physical, it can also be figurative. The idea is that you are breaking a bond between someone. Because of this meaning, we can also use to break up to mean:

- Separate people from fighting: I had to break up a fight.
- A poor connection: I tried to call her, but the line kept breaking up.

At first glance, you may not see a link between to break and to break up, but when you work backwards and think figuratively, the meaning becomes clearer.

How to Learn Phrasal Verbs

As with any item of vocabulary, you will have to learn them individually. The more English media that you consume, the more phrasal verbs you will learn.

TASK 1

Try to match the phrasal verbs below with their synonyms:

- | Phrasal Verb | <i>Example</i> |
|-------------------------|--|
| a. throw away | <i>John threw away his apple core.</i> |
| b. look into | <i>Sarah looked into the murder case.</i> |
| c. get away with | <i>The robber got away with the crime.</i> |
| d. use up | <i>Use up the washing-up liquid before you buy another bottle!</i> |

e. run out of *My phone ran out of battery.*

Meanings:

1. use completely
2. exhaust supply
3. investigate
4. discard
5. escape blame

Check your answers at the bottom of the next page.

When to Use Phrasal Verbs

Phrasal verbs are used in non-formal situations. You will hear them used in speech on a daily basis, in emails between friends, and in some magazines. They are becoming more and more prevalent, but there are certain situations where you should avoid using them:

- Formal letters or emails.
- Academic papers or presentations.

TASK 2:

In the following email, underline all the phrasal verbs that you can find and write their meanings below. You may need to use a dictionary.

Hi Jack,

I'm sorry that I was late to work today. My car broke down yesterday, so I took the bus instead. However, the bus was held up in traffic! It seems that everyone was going to work at the same time!

Don't worry about the project, I'll be able to catch up with the rest of my colleagues. I'll drop by the office on the weekend and see if there is anything extra that I can do.

I hope you've got over your cold, I hear it's been going round the office recently.

Best wishes,

Gary

- (1) /
- (2) /
- (3) /
- (4) /

(5) /

(6) /

ANSWERS

Task 1:

- a) 4
- b) 3
- c) 5
- d) 1
- e) 2

Task 2:

- (1) *break down / to stop working*
- (2) *hold up / to delay (to be held up- to be delayed)*
- (3) *catch up / to do tasks*
- (4) *drop by / visit briefly*
- (5) *get over / to recover from an illness*
- (6) *go round / to affect a lot of people*

TYPES OF PHRASAL VERB

There are 4 types of phrasal verb:

Transitive phrasal verbs

Intransitive phrasal verbs

Separable phrasal verbs

Inseparable phrasal verbs

Transitive and Intransitive Phrasal Verbs

There are two types of verbs in English: Transitive and Intransitive. Transitive verbs take a direct object, whereas intransitive verbs do not.

Transitive phrasal verbs

These phrasal verbs take a direct object:

I look after my sister on Mondays

I look after + my sister on Mondays
 [phrasal verb] + [direct object]

Intransitive phrasal verbs

These phrasal verbs do not take a direct object:

When I grow up, I want to be a firefighter.

When I grow up I want to be a firefighter
 [phrasal verb]

Task 1

Look at the phrasal verbs below in the table with their examples. Decide whether they are transitive or intransitive. (You can find the answers at the end of this section).

Phrasal Verb: Example

1. **Take out** *Please take out the bins before you leave.*
2. **Cheer up** *I need to cheer up my sister because she's crying.*
3. **Come back** *I'm waiting for my mother to come back from the shops.*
4. **Go through** *I went through my father's bottle of cologne.*
5. **Get up** *I get up every morning at 6am.*
6. **Get by** *It was a difficult year and Mrs. Calloway lost her job, but they got by.*
7. **Pass out** *She passed out because of the amount of pain she was suffering from.*
8. **Get along with** *He gets along with most people.*

Task 2

Read the following sentences. They are all transitive. Underline the transitive verbs and highlight the direct object.

1. He is so creative; he made up a story for his daughter and her friends.
2. I have to fill out this form, so I can go to university.
3. Can you help me hang up this picture?
4. There was a problem with his essay; he had left out a conclusion.
5. The old friends ran into each other on the street.
6. I don't like how she looks down on everyone.
7. We tried on the costumes, but we looked awful in them!
8. She takes after her grandmother.
9. My mother says I have to get rid of my old toys.
10. I can't hear anything - please turn up the volume!

You can find the answers at the end of this section.

Separable and Inseparable Phrasal Verbs

As phrasal verbs consist of a main verb, an adverb or preposition or both, these verbs can sometimes be separated. Only transitive verbs (which take a direct object) can be separated.

Separable phrasal verbs

These phrasal verbs, as the name suggests, can be separated:

Turn off the light before you leave.

Turn the light off before you leave.

Only transitive phrasal verbs (which take a direct object) can be separated. However, it is important to remember:

All separable phrasal verbs are transitive, but not all transitive phrasal verbs are separable.

Turn off + the light before you leave.

[Phrasal verb] + [direct object]

Turn + the light + off before you leave.

[PV part 1] + [direct object] + [PV part 2]

Inseparable phrasal verbs

These phrasal verbs, as the name suggests, can't be separated:

He passed away last night.

He passed away last night

[inseparable verbs]

They cannot be separated due to the fact that there is no direct object. The phrase 'last night' is an adverb.

Word Order

When separating phrasal verbs, there is a word order that must be adhered to:

When referring to a specific object or person, the object can go between the phrasal verb or after the phrasal verb:

I picked up Sophie from school.

I picked Sophie up from school.

When using a pronoun as the direct object, the pronoun can only go between the phrasal verb:

I picked her up from school.

Task 3

The following phrases are separable phrasal verbs. **Write out the different ways to separate the phrasal verb using correct word order.**

Example:

I hung up the picture on the wall.

I hung the picture up on the wall.

I hung it up on the wall.

1. She put out the fire.

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2. I called off the party.

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3. Oscar asked out Samantha.

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4. They handed in their essays on time.

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5. I like showing off my new boots.

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6. Turn off the washing machine!

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7. I have to drop off my sister at a party.

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8. She won't give up her love of singing.

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9. Put on your hat.

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10. I made up a lie.

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You can find the answers at the end of this section.

Answers:

Task 1

1. *Transitive*
2. *Transitive*
3. *Intransitive*
4. *Transitive*
5. *Intransitive*
6. *Intransitive*
7. *Intransitive*
8. *Transitive*

Task 2

1. *He is so creative; he made up a story for his daughter and her friends.*
2. *I have to fill out this form, so I can go to university.*
3. *Can you help me hang up this picture?*
4. *There was a problem with his essay; he had left out a conclusion.*
5. *The old friends ran into each other on the street.*
6. *I don't like how she looks down on everyone.*
7. *We tried on the costumes, but we looked awful in them!*
8. *She takes after her grandmother.*
9. *My mother says I have to get rid of my old toys.*
10. *I can't hear anything - please turn up the volume!*

Task 3

1. *She put out the fire.*

She put the fire out.

She put it out.

2. *I called off the party.*

I called the party off.

I called it off.

3. *Oscar asked out Samantha.*

Oscar asked Samantha out.

Oscar asked her out.

4. *They handed in their essays on time.*

They handed their essays in on time.

They handed them in on time.

5. *I like showing off my new boots.*

I like showing my new boots off.

I like showing them off.

6. *Turn off the washing machine!*

Turn the washing machine off!

Turn it off!

7. *I have to drop off my sister at a party.*

I have to drop my sister off at a party.

I have to drop her off at a party.

8. *She won't give up her love of singing.*

She won't give her love of singing up.

She won't give it up.

9. *Put on your hat.*

Put your hat on.

Put it on.

10. *I made up a lie.*

I made a lie up.

I made it up.

TYPES OF PHRASAL VERB (PART TWO)

Phrasal verbs can be frustrating to learn. They often bear little resemblance to the main verb and there are so many to learn with different meanings.

The best way to learn these is to learn ‘clusters’ of phrasal verbs.

For example, the verb ‘take’:

Phrasal Verb	Transitive/Intransitive? Separable/Inseparable?	Example	Meaning
take after	transitive, inseparable	With my brown eyes and black hair, I take after my mother.	Resemble
take back	intransitive, separable	You need to take this dress back to the shop.	Return
take care of	transitive, inseparable	1. She can't go on holiday; she has to take care of her little sister. 2. He can't afford a holiday; he has to take care of these bills first.	1. Provide care for 2. Accept responsibility for
take off	1. transitive, separable 2. transitive, separable 3. intransitive, inseparable	1. Take your hat off. 2. Holly took the day off because she was ill. 3. The rocket took off.	1. Remove 2. Arrange an absence from work 3. To leave or to depart (quickly)
take up	1. transitive, separable 2. transitive, separable	1. I've decided to take up knitting. 2. James took up two seats.	1. Begin a hobby 2. Occupy space

If you look in a large dictionary, you will be able to see the various phrasal verbs under the main verb. It is a good idea to learn these in groups.

Task 1

Match the phrasal verbs (1-6) with their meanings (a-f).

Phrasal Verbs with “ **Put** ”

Meanings:

- a. Tolerate
- b. Return to its rightful place
- c. Allow someone to stay for the night
- d. Save something for later
- e. Postpone, delay
- f. Wear something

1. Put away - Transitive, separable. **Example:** *I put away a little money each month for my savings.*

Meaning:

.....

2. Put off - Transitive, separable. **Example:** *I keep putting off my homework because there are more fun things to do!*

Meaning:

.....

3. Put on - Transitive, separable. **Example:** *It’s cold outside so I suggest you put on your jacket.*

Meaning:

.....

4. Put up- Transitive, separable. **Example:** *My aunt and uncle are coming to London so I’m putting them up for the night.*

Meaning:

.....

5. Put up with- Transitive, inseparable. **Example:** *I cannot put up with this nonsense any longer!*

Meaning:

.....

6. Put back- Transitive, inseparable. **Example:** *I'm not buying you that toy so put it back.*

Meaning:

.....

You can find the answers at the end of this section.

Task 2

MORE PHRASAL VERBS WITH "PUT":

- a. *I'm prepared to **put up with** it for the time being.*
- b. *The World Wildlife Fund **put out** a press release.*
- c. *Don't **put off** until tomorrow what can be done today.*
- d. *After my dog was **put down** , I cried for days.*
- e. *He began to **put away** all the toys he had taken out to play with.*
- f. *The Trade Union council **put forward** a plan for national recovery.*
- g. *My self-confidence has been undermined because my mother is always **putting me down** .*
- h. *I've got nowhere to sleep! Could anybody **put me up** ?*

Match the phrasal verbs with their meanings. Put one or two words in each gap:

1. If you put something _____, you postpone it until a later time.
2. If you put something _____, you replace it somewhere tidily.
3. If you put an animal _____, you kill it because it is too old, or it is in too much pain.
4. If you put someone _____, you give them a bed for a night or two.
5. If you put _____ someone or something, you tolerate or accept them, even though that person or thing is disagreeable.
6. If you put someone _____, you criticize or humiliate them.
7. If you put _____ an idea or a proposal, you state or publish it, so people can consider and discuss it.
8. If a statement is put _____ to people, it is officially told to them.

Put a phrasal verb in each gap (!!!! Watch the tense)

1. I left my girlfriend because she's always _____.
2. I _____ her moods if I were you.
3. If they _____ for the night, I would have had to sleep in the street.
4. Clinton has _____ a press release which contradicts his previous statements.
5. You needn't _____ the meeting: everybody could have made it in the end.
6. Every day, the government _____ a new plan to tackle unemployment.
7. If they find stray dogs in the streets, the poor animals _____.
8. As a child, I could never get used to _____ my things _____ after I had used them.

Task 3

In this conversation between two friends (Jim and Sasha), underline the phrasal verbs and write their meanings below. You may need to use a dictionary.

Jim: *I meant to call in on my granddad today, but he passed away last night.*

Sasha: *Oh, I'm sorry Jim. Were you looking after him?*

Jim: *No, my grandma was. I think she liked taking care of him.*

Sasha: *Are you going to go over later, to see how she is?*

Jim: *Yes, I'll visit her later. She's with my parents at the moment. I'll have to find out what the plan is.*

Sasha: *Why don't you come over to my place? We can order pizza, or if you'd prefer, we can eat out.*

Jim: *Sure, that's a good idea. I'm looking forward to it.*

1.....

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7.....

8.....

9.....

You can find the answers at the end of this section.

Three-Word Phrasal Verbs

We have already discussed four types of phrasal verbs: **transitive, intransitive, separable and inseparable**. Most of the phrasal verbs which we have studied in these sections have been two part: they are made up of a main verb and a preposition or an adverb. However, there are phrasal verbs with two particles. These are called **three-word phrasal verbs**.

Three-word Phrasal Verbs

These are **always transitive** due to the fact that they require a direct object and they are **only inseparable**.

We have already seen a few three-word phrasal verbs, but below are some additional ones for you to learn:

Phrasal Verb	Example	Meaning
Come up with	She came up with a great idea.	Contribute or think an idea, suggestion or plan
Get along with	He gets along with his dad.	Have a good relationship with
Talk back to	You must not talk back to your parents.	Answer impolitely to someone
Get away from	I need to book a holiday and get away with it all.	Take a break
Walk out on	I walked out on my family last year.	Abandon

Task 4:

The paragraph below does not use phrasal verbs. Using the three-word phrasal verbs from the table above, rewrite the story.

Three-word phrasal verbs from the table: *Come up with, get along with, talk back to, get away from, walk out on*

I have never had a good relationship with my sister. She always answers impolitely to our parents. Last summer I grew sick of it. I needed to take a break from her, or I would go crazy! I thought of a plan that would help. I decided to abandon my family once and for all...

You can find the answers at the end of this section.

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Task 5

Phrasal Verb	Meaning
Think back on	Recall
Look up to	Respect or admire
Cut down on	Curtail
Look out for	Be careful of
Make sure of	Verify

Using the three-word phrasal verbs in the table above (listed with their definitions), write the missing phrasal verbs in the sentences below.

Three-word phrasal verbs:

Think back on

Look up to

Cut down on

Look out for

Make sure of

1. I am putting on weight, I need to _____ my chocolate eating!
2. She _____ her older brother.
3. - Do you want to go on a walk in the countryside today?
- Sure, but we'll have to _____ rattlesnakes!
4. _____ the situation before you act.
5. When I _____ our marriage, I remember all

the good parts.

You can find the answers at the end of this section.

Answers:

Task 1

1. *d*

2. *e*

3. *f*

4. *c*

5. *a*

6. *b*

Task 2

1. *If you put something off, you postpone it until a later time.*

2. *If you put something away, you place it somewhere tidily.*

3. *If you put an animal down, you kill it because it is too old, or it is in too much pain.*

4. *If you put someone up, you give them a bed for a night or two.*

5. *If you put up with someone or something, you tolerate or accept them, even though that person or thing is annoying or unpleasant.*

6. *If you put someone down, you criticize or humiliate them.*

7. *If you put forward an idea or a proposal, you state or publish it, so people can consider and discuss it.*

8. *If a statement is put out to people, it is officially told to them.*

Put a phrasal verb in each gap (Watch the tense)

1. *I left my girlfriend because she's always putting me down.*

2. *I wouldn't put up with her moods if I were you.*

3. *If they hadn't put me up for the night, I would have had to sleep in the street.*

4. *Clinton has put out a press release which contradicts his previous statements.*

5. *We need to put off the meeting until we have made a decision.*

5. *You needn't have put off the meeting; everybody could have made it in the end.*

6. *Every day, the government puts forward a new plan to tackle unemployment.*

7. *If they find stray dogs in the streets, the poor animals are put down.*

8. *As a child, I could never get used to putting my things away after I had used them.*

Task 3

1. *call in on - visit*

2. *passed away - died*

3. *looking after - care for*

4. *taking care of - care for*

5. *go over - visit*

6. *find out - discover*

7. *come over - visit (the person being visited uses this)*

8. *eat out - eat at a restaurant instead of home*

9. *looking forward to - anticipate with pleasure*

Task 4

I have never gotten along with my sister. She always talks back to our parents. Last summer I grew sick of it. I needed to take a break from her, or I would go crazy! I thought of a plan that would help. I decided to abandon my family once and for all...

Task 5

1. *I am putting on weight, I need to cut down on my chocolate eating!*
2. *She looks up to her older brother.*
3. *- Do you want to go on a walk in the countryside today?*
- Sure, but we'll have to look out for rattlesnakes!
4. *Make sure of the situation before you act.*
5. *When I think back on our marriage, I remember all the good parts.*

SEXUAL & RUDE PHRASAL VERBS

Warning: These are phrasal verbs which people use when they are speaking informally with close Friends or family only! They are not appropriate for other situations and can get you into trouble, so please use them responsibly!

“To Make Out”

This one is not rude, but is an American informal phrasal verb, which means “kissing” in a sexual manner, but generally refers to kissing which is quite intense. The British equivalents to this American phrasal verb are: **“to have it off with someone”, “get off with someone”, “to pull someone” and “to cop off with someone”**.

“Pick Up”

This is mainly American, and means when someone meets someone else, usually at a bar or night-club, and takes that person home to have sex with them.

“Sleep Around”

This is when someone has many sexual partners in a short space of time.

“To chat someone up”

To start a conversation with someone romantically.

“A chat up line” is a memorized phrase someone says to chat someone up. For example: *Are you a magician? Because whenever I look at you, everyone else disappears!*

This is a very “cheesy” chat-up line. The adjective “cheesy” means too sentimental, poetic, exaggerated and likely to be insincere. “Cheesy” is a very British expression.

“Hit on someone”

This is another American phrasal verb, which means to **chat someone up**.

“To cheat on”

This phrasal verb means to kiss or have sexual relations with someone else when you have a boyfriend, girlfriend or are married.

“To check someone out”

To look at someone because you feel attracted to them.

“To give someone the eye”

To make eye contact with someone in a way that lets him or her know that you are interested.

“To hit it off with someone”

This means that you have connected with someone. This can be used for friends, colleagues or romance.

PHRASAL VERBS WITH “TAKE”

Mini-Dictionary

Phrasal Verbs with ‘take’

Here is a list with some examples of the most common phrasal verbs with ‘take’. Use this glossary to complete exercises at the end of this chapter.

Take a back- Meaning: Surprise or shock -Example: *It took me aback when she asked such a personal question.*

Take after- Meaning: To have similar appearance, character or personality to an older family member- Example: *She takes after her father.*

Take against - Meaning: Stop liking someone; to become hostile toward- Example: *She took against Mary when she was promoted over her.*

Take apart - Meaning: Separate something into its parts-Example: *The mechanic took the car apart to find the problem.*

Take aside- Meaning: Get someone alone to talk to them-Example: *John was taken aside by the manager when he shouted at a customer. .*

Take away- Meaning: Remove something and put it in a different place- Example: *My dad took our plates away and came back with chocolate cake for dessert!*

Take away- Meaning: Remove something, either material or abstract, so that a person no longer has it- Example: *Jack’s mum took his computer away until he improved at school.*

Take away - Meaning: Subtract or diminish something- Example: *If I have three oranges and I take away two, how many oranges do I have left? The answer is one.*

Take away- Meaning: Leave a memory or impression in one’s mind that you think about later- Example: *I took away the impression that the manager did not get along with his players.*

Take away- Meaning: Force someone to leave a place and take him or her somewhere else -Example: *The police took the suspect to the station for*

questioning.

Take away from - Meaning: Make something seem worse, not so good or less interesting- Example: *His behavior took away from the excitement of the party.*

Take back- Meaning: Retract something you said earlier. -Example: *You are not selfish; I take it back, I´m sorry.*

Take back - Meaning: When something makes you remember some past event or time we say that it ‘takes you back’- Example: *That film takes me back to when I was a kid at Christmas.*

Take back- Meaning: Start a relationship again with someone after you have split up- Example: *Jane has forgiven Aaron and taken him back despite his behavior.*

Take back- Meaning: Regain possession of something -Example: *I´m taking back my laptop because you are always using it without asking!*

Take back- Meaning: Return something to a shop for a refund or exchange- Example: *These shoes are too small, I´m going to have to take them back to the shop tomorrow.*

Take down- Meaning: Remove something from a wall or similar vertical surface to which it is fixed or hanging position- Example: *She took down the photograph and replaced it with the framed picture.*

Take down- Meaning: Make notes, especially to record something spoken- Example: *If you have a pen, you should take down the most important points of the lecture.*

Take down- Meaning: Remove a temporary structure - Example: When everything else is ready, we can take down the gazebo.

Take down- Meaning: Lower an item of clothing without removing it- Example: *The nurse asked me to take down my trousers.*

Take for - Meaning. Think of or regard as- Example: *What do you take me for, a fool?*

Take for- Meaning: to get confused about what something or who someone is- Example: *Sorry, I took you for someone else, you look like a friend of mine.-*

Take for (also ‘take in for’, ‘take for a ride’, ‘rip off’ or ‘do’ someone)-

Meaning: Defraud; Example: *Jane is very upset because the scammers took her for 500 pounds.*

Take in- Meaning: Shorten (a piece of clothing) or make it smaller- Example: *I asked the tailor to take the trousers in a bit around the leg.*

Take in- Meaning: Absorb information or understand the reality of that information- Example: *He was in shock after the incident, so it took him a while to take the news in.*

Take in- Meaning: Deceive, give a false impression- Example: *Everyone was taken in by his lies.*

Take it out on - Meaning: Unleash one's anger on [a person or thing other than the one that caused it]- Example: *Don't take it out on me just because you're in a bad mood.*

Take it upon oneself - Meaning: Assume personal responsibility for a task or action- Example: *She took it upon herself to ring him and ask him to come over.*

Take off- Meaning: To remove something, usually clothes or accessories- Example: *The doctor asked me to take off my shirt.*

Take off- Meaning: Imitate, often in a comical manner -Example: *John Kravet is a comedian who takes off all the famous people in my country.*

Take off- Meaning: When an aircraft leaves the ground and begins to fly; to ascend into the air- Example: *The helicopter took off at 6pm.*

Take off - Meaning: to become successful or grow- Example: *The project has really taken off this year, we are very excited.*

Take off- Meaning: to leave- Example: *We have to take off now or we are going to be late.*

Take on- Meaning: introduce, bring in or acquire - Example: *The truck took on 50 pallets in Southampton this morning.*

Take on- Meaning: employ, bring in - Example: *When the number of customers increased, we had to take on more staff.*

Take on- Meaning: Begin to have or exhibit physical traits- Example: *He took on the appearance of a criminal for the role in his new movie.*

Take on- Meaning: Take responsibility or burden- Example: *I'll take on the extra work if you can manage the project.*

Take on- Meaning: Attempt to fight or compete with- Example: *They took on the most notorious gang members in the city and they won.*

Take out- Meaning: Remove- Example: *Please take out the rubbish before the kitchen starts to smell!*

Take out- Meaning: Invite someone out socially, often for romantic reasons- Example: *Let me take you out for a drink*

Take over- Meaning: Adopt a responsibility or duty from someone else- Example: *He will take over the job permanently when the accountant retires.*

Take over- Meaning: Take control of something for someone temporarily- Example: *Can you take over driving for half an hour while I get some shut-eye (sleep)?*

Take over- Meaning: Buy the control of a business- Example: *Rola Cola PLC is planning to take over Punjabi MC Ltd this month.*

Take over- Meaning: Take control by conquest or invasion- Example: *Germany took over half of Europe leading up to WW2. (Note: "Lead up to" means "in the events which caused, and which came before")*

Take to- Meaning: Adapt to; to learn, grasp or master something- Example: *He took to gold instantly, he was a natural. (Note: "a natural" means someone who has natural talent at something)*

Take to- Meaning: to go into or move towards- Example: *As we drove through field, dozens of birds took to the air, scared by the noise of the car.*

Take up- Meaning: to start doing (an activity) regularly - Example: *I'm thinking of taking up tennis once a week.*

Take up- Meaning: to start to talk about an issue or problem with someone- Example: *I took my concerns up with the manager.*

Take up- Meaning: Occupy; to consume (space or time)- Example: *The sofa takes up half the living room.*

Take up- Meaning: Accept a proposal or offer- Example:

John: *Next time you're in town, I'll buy you a beer.*

James: *I'll take you up on that!*

Take through - Meaning: Explain in steps; give a tour of a place- Example: *Let me take you through the basics of how to cook Southern Fried Chicken*

Exercise 1

For each of the six questions choose the one correct answer. You might need to check the glossary above.

1. When his partner retires, he's planning to take _____ the business in Sydney.

- a. off
- b. after
- c. up
- d. over

2. Our helicopter took _____ 4 hours late!

- a. over
- b. up
- c. off
- d. after

3. Why do so many people take _____ a sport in the winter?

- a. over
- b. off
- c. up
- d. after

4. Janice is often irritable, she takes _____ her mum.

- a. over
- b. off

c. in

d. after

5. When she found out he had left, initially she couldn't take it _____.

a. after

b. over

c. in

d. off

6. I was completely taken _____ when he told me he was working late at the office.

a. after

b. in

c. over

d. after

Exercise 2

1 Match each sentence beginning 1 - 10 with an appropriate ending a) – j).

1 She is very similar to her mother, whereas her sister takes

2 The new CEO is very serious and we haven't really taken

3 I need to remember this lesson. I'll get a pen and paper and take

4 My feet are swollen. I think I'll take

5 This jumper is too big. I need to take

6 When my mum retired, I took

7 Michael's become inseparable from his bike since he took

8 You should get rid of this table. It's a small room and it takes

9 We have too much to do at work. We need to take

10 I thought I could manage this job, but I think I've taken

- a) it back.
- b) on more staff
- c) on too much
- d) up half the room.
- e) up cycling.
- f) off my shoes.
- g) over the family business.
- h) to her.
- i) after her father.
- j) down the most important parts.

Exercise 3

Now write the infinitive of each of the phrasal verbs with 'take' from exercise 2 next to its meaning below.

- a) accept the responsibility for something _____
- b) start a new hobby or activity _____
- c) start to like or feel good about _____
- d) to employ (give a job to) _____
- e) remind or provoke memories _____
- f) to become successful _____
- g) make notes _____
- h) to be similar in appearance or personality _____
- i) take control of _____
- j) occupy space or time _____

Answers:

Exercise 1

1:

- A. *'TAKE OFF' USUALLY REFERS TO PLANES OR CLOTHES!*
- B. *'TAKE AFTER' MEANS 'SIMILAR TO'.*
- C. *'TAKE UP' MEANS BEGIN A SPORT OR HOBBY.*
- D. *CORRECT*

2:

- A. *'TAKE OVER' USUALLY MEANS TAKE CONTROL OF.*
- B. *'TAKE UP' MEANS BEGIN A SPORT OR HOBBY.*
- C. *CORRECT*
- D. *'TAKE AFTER' MEANS 'SIMILAR TO'.*

3:

- A. *'TAKE OVER' USUALLY MEANS TAKE CONTROL OF.*
- B. *'TAKE OFF' USUALLY REFERS TO PLANES OR CLOTHES!*
- C. *CORRECT*
- D. *'TAKE AFTER' MEANS 'SIMILAR TO'.*

4:

- A. *'TAKE OVER' USUALLY MEANS TAKE CONTROL OF.*
- B. *'TAKE OFF' USUALLY REFERS TO PLANES OR CLOTHES!*
- C. *'TAKE IN' MEANS TO TRY TO UNDERSTAND SOMETHING OR TO FOOL SOMEONE.*
- D. *CORRECT*

5:

- A. 'TAKE AFTER' MEANS 'SIMILAR TO'.
- B. 'TAKE OVER' USUALLY MEANS TAKE CONTROL OF.
- C. CORRECT
- D. 'TAKE OFF' USUALLY REFERS TO PLANES OR CLOTHES!

6:

- A. 'TAKE AFTER' MEANS 'SIMILAR TO'.
- B. CORRECT
- C. 'TAKE OVER' USUALLY MEANS TAKE CONTROL OF.
- D. 'TAKE AFTER' MEANS 'SIMILAR TO'.

Exercise 2

1 *She is very similar to her mother, whereas her sister takes after her father.*

2 *The new CEO is very serious and we haven't really taken to her.*

3 *I need to remember this lesson. I'll get a pen and paper and take down the most important parts.*

4 *My feet are swollen. I think I'll take off my shoes.*

5 *This jumper is too big. I need to take it back.*

6 *When my mum retired, I took over the family business.*

7 *Michael's become inseparable from his bike since he took up cycling.*

8 *You should get rid of this table. It's a small room and it takes up half the room.*

9 *We have too much to do at work. We need to take on more staff.*

10 *I thought I could manage this job, but I think I've taken on too much.*

Exercise 3

a) *accept the responsibility for something – Take on*

- b) start a new hobby or activity – Take up*
- c) start to like or feel good about – Take to*
- d) to employ (give a job to) – Take on*
- e) remind or provoke memories – Take back*
- f) to become successful – Take off*
- g) make notes - Take down*
- h) to be similar in appearance or personality- Take after*
- i) take control of- Take over*
- j) occupy space or time- Take up*

PHRASAL VERBS WITH “PUT”

Mini-Dictionary

Phrasal Verbs with ‘put’

Here is a list with some examples of the most common phrasal verbs with ‘put’. Use this glossary to complete exercises at the end of this chapter.

Put out- Meaning: Extinguish a light or something which has fire. Example: *Put out your cigarette please, this is a no-smoking area.*

Put out- Meaning: Release or publish. Example: *We need to put out an email explaining the situation.*

Put (effort) into- Meaning: To try- Example: *I put a lot of work into the presentation.*

Put across- Meaning: Explain or communicate something clearly and understandably- Example: *The way she put the message across was quite rude.*

Put aside- Meaning: Save (money)- Example: *I try to put a few quid aside every day for our summer holiday. (Note: “quid” is slang for British pounds)*

Put aside - Meaning: Ignore or intentionally disregard (something), temporarily or permanently- Example: *We need to put our differences aside.*

Put away- Meaning: put something somewhere organized or out of sight. Example: *When I tidy my room I put all my clothes away.*

Put away- Meaning: Consume in large quantities (food and drink)- Example: *He put away 12 chicken wings, 2 steaks and a whole roast chicken.. What a beast!*

Put away- Meaning: Send to jail- Example: *They put her away for 2 years on weapons charges.*

Put back- Meaning: Return something to its original place- Example: *She put the toys back in the cupboard.*

Put back- Meaning: Postpone a meeting, event or appointment- Example: *The meeting has been put back to 2pm due to the storms.*

Put down- Meaning: Belittle, humiliate or demean- Example: *She’s not very*

nice, she constantly puts her husband down.

Put down- Meaning: Pay a deposit or initial installment- Example: *She put down a 2,000-euro deposit.*

Put down- Meaning: Eliminate or stop by force- Example: *Government security forces quickly put down the civil unrest.*

Put down- Meaning: Kill an animal because it is sick or suffering.- Example: *We had to put our dog down last month because he was too ill.*

Put down- Meaning: Write (something)- Example: *Put down your name and address on this paper.*

Put down- Meaning: Finish a phone-call; to hang up- Example: *Don't put the phone down please, I want to apologize to you!*

Put down- Meaning: Add a name to a list- Example: *I've put myself down on the VIP list for the party. .*

Put down or Putting up- Meaning: Make prices, or taxes, lower or higher- Example: *The Chinese government are putting up the price of oil in order to stimulate the use of renewable energies.*

Put down- Meaning: Place a baby somewhere to sleep- Example: *I have just put Charley down so please be quiet!*

Put down (a book)- Meaning: Stop, temporarily or permanently, reading (a book)- Example: *I can't put this book down, it's so interesting!*

Put down as- Meaning: Make assumptions about someone's personality. - Example: *I put her down as an arrogant, materialistic snob, but she is actually very sweet.*

Put down for - Meaning: Put someone on a list of people who have offered to help or contribute to something- Example: *Put Jack down to help with the cleaning, he told me he wanted to do it.*

Put down to- Meaning: assume or come to the conclusion about the cause of a situation- Example: *We often put high crime rates down to high unemployment.*

Put on- Meaning: To fake or pretend. Example: *He puts on funny accents to make us laugh.*

Put on (clothes)- Meaning: To fit clothes on your body. Example: *It's really*

sunny, I need to put my hat on!

Put on- Meaning: To blame someone else for something. Example: *You can't put that on me, it wasn't my fault!*

Put on (weight)- Meaning: To gain weight or fat. Example: *I have put on at least 2 stone over Christmas. I didn't stop eating!*

Put forward (a suggestion or idea)- Meaning: Propose for consideration- Example: *The CEO put forward new plans to reduce costs.*

Put forward- Meaning: Change the time in a time zone to a later time. Example: *I almost forgot that we have to put the clocks forward tomorrow by 1 hour.*

Put up with- Meaning: Tolerate. Example: *I'm too tired to put up with him, his attitude annoys me.*

Put up- Meaning: Offer accommodation for the night. Example: *My parents put us up while our house was being re-furbished.*

Put up- Meaning: raise. Example: *Put your hands up in the air like you just don't care!*

Put someone up to something- Meaning: manipulate someone or convince them to do something. Example: *Did Mary put you up to this? I told her I didn't want to talk about my problem.*

Put off- Meaning: Distract. Example: *Don't try to put me off the game, that's cheating!*

Put off- Meaning: Delay. Example: *We put off the show because of the rain.*

Put someone off something or someone- Meaning: Make someone stop liking something or someone. Example: *Her lack of a sense of humor put me off her, so I didn't ask her out*

..

Exercise 1

Phrasal verbs with 'put'

Match each sentence beginning 1 - 12 with an appropriate ending a) – l).

1. It's raining quite heavily. You should put on

2. I didn't recognize her when I saw her because she had put on
3. There's nothing good on TV. Why don't we put on
4. She might need to move. Her landlady has put up
5. We need to put up new
6. Put your hand up
7. My parents offered to put
8. How do you put up
9. We had to put off the meeting
10. It snowed so heavily that it put us off
11. I could never concentrate at university, because all
12. We need to put out

- a) us up for the weekend when we go to visit.
- b) a lot of weight.
- c) because the CEO was stuck in traffic.
- d) with her constant moaning?
- e) your new coat.
- f) the fire before it spreads.
- g) going out, so we watched a film instead.
- h) the parties and the noise put me off.
- i) her rent.
- j) an online film?
- k) curtains because the old ones have holes in them.
- l) if you have any questions.

Exercise 2

Now decide which phrasal verb is needed in each sentence:

1. I can't ___ her anymore, she's driving me bonkers! (*Note: to drive someone bonkers means to drive him or her crazy- to annoy*)

Put on

Put back

Put up with

2. Please ___ the bread when you're finished using it.

Put back

Put on

Put down

3. Can you ___ the conference until Friday please?

Put up

Put off

Put down

4. She ___ all the time, but he's still married to her.

Puts him up

Puts him across

Puts him down

5. They ___ a new blog post every week. It's really good.

Put up with

Put down

Put out

6. I was trying to ___ my opinion but no one listened.

Put away

Put across

Put up with

Answers:

Exercise 1

1. *It's raining quite heavily. You should put on your new coat.*
2. *I didn't recognize her when I saw her because she had put on a lot of weight.*
3. *There's nothing good on TV. Why don't we put on an online film?*
4. *She might need to move. Her landlady has put up her rent.*
5. *We need to put up new curtains because the old ones have holes in them.*
6. *Put your hand up if you have any questions.*
7. *My parents offered to put us up for the weekend when we go to visit.*
8. *How do you put up with her constant moaning?*
9. *We had to put off the meeting because the CEO was stuck in traffic.*
10. *It snowed so heavily that it put us off going out, so we watched a film instead.*
11. *I could never concentrate at university, because all the parties and the noise put me off.*
12. *We need to put out the fire before it spreads.*

Exercise 2

1. I can't ___ her anymore, she's driving me bonkers! (*Note: to drive someone bonkers means to drive him or her crazy- to annoy*)

Put on

Put back

Put up with

2. Please ___ the bread when you're finished using it.

Put back

Put on

Put down

3. Can you ___ the conference until Friday please?

Put up

Put off

Put down

4. She ___ all the time, but he's still married to her.

Puts him up

Puts him across

Puts him down

5. They ___ a new blog post every week. It's really good.

Put up with

Put down

Put out

6. I was trying to ___ my opinion but no one listened.

Put away

Put across

Put up with

PHRASAL VERBS WITH “GET”

Mini-Dictionary

Phrasal Verbs with ‘get’

Here is a list with some examples of the most common phrasal verbs with ‘get’. Use this glossary to complete exercises at the end of this chapter.

get across (separable) – to communicate clearly- Example: *The man was so stubborn that we couldn’t get the message across and change his mind.*

get ahead (intransitive - no object) – to make progress- Example: *She needs to work hard in life if she wishes to be successful.*

get along (get on) (intransitive) – to have a good relationship- Example: *I get along very well with my grandfather. We have similar personalities.*

get around (1)- (inseparable) – to avoid or to overcome a problem, a rule, or a challenge- Example: *Walter got around the rules by pretending he didn’t know about them.*

get around (2)- (intransitive - no object) – to go from place to place- Example: *Since he lives in the city center, he gets around everywhere on foot.*

get around to (3) – to finally do something- Example: *We finally got round to clearing the loft after three months!*

get at- (intransitive - no object) – to hint or to mean- Example: *What are you getting at? Can you be more specific and give me an example?*

get at – to reach so that you can take something- Example: *Can you pass me that bottle please? I can’t get at it because I’m too short.*

get away- (intransitive - no object) – to escape- Example: *The prisoners got away through a hole in the wall.*

get away with something – to escape responsibility- Example: *We got away with not doing our homework because we told the teacher that our dog had eaten it.*

get back- (intransitive - no object) – to return- Example: *Jeremy always gets back late from the office. He has a very intense job.*

get by- (intransitive - no object) – to survive- Example: *When we were young my family had no money, but we got by.*

get down (to)- (intransitive - no object) – to concentrate or focus on a task. - Example: *Let's get down to business. We need to find a solution to the supply problem. .*

get down (1)- (separable) – to discourage- Example: *Don't let the rain get you down!*

get down (2)- (separable) – to put in writing- Example: *Please Bob, can you get the minutes down during the meeting?*

get in- (intransitive - no object) – to arrive- Example: *The bus got in an hour early because of the mistake in the timetable.*

get off (1)- (inseparable) – to leave- Example: *I forgot my hat when I got off the train.*

get off (2)- (intransitive - no object) – to receive lesser punishment- Example: *He crashed his car into a shop window because he was on his phone, but he got off with just a small fine and some community service.*

get off (3)- (separable) – to interrupt- Example: *We have the day off today because of the floods. We don't have to go to work!*

get out (1)- (intransitive - no object) – to spread- Example: *Word gets out quickly in our small village, so everyone knew Michael was planning on proposing to Jess.*

get out (of) (2)- (inseparable) – to escape- Example: *Joe always has an excuse and gets out of cleaning the car.*

get out (of) (3)- (inseparable) – to leave- Example: *Let's get out of here.. I'm hot and tired!*

get over- (inseparable) – to recover- Example: *It took Jill some time to get over her divorce.*

get rid of- (inseparable) – dispose of something or dismiss someone- Example: *Please get rid of that old bike. It's so dirty*

get through (1)- (inseparable) – to finish- Example: *We need to get through at least 6 pages of material in today's lesson.*

get through (2)- (inseparable) – to communicate a message effectively-
Example: *We need to get through to him before he does something stupid, but he doesn't listen.*

get to (1)- (inseparable) – to annoy- Example: *His comments got to me!*

get to (2)- (inseparable) – to arrive - Example: *What time will you get to the station?*

get together- (intransitive - no object) – to meet up with someone - Example: *They got together for a drink and 6 months later they were married!*

get up- (intransitive - no object) – wake up and get out of bed - Example: *My new job starts at 8 am so I have to get up at 6 o'clock.*

get up to – to do - Example: *What did you get up to yesterday?*

Exercise 1

Read the sentences below. Underline the phrasal verbs and try to work out the meaning from the context. Then complete the gaps below each sentence using one of the following meanings.

to communicate a message effectively

to reach so that you can take something

to communicate clearly

to escape responsibility

to avoid or to overcome a problem, a rule, or a challenge

to escape

to discourage

to recover

1) They realized it would be a difficult challenge, but after a lot of hard work they got around it.

Phrasal Verb:

- - .

Meaning:

2) I can never get at the top shelf in the supermarket, so I always have to ask for help. I wish I were taller.

Phrasal Verb:

Meaning:

3) After Jim had made several unsuccessful attempts to get through to Sally, he realized she wasn't listening, so he went home.

Phrasal Verb:

Meaning:

4) Albert managed to get away from the meeting early for Mary's birthday.

Phrasal Verb:

Meaning:

5) My girlfriend left me last month and I felt very sad, but I've got over it now.

Phrasal Verb:

Meaning:

6) I don't like sad films, they really get me down.

Phrasal Verb:

Meaning:

7) Jason is a good presenter who always gets his message across.

Phrasal Verb:

Meaning:

8) The police didn't catch the thief, so he got away with it.

Phrasal Verb:

.....
Meaning:

Answers:

1) They realized it would be a difficult challenge, but after a lot of hard work they got around it.

get around

to avoid or to overcome a problem, a rule, or a challenge

2) I can never get at the top shelf in the supermarket, so I always have to ask for help. I wish I were taller.

get at

to reach so that you can take something

3) After Jim had made several unsuccessful attempts to get through to Sally, he realized she wasn't listening, so he went home.

get through –

to communicate a message effectively

4) Albert managed to get away from the meeting early for Mary's birthday.

get away-

to escape

5) My girlfriend left me last month and I felt very sad, but I've got over it now.

get over-

to recover

6) I don't like sad films, they really get me down.

get down

to discourage

7) Jason is a good presenter who always gets his message across.

get across –

to communicate clearly

8) The police didn't catch the thief, so he got away with it.

get away with –

to escape responsibility

PHRASAL VERBS WITH “COME”

Mini-Dictionary

Phrasal Verbs with ‘come’

Here is a list with some examples of the most common phrasal verbs with ‘come’. Use this glossary to complete exercises at the end of this chapter.

come across (1)- (inseparable) – to find- Example: *I came across a very interesting book while browsing the second-hand bookshops in Manchester.*

come across (2)- (inseparable) – to give the impression or appearance- Example: *He came across quite arrogant at first, but he was a nice guy.*

come along (1)- (intransitive - no object) – to progress- Example: *How is her assignment coming along?*

come along (2)- (intransitive - no object) – to casually attend or appear somewhere- Example: *When Jenny came along after work, Robbie left because he was still angry with her.*

come around- (intransitive - no object) – to change opinions- Example: *After hours of arguing he finally came round (he agreed with me)*

come back (1)- (inseparable) -- to return- Example: *Madison comes back from London tomorrow. We need to pick her up from the airport at 2.*

come back (2)- (inseparable) -- to remember- when a memory returns because of something you see, hear or feel- Example: *It all came back to me when I saw the ring. I’d forgotten everything, but now I remember.*

come by- (inseparable) – to get or obtain- Example: *I came by this watch when I was walking along the beach and found it.*

come down (with)- (inseparable) – to become ill- Example: *Maybe you should go to the doctor’s. This is the third time you’ve come down with a cold this month.*

come from- (inseparable) -- to originate- Example: *Madison comes from a wealthy family. Jack comes from England.*

come in- (inseparable) -- to finish- Example: *Madison came in last in the race,*

but she enjoyed herself.

come into- (inseparable) -- to acquire- Example: *Madison came into money when she was 21, after her parents suddenly died.*

come off (1)- (intransitive - no object) – to give the impression- Example: *Jack comes off as a hard person, but in fact he is quite caring.*

come off (2)- (intransitive - no object) – to stop taking a drug or medication- Example: *Mick is coming off drugs, he has a serious addiction.*

come on- (intransitive - no object) – to give the impression- Example: *Jack comes on as a hard person, but in fact he is quite caring.*

come on- (intransitive - no object) – to start to work (water, electricity etc..)- Example: *The electricity came back on two hours after the power cut.*

come out- (intransitive - no object) – to be revealed or to reveal information- Example: *The player's past came out when his old friends spoke to the press.*

come over- (intransitive - no object) – to visit causally or spontaneously- Example: *Come over for dinner tonight, we're having a Sunday roast!*

come through- (intransitive - no object) – to do what is expected- Example: *William came through only after Wanda begged him for three days to get the tickets for the game.*

come to- (inseparable) – to total (counting money)- Example: *The restaurant bill comes to 150 dollars*

come up- (intransitive - no object) – to be mentioned in conversation- Example: *The topic of his money problems came up during the conversation.*

come up with- (inseparable) – to invent or think about something new- Example: *Joe came up with a very good idea for the marketing campaign.*

come upon- (inseparable) – to discover by accident- Example: *While cleaning the house, we came upon an amazing picture from the 19th century.*

Exercise 1:

Write the correct preposition to make meaningful sentences.

1. Mary comes Ireland and she was born in Dublin.

2. Jason came last in the marathon.
3. He came..... home quite late, but he had a good reason.
4. I came some old friends at the party.
5. The price of oil is coming, so demand will go up.
6. She is trying to come the medication but she has to do it gradually.
7. They came to Coventry last Christmas, so we've got to go over to theirs this year.

Exercise 2:

Complete the phrasal verb for each sentence. Use the glossary in this unit if you need to.

1. I a lot of money when I turned 18 because I inherited it from my grandparents.
2. Now I remember! It's all to me.
3. The truth when one of the witnesses spoke to reporters and it was published in the press.
4. We need to with some creative ideas for the new story. It should be an action thriller with a strong main character.

Answers:

Exercise 1

1. *Mary comes from Ireland and she was born in Dublin.*
2. *Jason came in last in the marathon.*
3. *He came back home quite late, but he had a good reason.*
4. *I came across some old friends at the party.*
5. *The price of oil is coming down, so demand will go up.*
6. *She is trying to come off the medication, but she has to do it gradually.*
7. *They came over to Coventry last Christmas, so we've got to go over to theirs this year.*

Exercise 2

1. *Came into*
2. *Coming back*
3. *Came out*
4. *Come up*

LET'S LOOK AT COLLOCATIONS

A collocation (also collocates) is a word or phrase which is frequently combined with another word or phrase, in a way that sounds correct to native speakers of English. An example of a common collocation is “*heavy snow*”.

Many English learners, study hundreds of obscure high-level words, but they never realize something VERY IMPORTANT.

+ High-level vocabulary is usually not central to the information being transmitted. This means that you don't need to know most of these words to communicate effectively in English, you ONLY need to learn how to understand the general message based on the context.

+ English collocations are a BIG part of day to day communication, so they are VERY common in conversations, in reading and in listening.

+ Collocations are usually PACKED with meaning and this is why native speakers use them so often in REAL English.

+ BECAUSE collocations are full of meaning, it's often extremely difficult to understand them from context, so you must learn them (unlike those obscure high-level words we talked about above).

+ When English examiners write an exam, they often use collocations to test your REAL ability to understand English.

The collocations are organized alphabetically into sections for quick reference. Each term includes an explanation of its meaning and an example. At the end of each section you can complete a short review exercise to test your knowledge.

ENGLISH COLLOCATIONS STARTING WITH “A”

about time-

This phrase is used to express an event that should have already happened. When it finally happens, someone might say ‘it’s about time’ meaning that they are displeased with how long this event took to occur.

above average -

When something is better than the usual.

absolutely necessary-

Something which is essential.

action movie-

A film centered around exciting sequences of fighting, explosions, or chase scenes.

after dark-

Literally when the sun goes and there is no more sunlight. Night-time.

after hours-

after hours

Use this phrase to talk about things that happen after normal operating hours of a business or office. It can also be used to refer to a club or bar that is open later than others.

after party-

A celebration, usually at a smaller place with less people, following a bigger celebration.

afraid of-

Used to talk about things that scare you or that you fear.

Pronoun + *verb 'to be' + afraid not-

This is used to express a negative answer regretfully. It can be used as a gentle way to say that something can't be done or that something hasn't been done

Question: 'Did Jim finish the project in time?'

Answer: 'I'm afraid not'

against the law-

an action which has been outlawed by the legal system.

alternative medicine-

Holistic medicine which is often natural and traditional. This type of medicine is 'alternative' to what is often called western medicine, which usually involves surgeries and pharmaceutical medications.

Another term for alternative medicine is eastern medicine as many of these practices come from Asian countries.

alphabetical order-

A way to organize lists of information which follows the same organization as the alphabet by the first letter of the word.

all in-

To be completely invested in something. This can be used to talk about emotional investment as well as financial investment.

all of the time-

Things that happen 'all of the time' happen frequently or continuously.

all over-

When something is finished or completed

amazed by-

When something causes someone to be in awe or feel shock. This phrase can be used to react to both positive and negative things.

angry about-

To be mad about something.

apply for a job-

Alerting a prospective employer about your interest in working for them by submitting an application or CV (resume).

ask about-

Requesting information about someone or something.

ask for directions-

If a person is lost or unsure about where to go or what to do they may ask for help in order to find their destination.

ask (for) permission-

To request if it is possible to do something from a person in authority over you.

associated with-

To be connected to a person or organization.

Quick Review

Test your knowledge- put the correct collocation in the blank.

You might need to change the form of the words.

1. After having two bad interviews, Clara was nervous about_____.
2. That restaurant is great! We go there_____.
3. She has to kill all the spiders in the house because her son is _____them.
4. If you want to succeed in your exams, you have to be _____ . It requires constant dedication and hard work.
5. She received a raise due to her _____ performance.
6. You have to _____ if you want to leave work early.

Key:

1. applying for a job

2. all the time

3. afraid of

4. all in

5. above average

6. ask for permission

ENGLISH COLLOCATIONS STARTING WITH “B”

baggage claim-

The place in the airport where one can retrieve baggage that was stowed in the bottom of the plane.

back road(s)-

Opposite of large, busy motorways (highways). These are smaller streets, often in more rural areas, which people may opt to take for less traffic or for a more scenic route.

back pay-

The difference between what an employee is owed and what their employer has actually paid them. Late payments are examples of back pay.

bad manners-

Social behavior which is not accepted because it is considered rude.

become unhinged-

Used to speak about someone who is angry or upset to the point of being mentally unstable. This could be for a short period or for a longer period of time.

be someone/somebody-

An important person who has name recognition or other measure of influence.

best practices-

Methods that are considered the most appropriate or efficient ways to complete a task within an industry.

best wishes-

A polite expression used to end written correspondence.

big day-

Another way to describe a meaningful event on a certain day or a meaningful day. Weddings and other large ceremonies could be

meaningful day. weddings and other large ceremonies could be considered big days.

the big picture-

The entirety of a situation. Rather than focus on smaller finer details, the big picture refers to the overall and broader perspective of something.

black coffee-

Coffee without milk (or cream in the US) and also usually without sugar.

a black eye-

A bruising or darkening around the eye after being hit by someone or something.

black ice-

Frozen water on the street or pavement that is particularly dangerous because of how slippery it is and the fact that it's harder to see.

black list-

A group of people who have been deemed unworthy or unfit to work

with. This is not usually a real list, but rather people who are for some reason considered undesirable within an industry.

black market-

Buying or selling things illegally. This does not refer to an actual market and does not have a physical place.

black sheep-

Someone who does not fit in with a larger group (like a family) because of differences in behavior, interest, or opinion.

black tie-

One of the most formal dress codes reserved for very important events that occur in the evening.

blue sky-

Literally a sky without clouds. It can also denote when there is sun or very nice weather.

bode well-

When something bodes well, it is a good or auspicious sign.

book a hotel-

To reserve a room in advanced at a hotel.

break a promise-

To not uphold something that a person said that they would do.

bouquet of flowers-

A unit of flowers usually arranged for decorative purposes.

bounce ideas off each other-

To openly exchange thoughts and opinions with others, often used in problem-solving or brainstorming session.

build a fire-

To make a fire for cooking or warmth purposes.

Quick Review

Test your knowledge- put the correct collocation in the blank.

You might need to change the form of the words.

1. The woman was so excited about her _____ that she couldn't sleep the night before. (Her wedding started at 2pm).
2. The new hire was very experienced, so he already knew the

marketing _____ .

3. I trust her a lot because she has never _____ to me.

4. She bought an elegant evening dress for the _____ event.

5. He waited for 10 minutes in _____ before he saw his bag on the carousel.

6. I prefer to take the _____ on road trips because they are always more scenic.

Key:

1. big day

2. best practices

3. broken a promise

4. black tie

5. baggage claim

6. back roads

ENGLISH COLLOCATIONS STARTING WITH “C”

call a cab *(British and Australian)-

Request a taxi for a ride either by phone or with an application like Uber.

call home-

To use a phone to contact your parents or other close relations. Used especially when people are not in the same city.

call in sick-

To contact your employers to let them know about your absence due to illness.

can do-

This phrase is used as an affirmative answer to a question. It's like saying 'yes I can', or 'I can do that'. It can also be used as an adjective to describe a person's attitude or personality.

can opener-

A tool used to open food in a tin. It is sometimes powered by hand, but it can also be electrical.

canned food (tinned food)-

Food that comes in an aluminum tin, usually vegetables or fruits.

cast a vote-

Make an official choice for a candidate or party during an election.

catch a cold-

When someone becomes sick with symptoms of congestion, headache, and sometimes a fever.

catch the train-

To get on or board a train.

cause a scene/commotion-

To draw attention to oneself in public, usually by speaking loudly or disrupting the normal state of affairs.

checked baggage-

Bags that are too large to be carried onto a plane and are stored under the plane during travel.

cocktail party-

Usually a small intimate party held in the evening where alcoholic drinks and sometimes food are served.

come back-

To return to a place you have previously been.

come clean-

To admit to doing something, usually a type of wrongdoing.

come first-

This phrase is used to describe something that is a priority or holds a position of importance.

come in (color)-

Usually used to describe products that are available in multiple colors or patterns. 'This shirt comes in blue, green and black'

come to mind-

To think of something. When something comes to mind, it means that the idea appeared in your mind.

come true-

When something that someone has wanted to happen for a long time finally happens. Often used with dreams or wishes.

comfort food-

Food that is very filling and makes one feel cozy. It is often food from one's childhood.

(in the) coming weeks/months/years-

This phrase is used to talk about things that are expected to happen in the future.

commit a crime-

To do something illegal

to do something great.

common interest-

Shared passions or ideas people may have with each other.

conduct research-

To carry out scientific experiments.

convenience store (corner shop)-

A shop which sells a multitude of useful items and foodstuffs, like snacks, drinks, cleaning and hygiene products.

copy and paste-

Mostly used for computers and smart phones, this process involves duplicating text or images so that they can be used elsewhere on the device.

cookie jar-

A container, usually ceramic, used to store cookies or similar types of sweets.

creative license-

The freedom someone might take in retelling a story to make it more interesting to the listeners.

current events/affairs-

News stories of note and interest.

cutting edge-

Used to describe the newest and latest technology available

Used to describe the newest and latest technology available.

Quick Review

Test your knowledge- put the correct collocation in the blank.

You might need to change the form of the words.

1. They got along very well because of their _____ in stamp collecting.
2. The sweater _____ in four colors.
3. I didn't go to work because I _____ over the weekend.
4. She has a very _____ attitude. She's very positive and resilient.
5. Instead of taking the bus, we decided to _____.
6. My office is throwing a _____ if you would like to join me.

Key:

1. common interest

2. came in (or 'comes in')

3. caught a cold

4. can do

5. call a cab

6. cocktail party

ENGLISH COLLOCATIONS STARTING WITH “D”

a day off-

A day when someone does not go to work or school. This can be because of a holiday or an individual choice to not go to work.

Usually this phrase is not applied to Saturdays and Sundays, however, it can be used to describe scheduled days in which one does not work.

deal with someone/something-

To acknowledge a problematic situation, problem, or person and solve the issue. To successfully handle a problem.

dead battery-

Used to describe electronics which have no charge and will not function until the charge is restored, usually used for phones and laptops.

deck of cards-

A complete unit of cards for playing games. In games like poker, a standard deck of cards is 54. In games like Uno, a complete deck would be a different number.

in the deep end-

This has two meanings. The literal meaning is the area of a swimming pool with the greatest depth.

The figurative meaning is when someone finds himself or herself in the most complex and complicated part of a problem or situation. If a company throw you in at the deep end when you start a new job, it means that they put you in the job without the necessary training or resources and you are supposed to adapt and learn while you're working.

deep sleep-

Used to describe a period of sleep that was not interrupted by anything.

deep thought-

An idea which is considered particularly profound. It can also be used to describe someone who is thinking about something very intensely.

IN this case, we would say something like 'He was in deep thought (He was deep in thought), when suddenly the phone rang'

dining room-

A room in a person's home which is dedicated to eating meals, usually for more formal occasions. A dining room is also the space in which people eat in restaurants.

draw heavily from-

When someone is very influenced by someone or something else. We would say something like 'he draws heavily from other crime novels in his latest book'

draw pictures-

To create a piece of art or other type of visual representation of something, usually with your hands.

draw someone's attention to something-

To purposefully make someone focus on something specific.

do chores/housework-

Complete tasks like tidying, cleaning, organizing around a person's home etc.

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do someone a favor-

To do something nice for someone else without expectation of repayment.

do better/worse-

To improve performance at a task. The opposite is for a decline in performance.

do homework-

To complete assignments meant to be finished outside the classroom.

do laundry-

To wash clothing, linens, or other fabric-based materials.

do someone's hair/makeup/nails-

These actions are all used to describe enhancing one's appearance surrounding these specific attributes.

do someone's best-

When someone attempts to perform a task to the best of their abilities.

It's important to do your best in class if you want to be successful in the exam.

do someone's part-

To contribute with effort or hard work in a group or team setting to achieve a specific goal.

do the math-

To make specific calculations, usually used to talk about money or finances.

do the right thing-

Choosing to do something which is morally right or just.

do time-

Colloquial. Used to describe when someone has been sentenced to spend time in prison or jail. We would say something like this: 'He did time for robbery'.

domestic dispute-

A fight, either verbal or physical, between people who live together.

due date-

A day or time when an assignment or project should be submitted.

Also used to describe the date when a pregnant woman's child is predicted to be born.

dye someone's hair/clothes-

To change the color of someone's hair or clothing using dyes specifically meant for this purpose.

Quick Review

**Test your knowledge- put the correct collocation in the blank.
You might need to change the form of the words.**

1. She was unable to _____ her busy schedule because she had too many meetings and appointments.
2. He always _____ on the weekends when he wasn't working.
3. Hairdressers rarely have the same _____ as they work usually work on the weekends.
4. As children, they almost never ate in the _____ except at Christmas and other holidays.
5. It was clear that the artist _____ from the works of Monet and Degas.
6. I need to _____ because I don't have any clean socks.

Key:

1. deal with

2. did housework

3. days off

4. dining room

5. drew heavily

6. do laundry

ENGLISH COLLOCATIONS STARTING WITH “E”

early adopter/adoptee-

The first people to accept something, usually new technology or ideas.

early bird-

Someone who arrives before an appointed time or very promptly.

early days-

At the beginning of a project or undertaking before one can say if it will be successful.

(to have an) early night-

To go to bed sooner than usual.

earn a living/salary (make a living)-

To make enough money to live from your job.

easy access-

A place which is simple to enter or something which is easy to get to.

easy money-

Money that was not difficult to make.

eat in/out-

Eating out refers to eating meals at restaurants or other public establishments, while 'eating in' refers to having a meal in your home or someone else's.

eat well-

This has two meanings: either to eat food that is healthy and nutritious or to eat a large amount of food.

eating habits-

Dietary tendencies.

electric car-

A car that runs at least partially on electric energy rather than petrol.

elevator pitch-

A short speech used to convince someone of something.

empty promise-

A promise which has no hope of being upheld or fulfilled.

entry-level job (position)-

A job which doesn't require much experience. These jobs are usually reserved for those just beginning their careers.

ethnic group-

People who share a common background, ancestry, or religion.

even number-

A number which is divisible by two.

evening gown-

A dress worn to formal events. They are usually floor-length.

evenly distribute-

To uniformly disperse over an area, or to share things equally amongst people.

evenly matched-

Used to describe people or things that are of equal skill, talent or quality.

exact likeness-

When two things are almost identical.

exceed expectation(s)-

When someone or something performs better than was predicted or expected.

existential crisis-

Problems concerning one's belief in their reason for being or purpose in life.

Quick Review

Test your knowledge- put the correct collocation in the blank.

You might need to change the form of the words.

1. The family tried to _____ as much as possible as it is healthier.
2. _____ of technology usually remain loyal to the brand.
3. She has the _____ of her mother.
4. Anna left the bar at seven because she wanted an _____.
5. An _____ is very energy efficient.
6. I would even accept an _____; I need the money.

Key:

1. eat in

2. early adopters

3. exact likeness

4. early night

5. electric car

6. entry-level job

ENGLISH COLLOCATIONS STARTING WITH “F”

face a fear-

To find a way to overcome something which scares you. This often involves people putting themselves in direct contact with the thing which is causing the fear.

face the facts-

A gentle imperative command asking someone to accept the difficult reality of a situation.

face wash-

A product which is used to cleanse the face of dirt or makeup.

fair trade-

This is an economic practice by which international corporations buy products from the developing world. This particular practice is especially beneficial to the producers as it ensures they will be treated well and not taken advantage of.

familiar face-

Used to describe a person who you have met before, even briefly. It is often used to express pleasure in seeing the other person.

fall asleep-

A verbal expression describing the act of going to sleep.

fall in love-

The process of acquiring profound feelings of attraction for another person.

feed pets-

Giving animals in your care food.

feel free-

Letting people know that they are able to act or do as they please. For example, we could say to a friend who is staying in our house; 'feel free to grab food and drinks from the fridge'

field trip-

Taking students from their normal campus in order to do something educational or fun. These include things like excursions to the theatre, museums, or zoos.

fight fire-

The job of extinguishing fires on a large scale. The person who does this job is called a firefighter.

final destination-

The last place a form of transportation will stop.

finger food-

Light buffet style snacks often served at cocktail parties or before a larger meal.

free time-

A synonym for leisure time. This is used to describe what someone likes doing when they are not studying or working. It's a common theme in English tests.

follow a rule/law-

To behave in accordance to rules and laws.

the following day/month/year-

A time in the future that is yet to come. It just means the day, month or year after what we've mentioned. For example, we could have a dialogue like this:

John - 'Mary, are you working next Friday?'

Mary- 'Yes, why?'

John- 'Could you help me prepare my presentation for the following Monday? I'm feeling quite nervous'

follow your dreams/heart-

To do something that you have always wanted to do. This can be used to describe a career path someone has always wanted to pursue.

Following your heart can also be used to reference making decisions using instinct and sentiment rather than logic or reason.

foreign policy-

The laws, legislation, and general dealings that one country has with others.

force of habit-

Things that are done with little thought because someone does them very often.

free fall-

To plummet quickly. This phrase can be used to describe a certain type of rollercoaster which vertically drops riders quickly. It can also be used to when talking about stocks and markets which have lost

value unexpectedly fast.

free speech-

The right that an individual has to express their opinions freely through speaking and writing. This includes criticizing one's government or one's employer.

frozen food-

Food that has been frozen in order to preserve it for longer.

frozen solid-

A description of something that is so cold that it has developed ice crystals both outside and in making it seem like one complete mass.

full coverage-

When something is completely covered. This could describe physical objects, or it can be used in a less literal sense. Makeup which completely covers the blemishes could be described as being full coverage. Insurance which provides things like dental and vision could also be described as full coverage.

full house-

A description of a place which has a lot of people. It is most commonly used for homes in which many people are living. It can also be used in poker to describe a particular hand with three cards of the same value and two other cards with the same value.

full length-

When used for physical objects, full length usually means something that reaches to the floor in length, oftentimes dresses and mirrors. It can also be used to describe media like books, TV, and movies which are presented in their entirety.

full moon-

When the entire face of the moon is visible from Earth.

furrowed brow-

The brow is the area between the eyes and hairline. Furrowing this area means the eyes are usually raised creating wrinkles in the forehead. It is usually used to denote when people are thinking or worried about a problem.

Quick Review

Test your knowledge- put the correct collocation in the blank.

You might need to change the form of the words.

1. The _____ movie is not shown on airplanes, as it's too long for most short flights.
2. He likes to read sci-fi and horror novels in his _____.
3. Her birthday will be the _____.
4. I usually watch TV before I _____.
5. It was good to see a _____ at the party because I didn't know many people.
6. The children were excited about their _____ to the art museum.

Key:

1. full length

2. free time

3. following month

4. fall asleep

5. friendly face

6. field trip

ENGLISH COLLOCATIONS STARTING WITH “G”

gain entry-

To have access to a place and have the ability to go in.

gain weight-

An increase in body mass.

garment bag-

A special bag which is used to store clothing without wrinkles or creases while traveling.

general knowledge-

Knowing a small amount on a wide variety of topics.

get a joke-

To understand the reason why certain things are humorous.

get angry-

To become mad at someone or something.

get dressed-

To put clothes on, usually the clothing one wears to leave the house.

get hired/fired-

Getting hired means to gain employment. Its opposite is to 'get fired' meaning that someone has been made to leave their job.

get into trouble-

To do something which will lead to a reprimand or some other kind of punitive action.

get married/divorced-

To legally wed somebody. The opposite, 'getting divorced' means that a couple has decided to end their marriage.

get paid-

To receive money for doing a job.

get rid of something-

To remove something, usually by putting it in the garbage.

go abroad-

To leave one's country to travel to another. This is usually used for

short periods of time like for a vacation.

go crazy-

To lose one's sanity. This can either be said figuratively or literally. In the figurative sense it means to become, and in the literal sense it can mean to go insane.

go for a walk/run-

Walking or running for leisure. This is not usually done as a means of transportation but rather for exercise or pleasure.

go green-

To start practices which are good for the environment. These include things like recycling, composting, or not using more energy than necessary.

go to sleep/bed-

To get into bed and sleep.

go wrong-

When something is amiss and has not happened according to plan.

good cause-

A charitable organization which one can donate money to

A charitable organization which one can donate money to.

good company-

A group of people who are fun and interesting to be around.

good grade-

Used to describe a positive score on test or other things which are graded.

good looking-

Something which is attractive, this phrase is usually used to describe people, but it can also be used for objects.

good luck-

A phrase used to wish someone success or good fortune. It is often said to people who will soon undergo important events.

give a performance-

To act, sing, dance or complete any other kind of artistic action for an audience.

give someone a hand-

A request for help, usually for a type of manual labor.

give something a go-

To attempt or try something for the first time.

group effort-

People working together to achieve something together.

guilty conscience-

A feeling of regret or remorse that someone has. This is a negative feeling which can usually be relieved after the person has admitted to their wrongdoing.

Quick Review

Test your knowledge- put the correct collocation in the blank.

You might need to change the form of the words.

1. Anna wished Eric _____ before he went on his business trip.
2. I will give you the money when I _____ on Friday.
3. The little girl was very proud of her _____ in school.
4. The company has decided to _____ in order to seem more eco-conscious.
5. You have to interview before you can _____ at a company.
6. I need to _____ a lot of clothing that doesn't fit anymore.

Key

1. good luck

2. get paid

3. good grades

4. go green

5. get hired

6. get rid of

ENGLISH COLLOCATIONS STARTING WITH “H”

hail a cab-

To hold up one’s arm to get a taxi cab to stop for you. This always done on the street. Taxi stands involve queuing and waiting for a taxi to become free.

handle a situation/problem-

To have the capacity to fix an issue.

hang up the phone-

A recall to when phones were in the home and hung from the wall. To hang up the phone means to end a phone call with someone.

happy accident-

A coincidence that ends favorably. This phrase can also be applied to mistakes which lead to unexpectedly good result.

happy ending-

Usually used for stories in TV, books, and films. A happy ending sees all of the main characters' lives having a satisfying conclusion.

happy hour-

Casual events hosted by bars and restaurants which feature discounts on meals and alcoholic drinks for a few hours. Happy hours usually occur early in the evening and were created to attract patrons after work. For this reason, happy hour usually begins at 5pm when many people are finished with work.

hard work-

This phrase can be used in a couple of different ways. It can be used to describe actually difficult physical or mental labor. It can also be used to describe satisfaction with a person's efforts.

haunted house -

An attraction or amusement park that usually happens during Halloween. People walk through a building to be purposefully scared by actors who portray things like ghosts and zombies.

have an allergy/allergies-

When people have a negative bodily reaction to certain foods, plants, animals, or dust. Common reactions include sneezing, red eyes, or an itchy rash. More severe reactions can involve restriction of the airways.

have a meal-

To eat breakfast, lunch, or dinner.

have a problem-

To have an issue or other concern which requires attention.

have an idea-

To put forth a thought or opinion about something. This is also a way to express an idea someone is unsure about.

have fun-

To enjoy something or be amused by an activity.

have room-

To have enough physical space for something.

have time-

Having freedom within one's schedule or to be able to do something as your schedule allows.

heavy rain-

Very bad weather, when rain is coming down very hard and fast.

heavy smoker-

A person who has many cigarettes in a day.

heavy traffic-

A time when there are many cars, busses, and other vehicles on the road making for a lot congestion.

hidden agenda-

A secret motive for doing something that is unknown to others.

hidden fees-

Costs which are not usually given up front to someone when buying something. These costs may be related to installation, labor, or commission of a product or service.

high fashion-

A genre of fashion which is marked by luxury, expensive materials, and one-of-a-kind garments.

high score-

Usually in reference to games, a high score refers to the person who has the most points.

high status-

Something which holds a place of extreme importance. This can refer to a person, groups, or organization.

high temperature-

Very hot conditions.

higher education-

Institutions of learning after secondary schools like colleges and universities.

hiring freeze-

A business practice intended to reduce costs by not employing any new people.

hold back-

To refrain from doing something for a time or show restraint.

hold hands-

The act of taking someone else's hands in your own.

hold office-

People who have been appointed or elected to work in politics.

hot sauce-

Any type of spicy condiment which contains chili or peppers.

human error-

When something is the fault of person rather than the fault of the machine or piece of technology that the person is using.

human nature-

Traits and characteristics ascribed to all humans.

Quick Review

Test your knowledge- put the correct collocation in the blank.

You might need to change the form of the words.

1. The price nearly doubled after the _____ were taken into account.
2. The _____ caused all of the flowers to wilt.
3. We always take a trip to a _____ for Halloween.
4. Can you _____? I am ready to go home.
5. Donald Trump is the only president who has never _____
before.

Key:

1. hidden fees

2. high temperature

3. haunted house

4. hail a cab

5. held office

ENGLISH COLLOCATIONS STARTING WITH “I”

identity crisis-

A feeling of being uncertain about oneself to the point of not knowing ones' place in society.

ill effects-

Negative outcomes of something.

ill health-

A period of sickness.

immediate action-

Something that requires attention as soon as possible in order to divert a problem. This is almost always a negative thing.

immediate family-

Members of your family who you are the closest with. They are usually the people you grew up in the same house with, like your parents and siblings. Your immediate family can also include family members who live in close proximity who you see often

members who live in close proximity who you see often.

in a row-

Things which form a line horizontally.

in charge of-

To be responsible for someone or something.

in light of-

Decisions or choices made after new information is learned.

initial stages-

The first steps of a project or process.

an inquiry into-

To seek information about something through official investigation.

This is often used to talk about investigations into government, police or army actions and policies.

innocent mistake-

An error that was not made on purpose or intended to harm anyone.

inside joke-

A

A piece of humor which is based on people sharing an experience.

Outside of this context it is not considered funny or requires a lot of explanation.

inside job-

Corruption against a company or industry that is committed by people who are a part of that company or industry.

inspired by-

To be stimulated intellectually or creatively by someone or something.

intelligence agency-

A governmental organization which is in charge of collecting information in order to promote security of the nation.

internal medicine-

The type of medicine practiced by a general doctor.

interest group-

An organization dedicated to promoting their shared interest.

irreparable damage-

Harm which is not able to be fixed.

issue a warning-

To give a formal reprimand after a rule or law has been broken.

Quick Review

Test your knowledge- put the correct collocation in the blank.

You might need to change the form of the words.

1. _____ of current events, the company has decided to change their business strategy.
2. I am part of an _____ that advocates for animal rights.
3. The problem with the computer system required _____ from the engineering team.
4. The storm caused _____ to the house.
5. All of the animals stood _____ waiting to be fed.

Key:

1. In light of

2. interest group

3. immediate action

4. irreparable damage

5. in a row

ENGLISH COLLOCATIONS STARTING WITH “J”

job interview-

A meeting held between a prospective job applicant and employer in order to obtain future employment for the applicant.

joint account-

A bank account which is shared by two people.

joint effort-

An accomplishment which is shared by two people

journal entry-

Writings in a personal diary or journal about one particular day in their life.

junk food-

Food that is not healthy and has few benefits to one's body. This type of food can be as small as a snack or a full meal.

jump to a (the) conclusion- jump to conclusions

When someone believes something unfounded based on little evidence which actually supports that belief.

junk mail-

Unwanted correspondence. This phrase can be used to describe physical mail which comes in the post or emails. Most junk mail is a form of advertisement.

Quick Review

Test your knowledge- put the correct collocation in the blank.

You might need to change the form of the words.

1. Don't _____. You don't have enough information about this topic to decide.
2. She is very nervous about her first _____.
3. Too much _____ will ruin your health.
4. If I receive an email I'm not interested in, I usually send it to the _____ folder.
5. Maria and Jack just opened up their own _____ together.

Key:

1. jump to conclusions

2. job interview

3. Junk food

4. junk mail

5. joint account

ENGLISH COLLOCATIONS STARTING WITH “K”

keep a diary-

To maintain an account of your schedule or personal life in a handwritten book.

keep a secret-

Learning confidential information about someone or something and not telling anyone else.

keep busy-

To have a full schedule of activities. This is usually done voluntarily and can include a mix of study, work, and leisure.

keep fit-

To try and maintain a certain level of health by exercising and having a healthy diet.

keep going-

To continue in the same direction. This can be an actual physical direction as when someone is driving or walking, or it can mean following a certain plan.

keep the change-

A directive during a monetary transaction. When a bill or coin is more than the amount of a product or good, yet the seller keeps the leftover amount. This is usually done in more casual setting like restaurants.

keep to oneself-

An attempt or desire to not draw attention to oneself.

key part/role-

To have an integral role in creating or developing something.

keynote address/speaker-

A person who is giving a the most important or most anticipated

A person who is giving a the most important or most anticipated speech at a conference.

knead dough-

To take dough and massage it on a floured surface to incorporate air or stretch it.

knit a sweater-

Taking yarn and needles, especially made for knitting, and using a pattern to create a finished garment.

know about-

Having awareness of something.

know better-

Having the experience and wherewithal to make good decisions, and yet not making them.

know how-

Particular experience or understand in a certain field or on a certain topic.

known for-

known for

The reason why someone or something is famous or important.

keep quiet-

To not make noise or not talk.

keep score-

This has two meanings. Literally, it means to count the points in a game to determine who is winning and losing. Figuratively, it means to track gains and losses between individuals, usually related to personal or professional problems.

kill time-

A purposeful way to waste time.

Quick Review

Test your knowledge- put the correct collocation in the blank.

You might need to change the form of the words.

1. The restaurant is _____ its modern Italian food.
2. She tries to _____ by running and biking every day as well as not eating fatty foods.
3. Before we let it rise, we have to _____ for five minutes using extra flour. _
4. I have never been able to _____, I tell my husband everything.
5. Take a left and _____ past the red house on the left.

Key

1. known for

2. keep fit

3. knead the dough

4. keep a secret

5. keep going

ENGLISH COLLOCATIONS STARTING WITH “L”

large scale-

Something that is very big which needs many people or things in order for it work.

last forever-

Something that will never diminish, fade, or lessen in number.

law and order-

The system by which people are governed and follow the rules. This involves the police and the judicial system.

lay groundwork/foundation-

To begin the first steps of a project. These things are often foundational and are the things that must be done before more substantial work can be completed.

laugh out loud-

The words behind the popular Internet speak abbreviation of 'lol.'

This happens when something is so funny that a person laughs audibly.

lead to believe-

When a person is told information, which makes them think a certain way. This is phrase is often said when contrary information is presented that makes the person doubt their initial thought.

leading role-

The most important part (character) in a play or movie.

let go-

To permit something or someone to leave you.

light a candle-

To put a fire to the wick of a candle until it ignites and stays alight on its own.

like crazy-

A way to modify an emotion or desire.

live out a dream/fantasy-

To actually fulfil a long-held wish or hope in the way one imagined.

live performance-

A performance given in real time for an audience.

living room-

A common room in someone's home in which people gather to relax or work.

lock the door-

To ensure that a door is unable to be opened from the outside.

long term-

Something that will extend far into the future.

look alive-

A command used to tell someone to appear to be busy or seem cheerful.

look forward to-

To anticipate something or be excited about something.

look up information-

To research on a certain topic. This can be done for things like words

in a dictionary or general information on the Internet.

lose connection-

When technology which requires a connection to a network in order to work, disconnects from the network and no longer functions.

lose control-

There are two meanings for this collocation: to be unable to maintain poised, usually because of intense emotions. It can also mean to lose being in charge of a situation.

lose faith-

There is a literal and figurative meaning for this collocation. The literal is to no longer believe in religion or a god. The figurative is to no longer have trust in a person, concept, or belief.

lose interest-

To no longer want to do something someone was previously excited about.

lose money-

Companies which are spending more money than they are earning.

lose weight-

To decrease one's body mass.

lose your temper-

To be unable to maintain composure because of strong feelings of anger.

lose an appetite-

When the desire to eat is no longer appealing. This can also be used figuratively to describe a situation in which someone no longer has interest in doing something.

lose your mind-

The loss of sanity.

lose touch with something/someone-

To no longer have contact.

loved one(s)-

Used to describe a person who you feel very close or attached to, including family members.

Quick Review

Test your knowledge- put the correct collocation in the blank.

You might need to change the form of the words.

1. I was _____ that the office would be closed tomorrow.
2. We want to buy a new couch for the _____.
3. Although she used to love painting, she seems to have _____ in it.
4. Christmas is a time to visit _____ in traditionally Christian countries.
5. This watch _____, it never breaks.

Key

1. led to believe

2. living room

3. lost interest

4. loved ones

5. lasts forever

ENGLISH COLLOCATIONS STARTING WITH “M”

make a comeback-

Overcoming a loss and becoming successful again.

make a decision-

To choose one thing over another.

make a fool of oneself-

To do something which makes other people think less of you.

make a fortune-

To earn or win a large amount of money.

make a fuss-

To whine or cause a commotion in order to bring attention to an issue.

make a difference-

To cause a positive change in someone's life or for an organization.

make an effort-

To attempt to do the best one can at a job.

make a list-

To write a list of things one wants to remember.

make a meal-

To prepare or cook a meal. This can be used for breakfast, lunch, or dinner.

make a mess-

To leave things in a very disorganized or disorderly fashion.

make a phone call-

To use a phone to contact someone.

make a point-

To put forth ideas in order to persuade others.

make a reservation-

To reserve a place at a restaurant, hotel, or other service with limited space.

make amends-

Apologizing and trying to fix a problem or mistake that harmed another person.

make arrangements-

To organize plans for the future.

make redundant-

To be fired from a job but not due to any fault of your own.

make the bed-

To smooth the sheets and covers of a bed and make it appear neat.

make friends-

To begin an amiable relationship with someone in the hopes of achieving friendship.

make something work-

To fix something which is broken or not working properly.

make money-

The way in which someone earns money.

make light of something-

To behave as if something is not important.

make sense-

A description of something which is coherent and understandable.

make room-

To empty out an area in a certain space.

manual labor-

Work that can only be completed with a large amount of physicality, usually not work which is done at an office.

married couple-

Two people who have legally wed each other.

mass market-

Products or good which are produced in huge quantities.

mean well-

To aim to be helpful but not being able to.

minor setback-

A small problem that causes a delay but is not detrimental.

miss a connection-

Used for travel. When change from one plane, train, or bus to another is necessary, but for some reason the passenger is unable to make the second mode of transport.

mirror image-

Two things which look exactly the same.

most of the time-

Usually, often, frequently.

more or less-

An approximate or estimate.

money maker-

Something which is very lucrative and brings in money for a company.

mountain range-

A group of mountains.

Quick Review

Test your knowledge- put the correct collocation in the blank.

You might need to change the form of the words.

1. I always _____ as soon as I wake up.
2. Lots of people like her, so it's easy for her to _____.
3. You have to _____ about whether you will stay here or go home for the holiday.
4. _____ would cost a lot of money as you would need to rebook your next flight.
5. Children aren't very neat and tidy, and they tend to _____.

Key

1. make the bed

2. make friends

3. make a decision

4. missing a connection

5. make a mess

ENGLISH COLLOCATIONS STARTING WITH “N”

nasty habit-

Something that someone does often but that is bad for their health or unpleasant in some way for others.

nasty weather-

Unpleasant weather usually involving storms or extreme temperatures, either hot or cold.

national average-

The norm or typical amount of something for a country.

native language/tongue-

The language someone learns first or the language that they speak most often at home.

native speaker-

Someone who has spoken a particular language since birth or since they were very little children.

natural disaster-

A catastrophe which was not made by man but was rather caused by nature. This includes things like tornadoes, hurricanes, wildfires, or earthquakes.

natural resources-

A resource which occurred without human intervention. These are often things which humans rely upon or have learned to value such as sunlight, wind, and water.

near death experience-

The experience of almost dying. This could be caused due to an accident or medical event.

near future-

A time to come which will happen soon.

net worth-

The money and all other assets which have monetary value that a person or company is worth.

nervous about-

To be anxious or concerned about something.

nervous breakdown-

Used to describe someone who is suffering from severe mental distress to the point of being unable to function.

new and improved-

Usually used to describe products which have undergone changes in order to be made better and more attractive for customers.

newly acquired-

Something which has recently been gained by a company. These acquisitions are usually smaller companies which have been take over by larger companies.

New Year's Eve/Day-

For those using the solar calendar, New Year's Eve is the last day of the year, December 31st. New Year's Day is the first day of the new year, January 1st. New Year's Day is usually a holiday.

next door neighbor

The people who live in the houses near you. This can also be applied to people who live in apartment building. In this case it would be the people who live in the units nearest yours.

next time-

The occurrence of something after this time.

non-stop flight-

A flight on an airplane which does not have any layovers. A non-stop will not land until it has reached its final destination.

nowhere near-

A description of something which is far away from wherever the speaker is currently at.

null and void-

Used to speak about a legal document or process which no longer has any legal weight.

nutritional value-

The total amount of vitamins, protein, fat, etc. in food which can affect the body after consumption.

Quick Review

Test your knowledge- put the correct collocation in the blank.

You might need to change the form of the words.

1. The field trip was cancelled due to the _____.
2. The contract was made _____ after the company decided not to move forward with the merger.
3. That office is _____ here. You need to drive 30 minutes to get there.
4. My _____ is English, I don't know any other languages.
5. The earthquake was an unprecedented _____. It caused a massive amount of damage.

Key

1. nasty weather

2. null and void

3. nowhere near

4. native language

5. natural disaster

ENGLISH COLLOCATIONS STARTING WITH “O”

occupational hazard-

Dangers related to working at a specific job.

odd number-

Numbers which end in an odd number, the opposite of even numbers.

old age-

Used to describe a person who is elderly.

office job-

A job which is performed mostly at an office.

on time-

Happening at the appointed time.

on TV-

Something which is broadcasted on the television.

operating hours-

The times which a place is usually open for business.

out of time-

When there is not enough time to complete a task.

owe money-

To be obligated to pay someone money which was previously borrowed.

overall effect-

The complete impression something leaves on someone.

overly exaggerated-

Overstating how good or bad something is. *(Completely exaggerated)

Quick Review

Test your knowledge- put the correct collocation in the blank.

You might need to change the form of the words.

1. Meetings always start _____ at my office.
2. We've passed the deadline so we're _____.
3. My parents _____ to the bank for the house.
4. The _____ of the painting makes me think of the sea.
5. Back pain is an _____ of construction work.

Key

1. on time

2. out of time

3. owe money

4. overall effect

5. occupational hazard

ENGLISH COLLOCATIONS STARTING WITH “P”

pack a bag-

To place one's belongings in a suitcase or other type of luggage, usually for a trip.

pair of glasses/pants-

Although glasses and pants are singular items, due to having two lenses and two legs, respectively, they are referred to as a pair.

paint someone's nails

To polish fingernails or toenails with a colored enamel.

pass a law-

When legislation becomes official by a voting governing body.

pass test-

To make a grade which is sufficient enough to constitute a positive exam result.

pathological liar-

A person who lies frequently and habitually without having need to.

~~A person who lies frequently and habitually without having need to.~~

These lies often make the person who tells them seem more interesting or successful than they actually are.

pay a visit-

To make a special social appointment to see someone.

pay attention-

To give focus to something by observing it closely.

pay day-

The day when someone is scheduled to receive money for work they have done.

peace and quiet-

Quiet and solitude with no noise.

perfect timing-

Knowing the exact right moment to do something.

personal belongings-

Objects which are the property of someone.

piece of paper-

A sheet of paper.

piece of music-

A composed work of music. This can refer to any genre of music.

play games-

There are two meanings for this phrase. To engage in a friendly competition in which one can win or lose. It can also mean to handle a situation in a non-serious fashion or without respect.

pleasant surprise-

An unexpected situation which has a positive outcome.

point of view-

One's way of thinking or a particular outlook or perspective on something.

popular opinion/belief-

Something which is believed to be true by many people.

post office-

The place where one can send and receive packages or buy boxes and postage for shipping.

prepare for the worst-

To expect that something bad will happen.

press a button-

To depress a key, bell, or ringer in order to achieve something.

prison sentence-

Punishment for committing a crime which involves a stretch of time spent in prison or jail.

pull a muscle

An injury involving stressing or stretching a muscle to the point of pain.

push back-

Either to delay a date or a negative reaction to something.

put on clothes/shoes-

To wear clothing and shoes on the body.

Quick Review

Test your knowledge- put the correct collocation in the blank.

You might need to change the form of the words.

1. I like _____ after the noise and stress of work.
2. Please gather all of your _____ before leaving the airplane.
3. She likes to _____ red because it is her favorite color.
4. I would like to _____ to my aunt because she is in the hospital.
5. The company has received _____ after the controversial news came out.

Key:

- 1. peace and quiet**
- 2. personal belongings**
- 3. paint her nails**
- 4. pay a visit**
- 5. push back**

ENGLISH COLLOCATIONS STARTING WITH “Q”

quality control-

The branch of a company which is responsible for ensuring that their products all have the same standard of quality.

quality of life-

The general conditions of how people live in a certain place. It can be described as good, excellent, high, low etc.

quick bite-

Eating food when one does not have a lot of time to devote to sitting down at a restaurant or cooking a meal.

quiet night in-

Spending the night at home.

quit my job-

To leave your job voluntarily.

Quick Review

Test your knowledge- put the correct collocation in the blank.

You might need to change the form of the words.

1. I want to get a _____ (to eat) before the movie. I'm starving.
2. The _____ department needs to be alerted because there have been some complaints.
3. I haven't enjoyed working in this company for months, so I might _____.
4. Let's have a _____ and stay at home.
5. Many people want to live here because of the excellent _____.

Key:

1. quick bite

2. quality control

3. quit my job

4. quiet night (in)

5. quality of life

ENGLISH COLLOCATIONS STARTING WITH “R”

rainy day-

To describe a day in which it is raining.

raise concern-

To formally express apprehension about something.

raise your voice-

This phrase has two meanings. It can either mean to express yourself in a more obvious way, or it can mean speaking too loudly.

read aloud-

To read using your voice so that others can hear you. Its opposite is reading to yourself.

receive presents-

To get gifts from someone.

receiving end-

To be affected by the intentional actions of someone else. It is usually not a positive position to be in

not a positive position to be in.

recent graduate-

A person who has just matriculated through an educational institution, usually university.

red eye-

A flight which departs late in the evening and arrives to its destination early in the morning.

regular exercise-

Working out on a consistent schedule.

research and development-

A branch of company which is dedicated to discovering and exploring new products or areas of interest.

ride a horse-

To sit on a horse for transportation, sport, or leisure while it walks or runs.

ride a motorcycle/bike-

To use these vehicles for transport or leisure.

rough draft-

A finished form of a written work that still needs further editing.

royal family-

The monarchy of a country.

running water-

Water which is accessible inside the home through a system of pipes.

Synonymous with indoor plumbing.

runny nose-

Often the symptom of a cold or flu, when the nose has an uncontrollable flow of mucus.

run late-

Not being able to arrive at an agreed upon time. This is the opposite of being on time.

rush hour-

Periods of time when traffic on the roads is particularly heavy because of commuters going to and leaving work. There are usually two rush hours per day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

Quick Review

Test your knowledge- put the correct collocation in the blank.

You might need to change the form of the words.

1. The ____flight leaves at 9pm.
2. I hate _____ because it is difficult to drive in all the water
3. I wanted to leave early in order to avoid (the) ____traffic.
4. She _____ to her boss about not making enough money.
5. With _____and a good diet it is easy to be healthy.

Key:

1. red eye

2. rainy days

3. rush hour

4. raised concerns

5. regular exercise

ENGLISH COLLOCATIONS STARTING WITH “S”

save money-

The opposite of spending. Saving money is an attempt to be frugal with one's finances.

schedule an appointment-

To arrange to be somewhere at a specific time. This is not usually used for social engagements, but rather for business.

scented candles-

A candle that gives off a pleasant smell.

second opinion-

Seeking out the opinion of another person or professional, usually because one is dissatisfied with the opinion of the first person they asked.

secret Santa-

A gift-giving game played at Christmas in which a group of people purchase gifts for each other without knowing who will give whom a gift.

see through-

A description of a fabric or other material which is transparent.

set the table-

To place dishes, silverware, napkins, and glasses on a table in preparation for having a meal.

serving size-

The appropriate amount of food to eat in one sitting.

shake hands-

A greeting in which two people grasp hands briefly.

A greeting in which two people grasp hands briefly.

shelf stable-

Used to describe foods or other products like cosmetics which do not need refrigeration to remain fresh.

skip a meal-

Not eating breakfast, lunch, or dinner, either as a way to lose weight or because one does not have time for them.

social life-

The leisure time one spends with friends and family outside of work or studies.

solve a problem/issue-

Taking a series of actions in order to fix a difficulty.

sore throat-

A pain in the throat. This could be due to speaking too much, too loudly, or being ill.

sounds good-

An affirmative answer which confirms that the speaker is happy with the present situation.

square dance-

A type of group dance which involves repetitive steps.

spare room-

This phrase can be used to describe a room in someone's house which does not have an allocated purpose and can be used for visiting guests.

This phrase can also be used to speak about any extra space in a

This phrase can also be used to speak about any extra space in a location.

Speak highly (of someone)-

To say words of praise about someone or something.

Special occasion-

A positive event which does not happen often.

Spend time-

To allot time to doing a particular activity.

still going-

Something that hasn't stopped yet.

study hard-

To work diligently at learning new material.

Quick Review

Test your knowledge- put the correct collocation in the blank.

You might need to change the form of the words.

1. My sister sleeps in the _____ when she comes to visit.
2. I have a _____ after speaking all weekend at the conference.
3. She often has to _____ because she can't leave work during the day.
4. The curtains won't protect us from the sun because they're _____.
5. I am cooking more at home in order to _____.

Key

1. spare room

2. sore throat

3. skip lunch

4. see through

5. save money

ENGLISH COLLOCATIONS STARTING WITH “T”

take a photo-

To use a camera to capture photo.

take a survey-

To complete a questionnaire about one’s thoughts or experiences, usually for scientific experiments.

take a test-

To complete an exam.

take a taxi-

To use a taxi to get from one place to another.

take toll-

Something which causes injury or damage (usually slowly and gradually).

take care-

To be careful or focus of your wellbeing.

take in clothing-

Taking clothing to the tailor to make it smaller. The opposite is to let clothing out which makes it bigger.

take off clothes/shoes -

To remove clothing or shoes from the body.

talking head-

News and sports correspondents who speak about their respective fields on television programs.

tell time-

To use a watch in order to know the time.

throw a tantrum-

To scream and yell due to anger or displeasure, usually used to talk about childish or childlike behavior.

Quick Review

Test your knowledge- put the correct collocation in the blank.

You might need to change the form of the words.

1. It is clear that the long hours at work are _____ on her health.
2. My two-year old son is just learning how to _____ using an analogue clock.
3. All of the students at the school must _____ to graduate.
4. The angry patron _____ after the manager refused to help her.
5. I always use my phone's camera to _____.

Key

1. taking a toll

2. tell time

3. take a test

4. threw a tantrum

5. take photos

ENGLISH COLLOCATIONS STARTING WITH “U”

undergo surgery-

To be operated upon for medical purposes.

unfair advantage-

A benefit which is not evenly applied to everyone.

upper management-

The most senior levels of a company or business.

upset about-

To be bothered or agitated about

upset stomach-

To feel pain in the abdomen, indigestion.

used car-

A vehicle which has been owned by someone else.

Quick Review

Test your knowledge- put the correct collocation in the blank.

You might need to change the form of the words.

1. After eating too much food, you may have an_____.
2. Buying a _____ is cheaper than buying a new one.
3. I knew she was _____ something because she was crying.
4. Some people view being wealthy as an _____ in life.
5. He had to _____in order to repair his ligament.

Key:

1. upset stomach

2. used car

3. upset about

4. unfair advantage

5. undergo surgery

ENGLISH COLLOCATIONS STARTING WITH “V”

vague memory-

A faint recollection of something that is not fully formed.

vast majority-

Most or many of something.

victory lap-

A way of celebrating after winning a competition. Literally, it means an extra lap around a track after a win. Figuratively, it is any type of celebration after any type of win.

visiting hours-

The times available for people to visit others in the hospital or similar institutions.

voice your opinion-

To express the way you think or feel on a certain topic.

Quick Review

Test your knowledge- put the correct collocation in the blank.

You might need to change the form of the words.

1. The hospital's _____ are from 9am to 5pm.
2. She only had a _____ of where she might have lost her keys.
3. It is important to _____ in meetings.
4. The _____ of people spend their free time watching series and chatting on social media.
5. They took a _____ around the bar after they won trivia night.

Key

- 1. visiting hours**
- 2. vague memory**
- 3. voice your opinion**
- 4. vast majority**
- 5. victory lap**

ENGLISH COLLOCATIONS STARTING WITH “W”

walk the dog-

To put a pet dog on a leash and take it outside for exercise or to let it go to the bathroom.

wake up-

The opposite of going to sleep.

wash clothes (do the washing)-

To clean clothes with soap and water, usually by using a washing machine.

wash my/your face-

To clean one's face of dirt or makeup using water and some kind of cleanser.

washing machine-

A special machine used to wash clothing mechanically.

waste time-

Not using time in a productive matter. This is usually not done on purpose, but rather on things that someone thinks are useful but actually are not.

wide variety-

A large collection.

willful ignorance-

Ignoring evidence which is contrary to a person's beliefs so that the person can still maintain that their beliefs are correct.

win the lottery-

Getting money after playing the lottery.

wishful thinking-

Imagining a future which is based on one's desires rather than actual evidence.

wise man/woman-

A man or woman who has a lot of wisdom.

within reason-

Something that is an attainable goal.

wrap a present-

To cover a gift in decorative paper before presenting it.

work out-

To exercise.

Quick Review

Test your knowledge- put the correct collocation in the blank.

You might need to change the form of the words.

1. My father always _____ early, even on the weekend.
2. If I _____, I would buy a new house.
3. The _____ is broken so my clothes are in the sink.
4. Can you _____ after work? He has been inside all day.
5. She doesn't like to _____ being on social media.

Key

1. wakes up

2. won the lottery

3. washing machine

4. walk the dog

5. waste time

ENGLISH COLLOCATIONS STARTING WITH “Y”

yearly review-

An evaluation which happens every year.

yet again-

Something that has re-occurred.

you guys- (American)

A plural version of you.

young man/woman-

A youthful person.

Quick Review

Test your knowledge- put the correct collocation in the blank.

You might need to change the form of the words.

1. My friend was late _____, so I left the party without her,
2. Can _____ please bring some snacks?
3. The _____ over there is the one who helped me.
4. Her company's _____ is in April.

Key

1. yet again

2. you guys

3. young man

4. yearly review

THANK YOU



I hope you've found it useful!

As I mentioned in the foreword, a lot of hard work has gone into this project.

My whole objective with this book is to help you reach your ultimate goal of improving your English to a point where you feel confident and relaxed. As I mentioned at the start, this book is not designed to be an exhaustive list of collocations, but instead, a focused and easy-access guide for preparation. Review any sections that you feel you need to and use them as a starting point for further research and practice.

WHAT NOW?



In the next few pages, you'll find a massive bundle of free resources you can get hold of, including letter and email templates, presentation templates and grammar and vocabulary resource books! As a free member with exclusive access to my free starter library, you'll also get free reports, books and articles to help you take your English to the next level!

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