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Learning about collocations

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- 2 Finding, recording and learning collocations
- 3 Using your dictionary
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Grammatical aspects of collocations

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 6 Intensifying adverbs | <i>highly unlikely, utterly ridiculous, strongly object</i> |
| 7 Everyday verbs 1 | <i>make a mistake, do your best, do damage</i> |
| 8 Everyday verbs 2 | <i>go bald, become extinct, fall ill</i> |
| 9 Everyday verbs 3 | <i>have fun, take action, pay a compliment</i> |

Special aspects of collocation

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 10 Synonyms and confusable words 1 | <i>close a meeting, antique furniture, only child</i> |
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| 12 Metaphor | <i>sunny smile, ideas flow, heated discussion</i> |

Topics: Travel and the environment

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 13 Weather | <i>strong wind, blanket of fog, river bursts its banks</i> |
| 14 Travel | <i>tiring journey, aisle seat, family-run hotel</i> |
| 15 Countryside | <i>surrounding countryside, well worth seeing</i> |
| 16 Towns and cities | <i>lined with shops, sprawling city, volume of traffic</i> |

Topics: People and relationships

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 17 People: character and behaviour | <i>have a vivid imagination, lose your patience</i> |
| 18 People: physical appearance | <i>slender waist, immaculately groomed</i> |
| 19 Families | <i>distant cousin, expecting a baby, stable home</i> |
| 20 Relationships | <i>casual acquaintance, love at first sight</i> |
| 21 Feelings and emotions | <i>lasting happiness, worried sick, emotional wreck</i> |

Topics: Leisure and lifestyle

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 22 Houses, flats and rooms | <i>move into a flat, spacious living room</i> |
| 23 Eating and drinking | <i>nourishing meal, spoil your appetite, dying of hunger</i> |
| 24 Films and books | <i>film critic, go on the stage, renew a library book</i> |
| 25 Music | <i>give a performance, go on tour, strum a guitar</i> |
| 26 Sport | <i>go snowboarding, take a penalty</i> |
| 27 Health and illness | <i>catch a cold, vigorous exercise, be taken ill</i> |

Topics: Work and study

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 28 Computers | <i>forward a message, e-mail bounces</i> |
| 29 Study and learning | <i>do research, attend a lecture, first draft</i> |
| 30 Work | <i>high-powered job, hand in your notice</i> |
| 31 Business | <i>set up a business, launch a product, rival company</i> |

- 32 Academic writing 1: giving opinions *key factor, challenge a theory, carry out research*
 33 Academic writing 2: structuring an argument *make reference to, argue convincingly, research suggests*

Topics: Society and institutions

- 34 Laws and punishments *break the law, bend the rules, fair trial*
 35 Crime *hardened criminal, juvenile crime, tackle crime*
 36 News *hit the headlines, hold talks, take hostage*
 37 Money *squander money, price soars, go cheap*
 38 War and peace *war breaks out, restore order, call a truce*
 39 Global problems *irreparable damage, eradicate poverty, earthquake hits*

Basic concepts

- 40 Time *save time, ungodly hours, from dawn till dusk*
 41 Sound *break the silence, excessive noise, almighty bang*
 42 Distance and size *within commuting distance, painfully thin*
 43 Colour and light *bright colour, beam of light, shed some light on*
 44 Texture *choppy sea, soft pillow, ice melts*
 45 Taste and smell *fragrant perfume, have a taste, smell danger*
 46 Number and frequency *significant number, come to a total of, rare species*
 47 Movement and speed *prompt payment, painfully slow, lose your balance*
 48 Change *make an adjustment, break a habit, change the subject*
 49 Ways of speaking *brief chat, raise a subject, drop a hint*
 50 Ways of walking *pace up and down, wander aimlessly, faltering steps*

Functions

- 51 Starting and finishing *promising start, bring something to an end*
 52 Talking about success and failure *make a breakthrough, fail miserably*
 53 Talking about cause and effect *cause alarm, adverse effects, have a major impact*
 54 Remembering and sensing *vaguely remember, blot out a memory, have a feeling*
 55 Agreeing and disagreeing *settle a dispute, agree to differ, heated argument*
 56 Talking about beliefs and opinions *firmly believe, colour someone's judgement*
 57 Deciding and choosing *arrive at a decision, have second thoughts, tough choice*
 58 Claiming and denying *make the point that, contradictory evidence*
 59 Liking and disliking *have a liking, state a preference, take offence*
 60 Praising and criticising *offer your congratulations, speak highly of*

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23

Eating and drinking

A Talking about types of food

In each of these conversations, useful collocations are in bold.

Tom: Kids eat far too much **junk food**.

Nelly: Yeah, but it's hard to get them to eat **nourishing meals**¹. They think they're boring.
¹ meals which make you healthy and strong

Fran: Have you tried the new supermarket yet?

Jim: Yes. The **fresh produce**² is excellent, and they have a big **organic food** section.

Fran: Mm, yes. I actually think their **ready meals**³ are good too.

² foods produced from farming, e.g. dairy produce, agricultural produce; pronounced /'prɒdʒu:s/

³ meals already prepared or which just need to be heated quickly before eating

Liam: I can't believe **food additives**⁴ are good for our long-term health.

Todd: No, and I think **processed foods**⁵ in general are probably bad for us, not to mention **GM foods**⁶!

⁴ substances added to food to improve its taste or appearance or to preserve it

⁵ foods which are changed or treated as part of an industrial operation

⁶ genetically modified foods

Gail: The restaurant was leaving **perishable food**⁷ lying round outside the fridge, and some people got **food poisoning** so the authorities closed it down.

Terry: Oh dear.

⁷ food which goes bad quickly, e.g. cheese, fish

B Eating and drinking

Look at this information on eating out for visitors to a town. Note the collocations in bold.



Whether it's a **light meal** or a **substantial**¹ **meal** you're looking for, whether you want a **slap-up meal**², a **gourmet**³ **meal** or just tasty, **home-cooked food**, there's something for everyone in the Old Port restaurant area. Enjoy good food in a pleasant setting.

¹ large ² unusually large and good ³ high-quality

Jane and Ron are in the Old Port restaurant area looking for somewhere to eat.

Jane: Let's find a café and **have a quick snack**. And I could really do with a **refreshing drink**.

Ron: I'm **dying of hunger**! I need a **square meal**.

Jane: I know you have a **healthy appetite**, but you had a **hearty breakfast** only three hours ago! Well, how about having a **soft drink** and a bag of crisps now, and a proper lunch later?

Ron: Crisps will only **spoil your appetite**. Look, this restaurant looks good and the **set menu** is **reasonably priced**. Let's go in.



We say **international food/cuisine**, NOT ~~world-wide~~ food/cuisine. A Chinese/Mexican/French **meal** is what you eat in a restaurant. When referring in general to the food of a country or culture we say Chinese/Mexican/French **food/cooking/cuisine**.

Exercises

23.1 Match the words on the left with their collocations on the right.

- | | |
|---------|-----------|
| 1 set | additives |
| 2 food | food |
| 3 junk | produce |
| 4 ready | menu |
| 5 fresh | meals |

23.2 Complete these sentences using the collocations from exercise 23.1 to fill the gaps.

- such as artificial flavours and colouring can cause allergies.
- may be unhealthy, but it's quick and easy and fills you up.
- People who don't have much time to cook often buy from the supermarket.
- It's always better to buy instead of canned or frozen foods.
- The is usually cheaper than ordering dishes separately in a restaurant.

23.3 Read these remarks by different people, then answer the questions.

- Richard: I've got some cheese and milk. Is there a fridge here I could put them in?
 Archie: I feel so hungry! I can't believe it!
 Polly: I've been sick and my stomach is aching. Must be something I ate.
 Ken: No matter how much I eat, I always want more.
 Suzie: All these vegetables have been grown without any chemicals at all.
 Nina: I always enjoy my food and look forward to it.

	<i>name</i>
1 Who has organic food?	
2 Who has an insatiable appetite?	
3 Who has perishable food?	
4 Who has a healthy appetite?	
5 Who has food poisoning?	
6 Who is dying of hunger?	

23.4 Replace the underlined words with suitable collocations from the opposite page.

- Foods which are changed or treated as part of an industrial operation may damage our health in the long term.
- Some people always have three full, satisfying meals a day, but I prefer a large breakfast and then a small meal around midday and a more sizeable meal in the evening.
- There are some overpriced restaurants in the city centre, but down at the beach, there are some nice, not too expensively priced ones.
- On my birthday my parents took me out for a big, good meal. They wanted to go for a very high quality meal but I said I'd prefer something more ordinary.
- Iced tea is a drink that cools you and makes you feel less tired on a hot day, and is probably better for you than non-alcoholic drinks such as cola or lemonade.
- Let me take you out to dinner on your birthday. Or would you prefer a meal prepared at home? I could make dinner for you at my place.

24

Films and books

A Talking about films and books

When a new **book** or **film** comes out, newspapers will review it. The people who review the **book/film** are called **book reviewers / film critics** and they write **book/film reviews**. If they don't like a book/film they **give it a bad review**. We can say that a novel or film is **based on a true story**. We say that a **book/film captures** an atmosphere or that a **book/film deals with** a topic. We talk about the **opening/closing scenes** of a film and the **opening/closing chapters** of a book. We talk about the **beginning and end of a book/film** (NOT ~~start~~ and ~~finish~~). If everything works out well for the **central characters**, we say that the book/film **has a happy ending**. You may **recommend a book/film** that you enjoyed to a friend. If a lot of people have enjoyed it, it is **highly recommended**.

B Just about films and acting

I've never had any desire to **go on the stage**¹ myself but I'd love to produce a film. I think historical dramas work particularly well on **the big screen**² and I'd love to make a film about Vikings in Britain. There'd be plenty of opportunities to use **special effects**³ during battle scenes. I'd want the **male lead**⁴ to be played by Hugh Grant, while Nicole Kidman could have the **female lead**. Sean Penn could **play the role of** a Viking warrior and I'd like Judi Dench to take on a **cameo role**⁵. I'm sure that, as always, she would **give an excellent performance**. My dream is to make a film that would be **nominated for an Oscar**⁶. Of course, I'd also like it to be an immediate **box-office hit**⁷, playing to **full houses**⁸ worldwide.

¹ become an actor

⁵ small but special part

² the cinema

⁶ put on the official list of people in the film world who may receive a special prize (an Oscar)

³ powerful visual effects, often created using technology

⁷ extremely successful with audiences

⁴ main male part

⁸ cinemas/theatres with no empty seats

Other strong collocations are **cast a film** [select the actors for a film], **star in a film**, **shoot a film**, **make a film**.

C Just about books

collocation	example
be engrossed/absorbed in a book	Sal was so engrossed/absorbed in her book that she didn't hear me.
compulsive reading	Many people find articles about the private lives of film stars compulsive reading . [so interesting you can't stop reading]
bedtime reading	I don't think a horror story makes good bedtime reading .
an easy read	Detective stories are good for train journeys as they're an easy read .
take out / borrow / return / renew a library book	You can take out/borrow six library books at one time. You should return your library book tomorrow. I'm going to renew my library book for another week.
flick/skim through a book	Mona flicked/skimmed through the book without reading it in detail.
beautifully written	The book is beautifully written – I highly recommend it.



Critics **review** books and films, NOT ~~criticise~~ them. To *criticise* a book or film means to say negative things about it. Remember that you **watch television**, NOT ~~see~~ television, but you can **see** or **watch a film** or **programme** on television. We usually say **see a film** at the cinema.

Exercises

24.1 Use collocations from A opposite instead of the underlined words in this conversation. The conversation has no errors, but the changes will improve it.

Matthew: Have you read that new book that has just appeared about Ireland?
 Lorna: No, I don't go to bookshops and I don't read articles discussing new books. What's it about?
 Matthew: Well, it concerns the Irish War of Independence. It's very authentic and it manages to give the atmosphere of Ireland at the beginning of the 20th century.
 Lorna: Is it just historical facts, then?
 Matthew: No, the main people are two brothers who have different opinions about the war and this divides their family. In the first chapters they're happy and do everything together, but by the last chapter they have become enemies.
 Lorna: Mm, it sounds a bit depressing to me.
 Matthew: Well, it certainly doesn't finish in a happy way, but I liked it, and it's recommended very much by all the critics.
 Lorna: So, a book with a pleasant start and a sad finish. Not for me, I'm afraid. I prefer the opposite.

24.2 Complete the crossword.

1			2							
3								4		
		5								
		6								
7										

Across

3 I was completely in my book and didn't realise how late it had got.
 5 An alternative to 3 across.
 6 He wants to go on the He's always wanted to be an actor.
 7 Who played the male in *Destination Saturn*?

Down

1 role means 'small but special part in a film/play'.
 2 The film was for an Oscar but it didn't win.
 4 It was an amazing film about space travel, with fantastic special

24.3 Match the words in the box on the left with their collocations on the right.

full	big	bedtime	screen	reading
female	box-office		lead	hit
			house	

24.4 Complete these collocations.

- shoot / star in / make a
- renew / borrow / return a
- flick / skim through a
- compulsive / bedtime

FOLLOW UP Online bookshops, for example, *Amazon*, often have mini-reviews and descriptions of books and DVDs. Find a review of a book or film that you know and note down any interesting collocations in it.

25

Music

A

Describing music

Look at these music reviews and note the collocations in bold.

Bloom *Music from the Centre of the Earth*
 (Palm records 234655)

New arrivals on the rock **music scene**, Bloom are already making a big impact. If you're looking for **background music**, then this is not for you, but if you want **music to blast out from**¹ your hi-fi and annoy the neighbours, then Bloom's **debut**² **album**, with tracks from their **live performance** at the Delaya Stadium, may be just what you want.



Johnny MacRoy *Songs we loved*
 (Kase Phonograph 488792)

For fans of **easy listening**³ and **catchy**⁴ **tunes**, this is all you need. In fact it's so relaxing you might just fall asleep. MacRoy **gives** a sentimental **performance** of these old love songs. At 47, he's not exactly a **pop idol** but his **adoring fans** will love it.



The Divide *Amphibian*
 (Fono Corp 3321978)

This is a rock symphony, an extraordinary **piece of music**. After their **massive hit** in 2004 with *Megalith*, their record company has **released** this CD hoping for another **big hit**. The band themselves **wrote the music**. They have a **huge following** and are due to **go on tour** later this year.

The Oxbridge Symphonia *British classics old and new*
 (Rotor Records 775537)

Haunting melodies and the occasional **virtuoso**⁵ **performance** from its two soloists mark this collection of popular British classical music, which aims to **capture a wider audience** for the classics and to promote Britain's **musical heritage**. Roger Crow **conducts the orchestra**. Crow himself **composed** two of the **pieces**, hence the CD title. Good birthday present for your uncle and aunt. But if you're a real classical **music lover**, save your money.



BUST-OUT WITH JOLA V *BLAZE MAMA*
 (Presto 58843)

Bust-out's new double CD **features**⁶ **Jola V**, a young **rap**⁷ **artist** from Miami. Jola used to be with Chicago hip-hop band Frenzy, but **went solo** in 2004. The band have **remixed**⁸ four tracks from earlier albums and Jola's **up-tempo**⁹ numbers just add to the excitement.



¹ sound extremely loud

² presented to the public for the first time

³ music that is not serious or difficult

⁴ pleasant and easy to remember

⁵ extremely skilful

⁶ includes as an important part

⁷ rock music in which rhymed lyrics are spoken over rhythm tracks

⁸ made a new version of a musical track

⁹ played at a fast beat

B

Playing music

I saw Martin **strumming a guitar** the other day. I didn't know he could play.



He can't. He just likes people to think he can. He's got no **musical talent whatsoever**.

I've **taken up the guitar**. I've had three lessons so far.



That's great. I love **live music**. What can you play?

Well, the first week was all about **tuning the instrument**. I've got to **play a piece** for my teacher next week.

Exercises

25.1 Change the underlined words using collocations from A so that each sentence has the opposite meaning.

- The band's last CD was a minor hit. (give two answers)
- There are some great slow numbers on this new CD.
- The band has a small following of dedicated fans.
- Music was playing quietly on a CD player when I entered the house.
- Maria Plurosa gave a poor performance of Heder's violin concerto last night.

25.2 Correct the eight collocation errors in this paragraph. The first one is done for you.

For all folk music likers, Johnny Coppin's new CD, *The Long Harvest*, published last week, will be a great addition to their collection. Bob recently got solo after five years with the folk band Blue Mountain. He is proud of the musical inheritance of his native Kentucky. Tracks 3 and 7 comprise his old friend Wiz Carter on guitar. With this CD Coppin says he hopes to control a wider audience for folk music. His excellent living performance at the recent Lockwood Folk Festival suggests he has a good chance of succeeding. He makes a tour next month. Don't miss him.

1	lovers
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	

25.3 What word(s) mean ...?

- ... music that is playing while you are doing something else and not really listening to it?
- ... music that is not complicated or difficult to listen to?
- ... a pop musician who is a very big star with many fans?
- ... a type of performer who speaks rhymed lyrics over rhythm tracks?
- ... to tighten or loosen the strings of an instrument till they make the correct note?
- ... a way of playing a guitar by moving your fingers across the strings?

25.4 Complete these sentences with suitable collocations.

- Hundreds of fans were waiting for Shamira to come out of the concert hall.
- The orchestra gave a wonderful of some popular classics.
- It was a very tune; you only had to hear it once and you were singing it.
- I'd love to a musical instrument but I don't have time.
- It is one of those melodies which you never forget, so beautiful, yet so sad.
- There's a lot of musical in the family; all the children play an instrument.

Now, for twenty thousand dollars, who wrote Beethoven's Fifth Symphony?



26

Sport

A

Do, play and go

The table below gives examples of common sporting collocations with *do*, *play* and *go*.

You do	gymnastics, judo, weightlifting, aerobics, yoga, wrestling, circuit training, archery, athletics
You play	games, badminton, billiards, hockey, bowls, rugby, golf, (table) tennis, cricket, baseball, chess, darts, cards, dominoes
You go	fishing, skiing, bowling, cycling, skateboarding, surfing, snowboarding, hang-gliding, climbing, hill walking, sailing, jogging, swimming

You can also say you **go to aerobics/judo/yoga/karate** – this means that you go to a class in this sport.

ERROR WARNING

Learners often make mistakes with some common collocations connected with sport. Make a point of learning these commonly used collocations.

- You **do** or **play sport**. (NOT ~~make~~ sport)
- You **do exercises**. (NOT ~~make~~ exercises)
- You **play computer** or other **games**. (NOT ~~do~~ games)
- You **have/play a game of** cards. (NOT ~~make~~ a game)
- You **go skiing**. (NOT ~~make~~ skiing)
- You **do activities**. (NOT ~~make~~ or ~~practise~~ activities)

If you are a serious sports person, you will certainly practise your sport, but that has a specific meaning, which is to do something again and again in order to get better at it, in other words **to train**. If you are a footballer you might **practise taking a penalty**, for example.

B

Winning and losing

Sportsmen and sportswomen want to **win matches**, not **lose matches**. But you can't win all the time! Sometimes a team or player **deserves to win**, but gets **narrowly defeated/beaten**.

Before they **go in for / enter a competition**, athletes **train hard**. They probably **attend/do at least five training sessions** a week. They are likely to **put up a fight to gain/get a place** in the next **stage/round of the competition**. Of course, a sports person's ultimate aim is to **break the world record** in their sport. If they succeed, they **set a new world record** and become a **world record holder**. They are sure to **come up against fierce/intense competition** as they try to **achieve their ambitions**. Sometimes they are satisfied if they just **achieve a personal best**.

Some sports people so **desperately want** to win that they take drugs to **enhance their performance**. This will be discovered when they **fail a drugs test**.

C

Football

You can **play or have a (football) match / game (of football)**. It might be a **home** or an **away match** depending on whether you're playing on your team's **home ground** or not.

The aim is to **score a goal**. Players may **tackle an opponent** to try to **take possession of the ball**¹. If you tackle in an illegal way, you **foul your opponent**. This will lead to the referee **blowing his whistle** and an opponent **taking a penalty** or **taking a free kick**. If someone isn't playing very well the manager may decide to **drop the player** from the team or **bring on a substitute**². Both teams hope that they will have **taken the lead**³ by half-time.

¹ get the ball ² replace one player with another ³ be in a winning position

Exercises

- 26.1** Look at A. Complete the sentences with *do*, *play* or *go* in the correct form.

New Sports Club Opening Next Week

You can judo! You can badminton!

You can swimming! You can weight lifting!

You can circuit training! You can table tennis!

You can skateboarding! You can even darts!

In fact, you can almost any sport you can think of. So join now!



- 26.2** Look at B and C. Make ten collocations by matching a word from the box on the left with a word or phrase from the box on the right.

personal set
 blow achieve
 bring on train
 fail enhance
 enter take

the lead a competition
 best your performance
 a substitute a drugs test
 a record hard
 a whistle your ambitions

- 26.3** Look at the error warning. There are six verb + noun errors in this e-mail. Find and correct them.

⊘ ↶ ↷ ➡ 🖨
 Delete Reply Reply All Forward Print

Hi, Jose,

Do you fancy coming on a sporting weekend with me next month? It sounds great – would make a change from playing computer games. You can make lots of different activities. You could even do fishing, I think. You can't go skiing at this time of year but you can make water skiing, if you like. Everyone has to make general exercises first thing in the morning and then you can make whatever sport you like, more or less. I've never practised badminton so I think I'm going to do that. Then in the afternoon I'm looking forward to the chance to practise my tennis serve with their professional coach. Please try to come!

Giorgio

- 26.4** Complete the collocations in this report of a rugby match.

Cambridge were happy to (1) their last match 6:0. Oxford, the opposing team, put up a good (2) and some people thought they (3) to win. They were fearless in (4) their opponents, but every time they took (5) of the ball, Cambridge managed to win it back. Cambridge have now (6) a place in the next (7) of the competition. They will undoubtedly come up against some fierce (8) However, they have already managed to (9) an interesting world record by having four members of the same family in their winning team!

FOLLOW UP

Make a section in your vocabulary notebook for your own favourite sport. Find an English language website connected with that sport. Write down any useful collocations you notice there.

32

Academic writing I: giving opinions

A Reviewing the work of academics

Look at these extracts from reviews in academic journals.

In 1998, Lucas Georgescu published the results of his **groundbreaking research** on genetics. His latest paper also **makes a significant contribution** to the field. He **sets out** some **powerful arguments** which will **shape¹ our thinking** for years to come.

¹ influence

In this latest book, Marina Kass **gives an account of** Karl Marx's philosophy and **provides evidence to support the claim** that Garpov seriously misinterpreted Marx. In addition, the book offers a **concise² summary** of the present state of Marxist philosophy.

² short and clear

Partridge **strenuously defends** her theory, which has **come under attack** recently in several journals. She argues that the Prime Minister **played a central role** in the political crisis of 1811, and **goes into great detail** to support her argument.

Nathan Peel attempts to **establish a connection** between mobile phone use and physical damage to users' brains, but he does not offer **irrefutable proof³** and the statistics do not show any **significant trends**.

³ absolute proof, impossible to prove wrong

B Stating things strongly and less strongly

The sentences below express opinions, either strongly or less strongly.

Strong expressions of opinion

The invention of the steam engine was the **key factor** in the birth of the industrial revolution.

The events of 1954 are a **perfect example** of how political leaders make misjudgements that have serious long-term effects.

This is a **clear illustration** of the importance of a strong monetary policy.

Less strong expressions of opinion

The figures offer a **tentative explanation** of the causes of acid rain pollution. [an explanation given by someone who is not totally certain that it is the correct explanation]

The statistics **broadly support** the view that the economy is heading towards recession.

C Other general academic collocations

There is a **strong tendency** in the work of some linguists to suggest that spoken language is inferior to written language.

We must first **gather evidence**, then **carry out** a detailed **study** of all the factors that **play a part** in social conditioning.

You cannot expect your claim to be accepted if you cannot offer **supporting evidence**.

Simon Hart **challenges the theory** of social change put forward by Professor Kemp.

It is important in academic writing always to **acknowledge your sources**. If you fail to do this, you will **commit plagiarism**. [use another person's idea or a part of their work and pretend that it is your own]



We **do research** or **carry out research**, NOT ~~make~~ research.
 Someone **puts forward a theory** or **proposes a theory**, NOT ~~gives~~ a theory.

Exercises

32.1 Look at A and answer the questions.

- 1 Which collocations suggest that the writer admires Georgescu's work?
- 2 Which collocations indicate that Partridge's work has not been accepted by everyone?
- 3 Which collocations suggest that Marina Kass focuses on facts?
- 4 Which collocations suggest that Nathan Peel is interested in analysing social statistics?

32.2 Rewrite each sentence using the word in brackets, so that it keeps the same meaning.

- 1 The example of Mrs Brown clearly illustrates the need for better medical services in the area. (ILLUSTRATION)
- 2 A doctoral thesis must always make it clear where it got its information. (SOURCES)
- 3 Dr Kahn's results provide clear evidence that our theory is correct. (IRREFUTABLE)
- 4 The article begins by concisely summarising the background to the research project. (CONCISE)
- 5 The book interestingly describes the life of Marx as a young man. (ACCOUNT)
- 6 Janet's theory has been attacked recently in a number of journals. (COME)

32.3 In B some collocations are presented as expressing an opinion in a strong way. Which collocations in the texts in A also express an opinion in a strong way?

32.4 Match the words in the box on the left with the words that they collocate with on the right.

play
set
convinced
come
make
carry
go
shape

people's thinking
a contribution
out a study
by someone's argument
under attack
a part
out an argument
into detail

32.5 Choose the correct collocation.

REVIEWS

Kelly has written a fascinating study of how early people originally got to Australia. He presents some very (1) *powerful / mighty* arguments to support his theory. He offers plenty of (2) *persuading / supporting* evidence to back up his ideas. He has a rather strong (3) *trend / tendency* to (4) *test / challenge* others' theories too aggressively, but in general this is a (5) *groundbreaking / irrefutable* research paper which will (6) *form / shape* thinking for some time to come.

32.6 Complete this table with collocations for the nouns listed. Use a dictionary to help you if necessary. The first line is completed as an example.

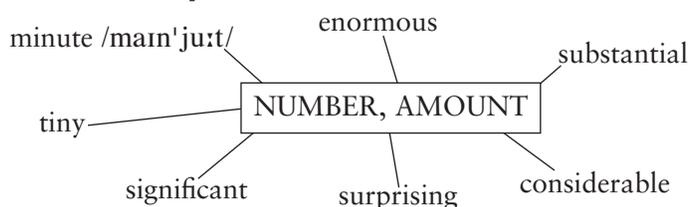
verb	adjective	noun
to publish	an outstanding	article
		research
		experiment
		theory
		survey

46

Number and frequency

A Commenting on how much or how many

These adjectives collocate strongly with both *number* and *amount*. Try to use them instead of *small* or *large* where appropriate.



B Talking about numbers

collocation	example	comments
odd/even numbers	51 is an odd number – 50 is an even number	odd numbers = 1, 3, 5 etc. even numbers = 2, 4, 6 etc.
a decline/drop in the number of	There's been a recent decline in the number of boys joining the army.	<i>Drop</i> is more informal than <i>decline</i> .
an increase/rise in the number of	The increase in the number of homeless people is worrying.	<i>Rise</i> is slightly more informal than <i>increase</i> .
come to a total of	If we add up all the figures it comes to a total of 794.	A calculation comes to a total of x; the person calculating arrives at a total of x.
birth rate rises/falls	Over the last few years the birth rate has been falling .	A rate can also drop or decline as well as fall.
a unit of currency/measurement	The standard unit of currency in most EU countries is the euro.	We also talk about a unit of electricity, unit of length .

C Frequency

Widespread [existing or happening in many places or among people] collocates strongly with a lot of words relating to either attitude (**widespread interest, widespread support**) or problems (**widespread damage, widespread poverty**):

There has been **widespread support** for the government's new policy on education.
 The heavy winds at the weekend have caused **widespread damage**.

Rare [infrequent and special] collocates with things in the natural world (**rare disease, rare bird, rare species**) and also with collectable items of special interest (**rare stamps**).

If someone repeatedly does something that annoys you, you can use the expression **keeps asking, keeps interrupting, keeps hitting**, etc. This is common in informal spoken English:
 Please don't **keep interrupting** me when I'm trying to work.

The children **keep asking** me when we're going to buy a new computer.

Constant and **continual** also convey the idea of something happening repeatedly:

I couldn't get on with my work today because of **constant interruptions** – the phone kept ringing every five minutes.

It was a mistake to go on holiday with them. Their **continual complaining** drove us mad.

D Describing graphs and charts

Profits rose **sharply/steeply** in July, but fell **sharply/steeply** in September.

There was a **dramatic rise/fall** in the number of students applying to university this year.

Numbers of mature students have **increased steadily/gradually** since the 1960s.

The number of crimes committed in the city has **remained constant/stable** since 2001.

Exercises

46.1 Use adjectives from A opposite instead of the underlined words to complete the collocations.

- I only put a very small amount of chilli in the soup but it was still too hot for some people.
- There was an extremely large amount of information to read, 5,000 pages, which was far too much for one person to absorb.
- We can't ignore the fact that a small but important number of people disagree with the plan.
- There was an unexpected number of people at the meeting who had never voted in their lives.
- The government's new budget will mean that a rather large number of people will have to pay more in taxes. (Give two answers.)

46.2 Choose the correct collocation.

- 17, 29 and 395 are all *strange / odd / unequal* numbers.
- Many European countries use the euro as their standard unit of *money / value / currency*.
- 26, 8 and 192 are all *equal / level / even* numbers.
- The bill *comes / arrives / gets* to a total of 287 dollars.
- The unemployment rate is *falling / decreasing / lowering*.

46.3 Use words from the box to complete the news reports. You may use the words more than once.

decline rare keep widespread drop fall rise

Following (1) criticism of the government's environmental policy and a recent report showing a (2) in the numbers of seabirds along the nation's coastline, a scheme has been announced which, it is hoped,

will result in a (3) in the population of birds, especially of those (4) species which are seriously threatened with extinction.

Unfortunately, last year's storms did (5) damage to homes in the north, and the damage is still visible in many places. One local resident complained 'We (6) asking the authorities when we will be compensated. They (7) promising to sort it

out but then nothing happens.' There has been a steady (8) in the number of severe storms in the area, with an average of two per year recorded in the 1980s and more than five per year now.

Although only a relatively small number of people die from (9) diseases each year, a plan to build a research centre into such diseases has received (10) support from all political parties. 'I'm glad to say that we

have seen a steady (11) in the incidence of these diseases,' a medical expert said. 'But we must be careful. The numbers could (12) again if we do not continue to support research.'

46.4 Write sentences describing the sales figures in the chart. Use all the collocations from D.

Sales of mobile phones

