

2.8 Language in focus

Collocations

I can recognise and use common collocations.

- 1 Read the information about collocation and match types of collocation 1–6 with examples a–f from this unit.

Collocation is a central feature of any language. It refers to typical, natural-sounding combinations of words. For example, you can have **strong feelings** but not **tough feelings**. You might **break someone's heart** but not **destroy someone's heart**. Choosing the right collocation will make your English sound more natural.

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|----------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 1 adjective + noun | ☐ | a the centre of attention |
| 2 verb + noun | ☐ | b It's absolutely fantastic . |
| 3 noun + verb | ☐ | c her late husband |
| 4 noun + noun | ☐ | d Mary was staring hard . |
| 5 verb + adverb | ☐ | e My father proposed a toast . |
| 6 adverb + adjective | ☐ | f The door to the hallway opened . |
- 2 Translate the examples in Exercise 1. Discuss how 'strong' each collocation is in your language.
- stronger = few or no alternatives e.g. *the centre of attention*
weaker = some alternatives e.g. *stare hard/intently/fixedly*
- 3 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in capitals. Could any of the sentences describe people you know?
- 1 Donna is _____ shy in social situations. It's embarrassing for her. **PAIN**
- 2 Bill has an outgoing _____ and a great sense of humour. **PERSON**
- 3 Jane would never swallow her _____ and admit that she's wrong. **PROUD**
- 4 Tom is a _____ friend. He's always there for me. **FAITH**
- 4 Choose the correct answer, A, B, C or D. Then tick the sentences that are true for you.
- 1 Dad says it's important to _____ high standards for yourself.
A aim B put C set D fix
- 2 My sister has a _____ imagination and draws incredible pictures.
A vivid B detailed C sharp D strong
- 3 The last film I saw was rubbish. I was _____ disappointed.
A totally B absolutely C bitterly D completely
- 4 Most of my Facebook friends are best described as _____.
A occasional B casual C nearby D relaxed
- 5 Complete the questions with one word in each gap. Then answer the questions.
- 1 Is your best friend reliable? Can he/she _____ a secret?
- 2 Is anybody in your extended family _____ a baby? When is it due?
- 3 Do you tend to _____ your temper when you are angry?
- 4 Are you busy at the moment? Do you have a lot on your _____?
- 5 Are you emotional? How likely are you to _____ into tears?
- 6 Can you remember the last time you roared with _____?

02

Family members

cousin /'kʌzən/
(distant) relative /('distənt)'relatɪv/
ex-wife/ex-boyfriend /'eks'waɪf/'eks'bɔɪfrend/
extended family /'ɪk'stendəd'fæməli/
firstborn /'fɜːstbɔːn/
generation /ˌdʒenə'reɪʃən/
godmother/godparents /'ɡɒd,mədə/'ɡɒd,'peərənts/
godson /'ɡɒdsən/
great-grandson/great-grandmother/great-grandparents /'ɡreɪt'grænsən/'ɡreɪt'græn,mədə/'ɡreɪt'grænd,'peərənts/
great-uncle /'ɡreɪt'ʌŋkəl/
half-brother/half-sister /'hʌf,'brʌðə/'hʌf,'sɪstə/
immediate family /ɪ'mɪdiət'fæməli/
late husband /'leɪt'hʌzbənd/
only child /'əʊnli'tʃɪld/
siblings /'sɪblɪŋz/
single mother/single parent /'sɪŋɡəl'mədə/'sɪŋɡəl'peərənt/
stepchild /'steptʃɪld/
stepfather /'steptʃɑːðə/
widowed /'wɪdəʊd/

Life stages, life events

adolescence /ˌædə'lesəns/
adolescent (n, adj) /ˌædə'lesənt/
adulthood /'ædʌlthʊd/
become an adult /bɪ'kʌm ən'ædʌlt/
childhood /'tʃɪldhʊd/
come of age /'kʌm əv'eɪdʒ/
expect a baby /ɪk'spekt ə'beɪbi/
fall in love (with) /fɔːl ɪn'lʌv(wɪð)/
get married (to) /'ɡet'mærɪd(tə)/
grow old /'ɡrəʊ'əʊld/
grown-up /'ɡrəʊn'ʌp/
join the army /dʒɔɪnði'ɑːmi/
leave home /'liːv'həʊm/
leave school /'liːv'skuːl/
vote /vəʊt/

Relationships

adore/worship /ə'dɔː/'wɔːʃɪp/
be attracted to/fancy /bɪ ə'træktɪd tə/'fænsi/
be madly in love with /bɪ'mædli ɪn'lʌv wɪð/
be obsessed with /bɪ əb'sesɪd wɪð/
casual acquaintance /'kæʒʊəl ə'kweɪntəns/
couple /'kʌpəl/
end a relationship /'end ə rɪ'leɪʃənʃɪp/
engagement /ɪn'ɡeɪdʒmənt/
gender-based stereotypes /ˌdʒendə'beɪst'sterɪə'taɪps/
get/have sb's undivided attention /'ɡet/'hæv,səmbədɪz'ʌndɪ'vaɪdɪd ə'tenʃən/
give sb attention /'ɡɪv,səmbədɪ ə'tenʃən/
heartbreak /'hɑːtbreɪk/
lenient /'liːniənt/
long-distance relationship /lɒŋ,dɪstənts rɪ'leɪʃənʃɪp/
lose touch /'luːz'tʌtʃ/
love at first sight /'lʌvət'fɜːst'saɪt/
love of sb's life /'lʌv əv,səmbədɪz'laɪf/
make a fool of sb /'meɪk ə'fuːl əv/
make an impression on sb /'meɪk ən ɪm'preʃən ɒn/
marriage /'mæɪrɪdʒ/
propose /prə'pəʊz/
respect each other /rɪ'spekt ɪtʃ'ʌðə/
romance /rəʊ'mæns/
separate /'sepəreɪt/
shower sb with praise /'ʃaʊə,səmbədɪ wɪð'preɪz/
single /'sɪŋɡəl/
start seeing sb /'stɑːt'siːŋ,səmbədɪ/
stereotyping /'sterɪə'taɪpɪŋ/
unconditional /ʌn'kɒndɪʃənəl/

Celebrations

be the centre of attention /bɪ ðə'sentə əv ə'tenʃən/
birthday cake /'bɜːðdeɪ keɪk/
blessing /'blesɪŋ/
celebrate /'seləbreɪt/
coming-of-age party/ceremony /'kʌmɪŋ əv'eɪdʒ,'pɑːti/serə'məni/
custom /'kʌstəm/
DJ /'diː'dʒeɪ/
festival /'festɪvəl/
fireworks /'faɪəwɜːks/