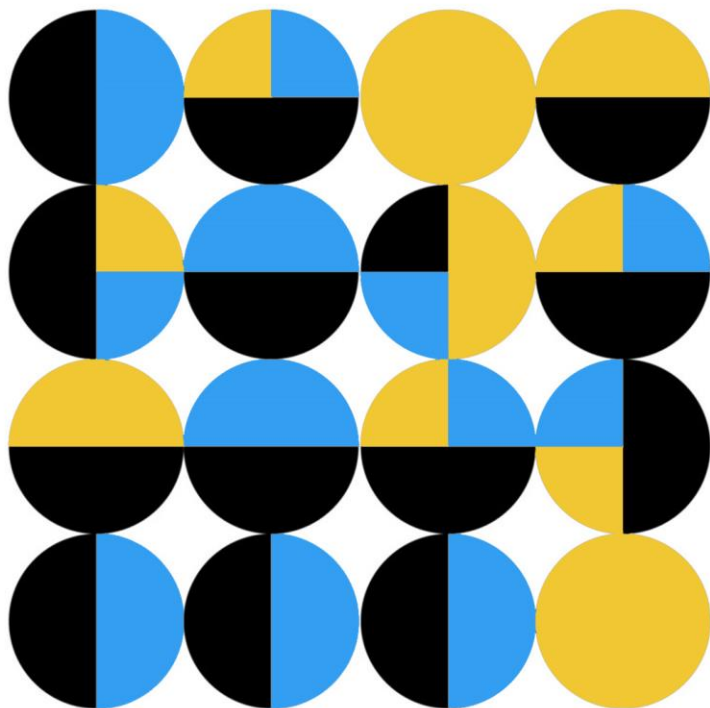


THE PEP DICTIONARY OF ENGLISH COLLOCATIONS

(5000+ Useful Collocations for Everyday English)



The Pep Dictionary of English Collocations Copyright © 2018 by PEP TALK INDIA. All Rights Reserved.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form or by any electronic or mechanical means including information storage and retrieval systems, without permission in writing from the author. The only exception is by a reviewer, who may quote short excerpts in a review.

Pep Talk India

Visit us on the World Wide Web at:

<http://peptalkindia.com>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

What are collocations?	3
Types of collocations	4
Common verb structures	7
Common adverb structures	14

EVERYDAY COLLOCATIONS

Time	19
Distance	22
Size	23
Color	25
Light	27
Sound	29
Texture	31
Taste and Smell	33
Speed	35

TRAVEL & LEISURE

Weather	39
Travel	43
Countryside	45
Towns and Cities	47
Films	49
Books	50
Music	51
Sports	53

PEOPLE & RELATIONSHIP

People: Behavior	57
People: Physical Appearance	59
Relationship: Family	61
Relationship: Friendship	63
Speaking Habits	65

Walking Habits	68
Beliefs and opinions	70
Likes and dislikes	72
LIFE & LIFESTYLE	
Accommodation	77
Food	79
Health	81
Education	84
Writing	87
Conversations	90
Computers & Internet	92
Change	94
Metaphorical collocations	97
WORK AND BUSINESS	
Career and job	101
Business	103
Presentations	105
Decision-making	107
Money	110
Success and failure	112
Cause and effect	115
Facts & Figures	118
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE	
News	123
Law and justice	125
Crime and Punishment	126
War and Peace	130
Global Problems	134

ABOUT THE BOOK

Pep Talk India is proud to present to you this unique book which encompasses the most popular collocations in English language. The idea behind this book is to enable students to understand and master vocabulary through collocations. Once learner develops clear understanding of English Collocations and how they work in writing and speaking, it becomes much easier to collect and learn collocations in a way that will help them build wider array of vocabulary. Since collocation structures in English language includes grammar inherently, it becomes easier for students to understand and learn grammar intuitively without consciously memorizing mundane grammar rules.

The best way to utilize knowledge embodied in this book is to learn and master each chapter thoroughly. Subsequently, you can take help of a good dictionary or a mobile app to further enhance your knowledge base of English Collocations. In this manner, you will develop a system of collecting and learning collocations in your own unique way. The book is written keeping in mind the current research on vocabulary building and learning styles of individuals. Learning collocations is one of the effective ways of mastering and maintaining active personal vocabulary for a longer duration because you are not learning a single word but a group of words that naturally belong together in English language. In a way you are not learning an individual word at a time but you are mastering natively occurring collocating words in minimum effort. This is how human brain is designed to function and learn new language structures. We are confident that after reading this book you will never have to think about correct sentence structure like whether it is “to make an appointment” or “to take an appointment”. You would never have to think about such perplexing question that every English learner has to face while going through the entire language learning process. These collocations are extremely beneficial for students aspiring to improve their speaking and writing skills.

We sincerely hope that efforts we have put in creating this useful vocabulary builder would immensely help students to reach the next level of language learning and transform them into confident communicators.

Happy Learning!



Introduction





WHAT ARE COLLOCATIONS?

According to the established canons of English language, the way the language is spoken should sound natural to a native English speaker. This increases the importance of the use of collocations, which are a combination of two or more words. Though the rules of the English are subverted by non-native speakers owing to the influence of their regional dialects, the correct way to speak, write, and teach the language remains the same across the world.

For example:- Let's say you go to a car showroom and want to try out the latest Autobiography SUV from Range Rover.

What would you say to the manager:-

"I would like to **take the car out** for a test drive"

Or

"I would like to **make the car out** for a test drive"?

It should be obvious that **'take'** the car sounds natural and correct.

To improve your fluency and develop a native-like selection of language use, learning frequently-used grammatically well-formed collocations is of crucial importance. This booklet highlights some of the most useful and commonly used collocations pertaining to different topics. This compendium of collocations takes the learner through variety of phrases or word combinations that occur naturally in English language. Learning these collocation patterns also helps aspirants to acquire other aspects of English language intuitively. It is advisable to use a good dictionary to understand elaborated collocations in specific context. Focus should be on understanding how various collocations are being used in different contexts.



TYPES OF COLLOCATIONS

1. Adjectives and nouns

ADJECTIVE + NOUN

Fast car

Lovely gift

» Examples

Priyanka has always been a **smart employee** and **valuable team member**.

We had a **wonderful trip** to Goa and Mumbai last month.

She delivered a **stirring speech** at the convocation ceremony.

2. Nouns and verbs

NOUN + VERB

Car crashed

Renew policy

» Examples

The school principal **planted more trees** in school this year.

The tech-giant **launched new smartphone** in 2018.

The rapid increase in population **poses a major problem** for the city.

The growth in social media has **created opportunities** for our business.



3. Noun and noun

▶▶ Examples

- He looked at the new trainee with a **pang of jealousy**.
- Rohit felt a **sense of achievement** after winning the Table Tennis final by a narrow margin.
- Whenever I watch re-runs of Friends TV series, it sends me in **fits of laughter**.

4. Verbs and phrases with prepositions

▶▶ Examples

- When Seema reached the office for interview, she was **brimming with confidence**.
- On hearing about sudden demise of his grandfather, his heart was **filled with grief**.
- The army was **spurred into action** by commander's motivational speech.

5. Verbs and adverbs

VERB + ADVERB

Drive carefully

Speak slowly



» Examples

- She came forward and **spoke boldly** on the workplace harassment issue.
- Rahul **walked awkwardly** towards the door.
- Chairperson **smiled graciously** as she met everyone present at the function.
- For hours, he **cried inconsolably** after he fell from the stairs.

6. Adverbs and adjectives

ADVERB + ADJECTIVE

Totally honest

Extremely hungry

» Examples

- I am **totally honest** with my friends.
- The team was **truly unstoppable** in the Champion League final.
- Sandhya was **unbearably sad** about untimely demise of her grandmother.
- She has always been a **highly dedicated** student throughout her academic life.
- The recently released sequel of the last year's superhero film is **incredibly boring**.



COMMON VERB STRUCTURES

Common verb structures – Make, Do

Most learners have issues with sentences involving the use of the words 'make' and 'do'. 'Make' means to produce something while 'do' is about performing an action.

PIVOT WORD	COLLOCATION WORDS
Make	Arrangement, change, choice, decision, contribution, effort, attempt, an excuse, friends, mess, noise, fuss, an improvement, an impression, a mistake, a phone call, progress, suggestion, prediction, a promise, a bet, comment, remark, point, plan, list, discovery, breakfast, lunch, dinner, sandwich, reservation, appointment, a cup of tea, coffee, money, a fortune, a profit, a loss, living
Do	Drawing, painting, sketch, drugs, your best, the dishes, damage, dance, an experiment, harm, the laundry, work, business, exercise, yoga, your hair, the right thing, well, favour, some work, your homework, your duty, exams, a good turn



» Examples

- Pep Talk India can **make arrangements** for any kind of student, irrespective of their age, to help them learn English.
- Once you commit to a cause, you **must really make an effort** to ensure its success.
- When the exams are upon us, we must **do our best** to succeed in them.
- Life is short, so we must try to **do someone a good turn** whenever possible. (*help someone*)
- It was pleasure **doing business** with you guys.
- Since my formative years, I have always believed in **doing the right thing**.
- Please! Don't forget to **do your laundry** on the weekend as you are out of clean cloths again.
- The meteorological department has been **making** quite accurate **prediction** about monsoonal rain this season.
- I am going to **make green tea**. Could I interest you in some tea?
- Though I have **made many mistakes** in my life but in hind sight I don't have any regret.
- We are **making plans** to organize Batman movie marathon this weekend at Sid's place. Are you in?
- Could you **do me a favour** and get some cheese from the market?
- New taxation policy would **do serious harm** to our business.



○ Common verb structures – Have, Take, Go, Get

There are many verbs that specifically collocate with ‘have’ better than any other word. The same goes for ‘take’. Make sure you learn as many collocations revolving around these pivot words and learn to easily differentiate between them.

PIVOT WORD	COLLOCATION WORDS
Have	Breakfast, lunch, dinner, friend, fun, good time, a baby, headache, temper, bath, shower, a business trip, an accident, an argument, a conversation, difficulty, a feeling, a dream, an accident, a look, a party, problem, appointment, emergency
Get	License, married, dressed, scared, pregnant, high, job, success, satisfaction, headache, the joke, message, heart attack

▶▶ Examples

- The family **had an argument** over the share of household property.
- If you **have a problem** with Shalini, you should talk to her.
- We **had a good time** while travelling through countryside in Spain.
- On our YouTube channel, we often talk about how to **get success** in life.
- It is not that difficult to **get a decent job** as a Business Analyst.
- She has **got** a chronic splitting **headache**.
- Rahul **had an emergency** at home. So he left early today.



MAIN WORD	COLLOCATIONS
Take	Holiday, a seat, train, plane, bus, interest, a chance, measure, step, action, decision, photograph, blame, advice, control, criticism, offence, a liking to, a dislike to, poll
Go	Crazy, mad, bonkers, berserk, insane, bald, hungry, blind, deaf, bankrupt, wild, grey, green, yellow
Pay	Attention, tribute, homage, compliment, last respects, visit, lip service

»» Examples

- I am planning to **take a long holiday** after the exams.
- You should **pay attention** during the classes.
- The leader **paid tribute** to the unsung heroes of yesteryear.
- Crowd **went crazy** when Messi scored the winning goal in the final minute. On the streets of Barcelona fans **went berserk**.
- On her Goa trip she **took** some stunning **photographs**.
- This year millions in the country are **going hungry** because of inadequate food production.
- She **took an instant dislike** to the food served at the party.
- The boss **paid a great compliment** to the new manager for her superb presentation skills.



○ Common Verb structures – Gain, attain, win

PIVOT WORD	COLLOCATION WORDS
Gain	Confidence, competence, experience, power, control, access, independence, reputation, publicity, recognition, promotion, strength, satisfaction, knowledge
Achieve	Success, independence, goal, aim, self-awareness, synergy, status, aspiration
Attain	Goal, grade, speed, age, adulthood, standard, fitness, ideal, level, mastery, objective, position, rank, salvation, target, velocity

» Examples

- The national party **gained power** after **gaining support** of masses.
- It is important that you **gain experience** in marketing before doing an MBA.
- In college, he had **gained a reputation** for being eccentric.
- Her uncanny singing talent helped her **gain recognition** on social media.
- I **gained business insight** while working on a real-time project with a tech company.
- She enrolled herself at Pep Talk India to **gain a high level of competence** in English communication.
- The movie studio is **gaining international publicity** for its slate of upcoming movies.



» Examples

- To **achieve success**, you need to work hard on a daily basis without fail.
- **Achieving synergy** between members is the first imperative for an effective team. (*collaboration between individuals*)
- The success in business field helped him **achieve high status** among peers.
- Pep Talk India's main aim is to help learners **achieve their linguistic aspirations**. (*language proficiency*)

PIVOT WORD	COLLOCATIONS
Earn	Respect, reputation, salary, money, living, fortune, trust
Pursue	Career, car, dream, someone, goal, aim, objective, matter, policy, quest, self-interest, vocation, with vigour
Win	Someone's heart, approval, award, prize, medal, match, battle, war, election, court case, race
Reach	Agreement, consensus, settlement, decision, compromise, conclusion, goal, sales target, certain age, audience, a level, point, deadlock, impasse



» Examples

- Abhinav Bindra **won the gold medal** in the Olympics.
- Both the sides have equal chance of **winning the battle**.
- Her performance in the movie **won rave reviews** from the critics.
(*positive & encouraging review*)
- She **won the hearts of fans** with her mesmerizing signing voice.
- Usha has **won several awards** for her academic performance in school and college.

» Examples

It took company years to establish itself as a brand and **earn people's trust**.

He **earns a handsome salary** because he is a data scientist.

She **earned a reputation** as an expert language trainer.

You get new perspective on life, once you **attain a certain age**.

Pep Talk India helps you **attain new standard** of English proficiency.

Team has **attained peak fitness** level before the start of new season.

The HR manager gave assurances that the matter would be **pursued with vigour**.

She **relentlessly pursued her dream** of becoming a fashion photographer.

Political parties failed to **reach an agreement** on the water sharing issue.

The retail company easily **reached its sales target** in 2017.



COMMON ADVERB STRUCTURES

Common Adverb Structures – Highly, utterly

In the English language there are several ways of saying ‘very’ or ‘very much’. These adverbs intensifies the impact of a particular adjective. For example, you can use highly, utterly, bitterly, totally deeply etc.

Adverb	Collocation words
Highly	likely, unlikely, unusual, successful, competitive, acclaimed, profitable, effective, controversial, recommended, motivated

Examples

- It is **highly unlikely** that Shobhit would get a job without work experience in related field.
- This movie is **highly recommended** for people who love action flicks (*films*).
- The tech company has been **highly successful** in bringing out innovative products year after year.

PIVOT ADVERB	COLLOCATION WORDS
Absolutely	Ridiculous, absurd, stupid, beautiful, true, charming, convinced, devastated, miserable, delighted, delicious
Utterly	Bewildered, boring, calm, confused, dejected, exhausted, false, humiliating, immoral, inappropriate, inhuman, intolerable, irresponsible, selfish, sincere, reject



» Examples

- The politician's remark on inflation was **absolutely stupid**.
- He was **utterly devastated** after the divorce.
- She was **absolutely convinced** about the outcome of the business negotiations.
- The dress he wore the other day was **utterly ridiculous**.
- The new Superman movie was **utterly boring**.
- He felt **utterly humiliated** in front of his colleagues at work.
- The necklace you gifted on my birthday was **absolutely beautiful**.

ADVERB	COLLOCATIONS
Ridiculously	Cheap, expensive, easy, low, high, long, short, small, large, early, happy, guilty, romantic
Totally	Crazy, stupid, unacceptable, surprised, awesome, absorbed, taken aback, addicted, assured, committed

» Examples

- The suit was **ridiculously expensive**. There was no point buying it.
- The history exam was **ridiculously easy**.
- My cousin has **ridiculously small hands**.
- The politician's remarks on women reservation were **totally condemned**.
- That kind of violent behavior is **totally unacceptable**.
- He was **totally surprised** by the gift we sent him on his birthday.



PIVOT WORD	COLLOCATION WORDS
Deeply	Ashamed, concerned, shocked, committed, moving, affected, hurt, religious, unhappy, troubled, ashamed, pained, regret, care, think
Strongly	Oppose, influence, believe, deny, recommend, support, condemn, suggest, feel, argue
Truly	Admirable, memorable, magical, tragic, sorry, remarkable, care, creative, fascinating, happy, honest, indigenous, phenomenal, spiritual, valuable

▶▶ Examples

- My brother is **deeply concerned** about the recurring issue.
- I **deeply regret** not going to the game.
- Pep Talk India trainers are **deeply committed** towards their students.
- She was **deeply hurt** by the vindictive attitude of her colleagues.
- I **deeply care** about children who don't even have access to basic needs such as food.
- Shikha was **strongly influenced** by her father.
- I **strongly support** my friend's vision to eliminate hunger in her neighbourhood.
- The *Amazing Spider-man 2* was a **truly awful** movie.
- The thin-crust pizza they served was **truly delicious**.
- The female boxer **truly deserved** a medal at Commonwealth Games.
- We had a **truly fantastic holiday** in Europe.



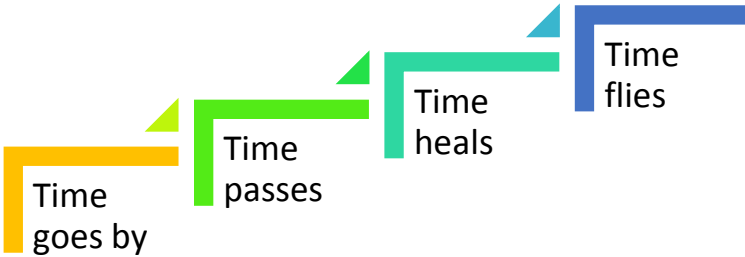
Everyday Collocations





TIME

TIME + VERB COLLOCATION



OTHER VERB COLLOCATIONS	
Spent some time	Waste time
Save time	Tell someone the time
Make time for	Kill time
Give time	Take your time
Have time to	Ran out of time
Devote time	Find time

»» Examples

- I **spent some time** in South Africa during my business trips.
- Youngsters **waste a lot of time** on social media.
- I have forgotten my watch. Can you **please tell me the time**?
- I forgot my phone at home and couldn't fathom how to **kill time** in the waiting room.
- **Have you got the time**?
- Last week, he couldn't finish the test. He **ran out of time**.



OTHER COLLOCATIONS

Idle time

Free/spare/leisure time

Bang/dead/right on time

Good/great/perfect time

Long time | Precious time

Journey time | Travel time

Had the time of his/her life

Ahead of its time

On time | In time

PAST AND FUTURE

Past few weeks	Early 21 st century
Recent past	Set the alarm
From dawn till dusk	The wee hours
Take ages	Worth the time
The not too distant future	Have a great future ahead
Prehistoric times	The future holds
Ages ago	Since time immemorial
Ungodly hours	Foreseeable future



» Examples

- Rohan **had the time of his life** during the party.
- The ground-breaking sci-fi movie, *The Matrix* **was ahead of its time**.
- **Long time** no see! How have you been? We met **ages ago**.
- What do you do in your **spare time**?
- The food I ordered online came **just in time**.
- The volatility in the Indian capital markets has dominated the news headlines in the **recent past**.
- The **past few weeks** have been really terrible for me.
- In the **prehistoric times**, the Woolly mammoth was a formidable foe of human beings.
- In winters, I thoroughly disliked waking up at **ungodly hours** to leave for office.

» Examples

One can **have a great future ahead** if enough hard work is put in.

Since time immemorial India has been the land of cultural diversity.

It's **highly unlikely** that the company will shut down in the **foreseeable future**.

My grandmother followed a lifestyle which involved working on fields **from dawn till dusk**.

Since early 21st century, the smartphone technology has evolved drastically.



DISTANCE

DISTANCE COLLOCATIONS

Considerable/short/long/great/vast **distance**

Short/reasonable/average/mean **distance**

Maximum/minimum/optimum **distance**

Commuting/driving/walking **distance**

Geographical/physical **distance**

Braking/stopping **distance**

Shouting/sniffing/spitting/striking/ **distance**

Cover/travel/go/walk/keep **distance (VERB)**

OTHER COLLOCATIONS

Remote/far-off/far-flung places

Neighboring town/country/area

Contiguous/adjacent area

▶▶ Examples

The office was situated at a **short distance**, so it took me just 20 minutes to walk and reach there. It is far better than commuting to a **far-flung place**, because it makes you feel tired all the time. To put it accurately, the **average distance** between my residence and work place is 13 km. The good thing is Unity mall where I park my car is now **within spitting distance** of metro station. I can **cover** such a **short distance** in minutes.



SIZE

ADJECTIVE + SIZE

Massive/considerable/enormous/great/impressive **size**

Maximum/minimum/optimum/right **size**

Average/medium/moderate/small **size**

Limited/small/reasonable/sufficient **size**

Comparable/equivalent/similar **size**

Standard/full/life/actual **size**

Market/population/family/sample **size**

COLLOCATIONS (SIZE + VERB)

Increase/decrease/limit/reduce

Estimate/overestimate/underestimate

Double in/grow in/increase in

Decline in/decrease in

Differ in/range in/vary

Reach/take/get

Be available in/come in



OTHER COLLOCATIONS

Fat/slim look

Plump people

Baggy pants

Painfully thin

Great deal of time/money/energy/enthusiasm

Major/minor size issues

» Examples

The **considerable size** cut in annual bonus made the employees go on strike.

In last few years, Amazon's revenue has grown to **an impressive size**.

On my birthday, I ordered a **life size poster** of Iron Man for my new apartment.

India's skilled workforce must **reach optimum size** in order to sustain high growth rate in near future.

What **size are** you? (For clothes)

What **size do you take?** (For shoes/clothes)

Doctors **underestimated the size** of cancer affected region in patient's lungs.

There was a **small increase** in the market share of the company.

Due to her problems with anorexia, Kate Moss looked **painfully thin**.

I spend a **great deal of time and money** on the online certification but it didn't have any industry value.

The **family size** happens to **vary** across urban areas in India.



COLOUR

ADJECTIVE COLLOCATIONS

Bold/bright/brilliant COLOUR

Vivid/vibrant/gaudy COLOUR

Faded/muted/subdued/pale COLOUR

Contrasting/matching COLOUR

Earthy COLOUR

COLOUR + VERB

Change/match/wear colour

Colour fades

Colour goes well

Grey trousers to match the jacket

OTHER COLLOCATIONS

Touch of colour

Riot of colour

Dash of colour

Splash of colour

A range of colours



» Examples

I was wearing a **bright white shirt** and **pale blue shorts** for my trip to the beach. I usually avoid darker colours like black or grey because the **color fades** over time. Moreover, **brilliant colours go well** with the sunny weather. For casual weekend wear, I usually prefer **contrasting colour** combination.

On my visit to art exhibition I happen to lay my eyes on vivid painting with **earthy colours**. It was a unique blend of backdrop with **subdued colour** and **bold colours** depicting the scenic beauty. The central hall of the venue was **a riot of colour** having modern paintings with **splash of colour** and some dated minimalist paintings.



LIGHT

COLLOCATIONS (LIGHT + adjective)

Bright/harsh/intense/strong/blinding

Bad/dim/faint/feeble/poor

Gentle/soft/mellow/warm/cool

Artificial/natural

Describing light: Grow dark | pitch dark | beam of light | ray of sunlight | glare of the sun | faint glow | tinged with gold | moonlit night | stars twinkled | a point of light | a halo of bright light | brilliantly sunny day | eerie glow

Idiomatic Expressions:

A grey area

Morally grey issue

Dark side of humanity

Green issues

Blacken the name

Come to light

Shed/throw some light

Cast a shadow

Be under the shadow of

Colourful history

Colourful character

Colourless personality (*Boring*)

Glowing smile

Healthy glow



» Examples

As the day **grew dark**, a **beam of light** from the setting sun **tinged the sky with gold**. The **glare of the sun** soon faded away and the **stars started twinkling** as the **darkness enveloped** the night. Later as time elapsed, oceans waves creating an aura of natural symphony for revelers on the beach on a pleasant **moonlit night**. After incessant rains for last few days, everyone is expecting **brilliantly sunny days** ahead.

NEWS REPORT

Can you please **shed some light** on the legal issue the organisation is embroiled in? They claim the decision taken by the financial adviser falls under a **grey area**. The intelligence agency's investigation has **cast a shadow** on the firm's operations. Through media reports it has **come to light** that the organization's covert operations revealed the **dark side of the humanity** during massive genocide committed in 1990s. The recently released documentary **brought to light** that even though the leader of the group had a **colourless personality** yet the group itself had long chequered and **colourful history**.



SOUND

ADJECTIVE + SOUND

Deafening | loud | powerful

Audible | faint | muffled

Amazing | beautiful | lovely | pleasing

Awful | horrible | haunting

Strange | distinctive | familiar

Distorted | distinct | distant

Booming | buzzing | clanking

Scratching | crackling | rustling | clicking

SOUNDS OF NATURE

Eerie silence

Stoic silence

Broke the silence

Rumble of thunder

The wind was whistling

The waves were crashing

Babbling brook/stream

Birds were singing/chirping

The patter of rain

Thunderous roar



EVERYDAY SOUNDS

Sound effects

Piercing cry/sound

Give a cry of despair

Shrill voice

Squeaky voice

Sounds of raucous laughter

Fits of laughter

A fit of the giggles

Loud explosion

Unpleasant noise/ pleasing sound

Constant noise of traffic

A low moan of despair

▶▶ Examples

There was an **eerie silence** in the library. It reminded me of the ghostly spirits I saw walking in a TV show.

The onset of the rains was accompanied by the **rumble of thunder** and the **whistling of winds**. One could hear **the waves crashing** against the rocks and the **piercing cry** of the quail, making it altogether a surreal moment.

The **deafening noise** from the metal concert reduced our voices to nothing more than **muffled sounds**. The **raucous laughter** of the music festival-goers fell silent like a **dull thud** when the gunman opened fire.

The sitcom was hilariously funny, every time we watched an episode my friend used to burst in **fits of laughter**. On the other hand, whenever we used to watch horror movies, on every frightening scene my friend **gave a loud cry of despair**. While playing video games, my dog was often woken up by **loud sounds of explosion**.



TASTE AND SMELL

DESCRIBING SMELL	
Fragrant perfume	Savoury smell/food
Distinctive aroma	Heady scent/perfume
Intoxicating smell/aroma	Aromatic oils/herbs
Fresh scent	Acrid smoke
Noxious fumes	Body odour
Pungent smell/aroma	Mouth-watering aroma
Delicious aroma	Lingering aroma/smell
Nauseating smell	Nauseous smell

DESCRIBING FOOD

- Acquired taste
- Subtle flavor
- Unappetizing meal
- Appetizing aroma
- Bitter coffee
- Smoky flavour
- Palatable wine
- Stale food/beer
- Bland food
- Spicy taste
- Nasty food
- Disgusting taste



» Examples

The moment we entered the restaurant, the **fragrant perfume** of the flowers at the entrance hit us. Even better was the **distinctive aroma** of the dishes wafting through from the kitchen. The **subtle flavor** of the roasted chicken was very **delectable** for our taste buds. After we took our respective seats in the restaurant, the waitress served us **palatable wine** along with **appetizing starters**. Though we couldn't fully enjoy **bland food** served in main course but we definitely cherished every bite of **rich dessert** as it had **festive flavour** and **delicious aroma**. Frankly speaking, Moroccan food is an **acquired taste**. Till date I haven't **acquired a taste** for couscous.

» Examples

It is not possible for me to drink **bitter coffee**, I need to add some sugar.

The **noxious fumes** from the **foul-smelling chemical factory** could result in a serious health hazard for the workers.

In the disaster-hit region, there was a **revolting stench** from the body of the dead.

The sexist jokes made by the comedian left an **unpleasant taste in our mouth**.



TEXTURE

ADJECTIVES
Dry/oily skin rough/smooth skin
Dry hair greasy hair
Rough/polished/shiny surface
Rough water/seas
Smooth ride/road/flight
Bumpy ride/road/flight
Soft pillow/bed
Tender/rare/smoked meat
Sharp/blunt knife or weapon
Soft texture/touch
Coarse hands/hair/linen
Satin/matt/glossy/textured finish
Silky/smooth/velvety/rough texture
Coarse/fine cloth cotton/woolen/linen cloth
Powder snow
Shiny/rusty metal

VERBS RELATED TO TEXTURES: Snow melts | snow thaws | smile softens | harden surface | voice softens | voice hardens | attitude softens | relations thaws | smoothen hair | exfoliate skin | roughen skin | peel off skin | voice roughen | smoothen the rough edges

IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS: Go smooth | have a sharp tongue | sticky situation | coarse jokes | velvety sky | under the skin | rough time | crude design | smooth ride | iron out details | coarse laughter | coarse manners | crude language | crude jokes



» Examples

After playing for several hours, it is essential to wash your **greasy hair** and **oily skin**.

People who have a **dry complexion** usually don't face many skin issues in summers.

Let's hope our shipping expedition will face a **smooth sea** today, because it is a pain navigating through **choppy waters**.

We had to face a **bumpy road** while traveling up the mountains.

The **relations** between the two neighboring countries **thawed** after recently held bilateral security summit.

When the temperature goes up, **snow melts**.

Her **voice hardened** when she heard the convict speak in the court.

He was very witty and **had a sharp tongue** but unfortunately used it to make **coarse jokes** all the time. For the same reason, his friends didn't tolerate his **coarse manners**. More often than not, he used to find himself in a **sticky situation** because of his **rough tone**. He thought everything would **go smoothly** during the presentation but as he started to speak his **voice roughened** and on that particular moment he had to face **crude jokes** from the audience.



SPEED

COMMON COLLOCATIONS – FAST

FAST	car lane internet talker learner
QUICK	look glance thinking worker decision answer
RAPID	growth rise decline change rate pulse expansion
SPEEDY	recovery resolution response settlement solution
SWIFT	action decision movement exit
PROMPT	action payment reply response
BRISK	walk pace business wind breeze
HASTY	decision meal departure conclusion words
EXPRESS	delivery train service mail company
INSTANT	solution access reply gratification success fame

COMMON COLLOCATIONS – SLOW

Slow motion	Tardy response
Unhurried pace of life	Leisurely drive lunch pace
Slow process	Slow-moving traffic
Come/bring to a standstill	Complete standstill
In an unhurried manner	Painfully slow
Extremely slow	Lingering doubts look
Slow response	Sluggish traffic



» Examples

The latest mainframe computer was **incredibly fast**.

She took a **quick look** at her watch before answering the question.

There was a **rapid decline** in the number of visitors due to increasing cases of violence against women.

He had a **speedy recovery** in the hospital after the accident.

The government was urged to take **swift action** against the offenders.

Prompt payment of bills is necessary to avoid any late charges.

After dinner, we had a **brisk walk**.

She took a **hasty decision** for her marriage and is now regretting it.

It was immensely fascinating to watch the knockout **in slow motion**.

The **slow-moving traffic** was caused by heavy rains, and eventually it **came to a standstill**.

I am trying to learn swimming but the progress is **painfully slow**.

Currently he is enjoying **unhurried pace of life** at a peaceful countryside resort.

The bank officials have been **extremely slow** to respond.



Travel Collocations





WEATHER

There are numerous collocations that we use to describe different aspects of weather and prevailing weather conditions. Here are some of them:

Pivot word	Collocation words, examples
Sunshine	(Adjective) Beautiful/brilliant/bright/blazing warm/morning/mild sunshine VERB - Bask in, soak up, bath in, enjoy sunshine
Rain	Heavy, torrential, light, incessant, intermittent rain VERB - Get caught in, get drenched in, come down
Air	Clean, fresh, cold, hot, polluted Sea, mountain, morning air VERB - Breathe in, breathe out, sniff, blow Phrases - Gust of air, breath of air
Fog	Dense, heavy, thick, patchy fog VERB - Fog clear, lift, cover, be shrouded in fog
Mist	Heavy, thick, fine, grey, morning mist VERB - Covered in, shrouded in, wreathed in Phrases - A veil of mist, through mist
Snow	Heavy/fresh/powder/soft/falling snow VERB – Covered in, snow fall/melt/thaw Phrases – Blanket of snow, carpet of snow, patch of snow



» Examples

- The day began positively with **brilliant morning sunshine**.
- The plane crashed in the mountains due to **thick fog**.
- Driving becomes difficult in winter season due to the **dense fog**.
- The **fog was lifted** by mid-morning, followed by **mild sunshine**.
- The whole city was **shrouded in thick mist**. (*covered in*)
- The **snow was falling heavily** on Sunday. But the **snow began to melt** over the next few days.
- A walk in the **fresh air** will cheer you up.
- On my way to work I got drenched by the **torrential rain**.

WIND COLLOCATIONS

ADJECTIVE – Strong/light/gusty/high/fierce **winds**

VERB – Wind [blow/whistle/roar/pickup/change]

PHRASES – Gust of wind, breath of wind

COLLOCATIONS related to CLOUD

ADJECTIVE – Dense, heavy, dark, rain, thunder, scattered, storm **Cloud**

VERB – **Cloud** [form, gather, cover, clear, float, lift, hang]

PHRASES – Layer of cloud, blanket of cloud, cloud of suspicion, cloud of smoke



» Examples

- Do you really want to drive in **high winds** and **heavy rain**?
- **Strong winds** were blowing through the country, making it ominous of an upcoming storm.
- The **storm clouds** are gathering over the lake.
- The **cloud of smoke** rising from industrial sector covered the entire sky.
- The boardroom was filled with **the cloud of suspicion** as the new chairman took charge.

SUN COLLOCATIONS

Adjective – Bright/hot/scorching/golden/hazy/warm **sun**

Verbs – rise, go down, come out, glare, shine, emerge, disappear

Sunny – brilliantly/gloriously sunny day, sunny weather

Phrases – sunny side of life (cheerful aspect of life)

WEATHER COLLOCATIONS

Fair, fine, lovely, beautiful

Bad, awful, atrocious, gloomy, inclement, rough, terrible

Hot, humid, muggy, sunny, fickle, unpredictable

Clement, Cold, cool, bitter, freezing, windy

Harsh, extreme, fierce, stormy

Phrases – under the weather (unwell)



▶▶ Examples

- My flight was cancelled because of **bad weather**.
- Do you like this **bitterly cold weather**?
- She has been **under the weather** since last Monday. She hasn't come to office. (*She is not well*)
- We are expecting a **brilliantly sunny day** ahead.
- The **sun disappeared** behind **heavy dark clouds**.
- It is not advisable to travel outdoors in the Delhi summer as it becomes **scorching hot**.
- The **weather** in this part of the world is extremely **fickle**. (*changing all the time*)
- Today morning I woke up **to beautiful weather** with a promising forecast of light drizzle.



TRAVEL

Collocations related to travel find widespread use in both formal and informal emails. Some of the important ones are:

Pivot word	Collocations
Traveling	Business travel, air travel, space travel, international travel, business trip, day trip, safe journey, tiring journey, return journey, camping site, overnight journey, travel plans, travel itinerary, travel arrangements, travel insurance, travel guide, travel expenses, travel documents
Transport	Direct flight, domestic flight, long-distance flight, connecting flight, charter flight, scheduled flight, early flight, smooth flight Book a flight, boarded the plane, catch the flight, delay flight, flight bound for, fasten your seatbelts, window seat, aisle seat
Travel destination	Hill station, desert safari, tropical beach, uninhabited island, cruise destination, wild country, cultural diversity, Alpine town
Accommodation	Expensive hotel, run-down hotel, luxury hotel, luxury hotel, seaside resort, elegant hotel, budget accommodation, make a reservation, check into hotel, check out of hotel, luxury suite, fully booked, stay at bread and breakfast



» Examples

- I need to make **travel arrangements** for a business trip.
- The **domestic flight** you take will have **one stop-over**.
- Let's **make a reservation** for a **budget hotel** when we reach, because the **luxury hotel** is fully booked.
- **Staying at a bed and breakfast** instead of **an expensive hotel** makes perfect sense in today's economy.
- Hope you **had a smooth flight** on your way to this exotic destination.
- After we **check into** the resort hotel, we plan to go on **desert safari** for two days.
- This year my wife and I are planning a trip to a **tropical beach** instead of **a hill station**.
- You can **book your tickets** online for this exciting **cruise destination**.
- You have to take a **charter flight** from Kolkata to Shillong.

Hi Bobby,

We have safely reached Madrid this morning. Had to take a **connecting flight** from Istanbul. We are staying at a **luxury hotel** located at the heart of the city. After attending business conference, we are planning to take **a road trip** to Marbella. Our **return journey** has been scheduled for next Friday.

Stay awesome,
Rohan



COUNTRYSIDE

What does a countryside have? Gorgeous landscapes, breathtaking panoramic views and scenery. Here are some collocations to describe a countryside:

TOPIC	COLLOCATION WORDS
Countryside landscape	Surrounding countryside, open fields, bleak landscape, rocky mountains, serpentine path, clear sky, vibrant sunset, dramatic setting, steep slope, towering mountains, snow-covered mountains, marshy land, flora and fauna, babbling brook, lush green meadow, mesmerizing sight, dramatic backdrop
Tourism	Stunning view, panoramic view, spectacular view, breathtaking scenery, rocky landscape, sandy beach, beach stretches, secluded beaches, pristine beach, eco-tourism, medicinal tourism, tourism sector
Countryside description	Beautiful countryside, picturesque countryside, spectacular countryside, unspoiled countryside, idyllic countryside, in the countryside, surrounded by countryside, wander around countryside



» Examples

When we went on a trip to the hill station, we were initially greeted by **open fields**. The **tranquil countryside** seemed like a refreshing change from the hustle and bustle of the city. As we continued our journey ahead, the **spectacular view** of the **towering, snow-covered mountains** took our breath away. Once we **rounded a few bends**, we got down to click some snaps of the **panoramic view**. Later, we were blown away by **mesmerizing sights** and surreal **picturesque countryside**. For days, we walked across **babbling brooks, magnificent waterfalls, and lush green meadows**. It was really a gorgeous experience to behold and recollect.

Last summer, I **wandered around countryside** in Scotland for weeks. I came across **marshy lands** having unique **flora and fauna**. In the evening, I got a chance to witness **vibrant sunset** in the backdrop of **breathtaking scenery**. While traversing the **serpentine path**, I experienced **beautiful view** of the lake, **steep slopes** of **towering mountains** and **unspoiled countryside**.



CITIES

Different towns and cities can be described in various ways. While the developed ones and tourist cities have many positive attributes to them, there are others that face a lot of issues and have several negative aspects to them.

DESCRIPTION FOR TOURISTS
City skyline
Quaint old buildings
Downtown market
Pedestrian crossing
Electric atmosphere
Bustling supermarket
Chic/fashionable club
Rooftop cafes
Radial roads
High-rise buildings
Cobbled streets
Residential area

NEW YORK SKYLINE





URBAN PROBLEMS
Concrete jungle
Power outage (<i>power cut</i>)
Dilapidated buildings
Sound pollution
Industrial zones
Slum area
Heavy traffic
Traffic snarls (<i>traffic jams</i>)
Densely populated
Urban blight
Alarming air pollution
Water woes

»» Examples

The Japanese couple was on their first visit to Delhi. They were intrigued by the fact that a city could have such a stark difference in its style of living. There were **high-rise flats** and **towering skyscrapers**, and the **downtown market** was lined with **quaint old shops** and **fashionable clubs**. On the other hand, just a few miles away, one could see **dilapidated buildings** and **urban decay**, which were marked by **slum areas** and poor civic amenities. But one aspect remained common everywhere – the **traffic congestion** and the **densely populated** areas. People living in **concrete jungle** have to face multitudes of problems like **frequent power outages**, **water woes**, **alarming air pollution**, **sound pollution** etc.



FILMS

Collocations related to Films

Film releases/comes out

Review the film | Film review

Based on a true story

Opening/closing scenes

Powerful climax

Film nominated for

Highly recommended film

Movie with a happy ending

Go on the stage/the big screen

Critically acclaimed movie

Male/female lead or protagonist | Movie stars

Antagonist

Anti-climactic ending

Play the role of | Play cameo role

Oscar-worthy performance

Box-office hit

Playing to full houses

Shoot a film | Cast a film

Movie sequel/prequel

▶▶ Examples

The upcoming **movie sequel** stars **leading actor** Tom Hanks, who gave an **Oscar-worthy performance**. Though the movie did not have a **happy ending**, the **powerful climax** really touched the hearts of the audience, **playing across all screens** during its first week of release. His latest movie has won several **critical acclaims** for **special effects** and **eccentric portrayal** of the character.



BOOKS

BOOKS
Be engrossed/absorbed in a book
Make for a good reading
Download an audiobook
Beautifully written
Skim through a book
Go out of print
Review/author a book
Controversial topic
Light/Interesting/enjoyable read
Borrow/lend a book
Opening and closing chapters
Self-help/motivational books
Paperback/hardcover/e-book

▶▶ Examples

I never really like downloading or **reading e-books**. The magical experience of paperbacks and hardcovers cannot be experienced with a digital copy. Personally, I prefer reading e-books only for **light reading** and the endless **self-help and motivational books** available in the market. I enjoy reading **beautifully written** books that revolve around **controversial topics**, and challenge pre-conceived notions about society and religion. During daily commutes, I often **browse through interesting articles** highlighting scientific breakthroughs and new technologies.



MUSIC

MUSIC COLLOCATIONS

Music store/industry

Background score/music

Love/romantic song

Debut album

Live performance/concert

Play/listen to/broadcast music

Catchy tunes

Orchestral music

Lyrical melody

Devotional songs/spiritual music

Musical talent/performance

Go on music tour

Melodious voice

Tuneful voice/melody

Capture a wider audience

MUSIC COLLOCATIONS

Person who appreciates music

- Music buff
- Music aficionado
- Music lover
- Music enthusiast



MUSIC COLLOCATIONS

Symphony orchestra

Music festival

Lead guitarist

Play/strum a guitar

Singing sensation

Internet personality

Tuning an instrument

Taste in music

Turn up the music

The sound of music

Instrumental music

Compose music for a living

Classical music

Theme music

Rap/dance/rock/jazz/classical music

»» Examples

The **music industry** in India has undergone a dramatic change owing to the introduction of apps like Musical.ly and Star Maker. Gone are the days when one had to struggle in the industry and look for visibility through a manager by **going on music tours** and giving **live performances**. Through YouTube, anyone can showcase his or her **musical talent** and **capture a wider audience** and can become new **singing sensation**. For **music lovers** who are interested in different **music genres** like **rap/rock/blues**, they can browse a plethora of websites or **music streaming** apps to enjoy the music of their choice.



SPORTS

PIVOT VERB	WORDS
Do	Yoga, aerobics, gymnastics, judo, weightlifting, wrestling, circuit training, archery, athletics
Play	Badminton, billiards, hockey, rugby, golf, table tennis, cricket, tennis, baseball, chess, darts, cards
Practice	Karate, martial arts, sports, meditation
Go	Swimming, surfing, fishing, skiing, bowling, cycling, skateboarding, snowboarding, climbing, sailing, jogging

SPORTS COLLOCATIONS

Amateur sportsperson

Professional sportsperson

Racket sport

Indoor/outdoor sports

Individual/team sports

Adventure sports

Sports equipment

Combat sport

Play matches

Win matches

Lose matches

Deserved to win

Win by a narrow margin

Lose by a narrow margin



SPORTS COLLOCATIONS

Take part in sports competition

Participate in sports

Sports movie/magazine

Love for sports

Passion for sports

Train hard | Attend training sessions

Put up a good fight | Take unassailable lead

Next stage/round of the competition

Break the world record | Achieve a personal best

» Examples

In school, one can enroll to **play different sports**, such as badminton, football, basketball etc. Though **winning and losing matches** are also important aspects in sports, the main benefit it has is a healthy mind and body. There are many celebrated sportspersons like Sachin Tendulkar who have performed well in school even after attending grueling **training sessions** and gone on to **create world records** in the future. People who have a **passion for sports** often **take part in sports competition**, be it **individual sports** or **team sports**.

SPORTS COLLOCATIONS

Person associated with sports

- Sports personality
- Diehard sports fan
- Sports commentator
- Sports psychologist



People & Relationship





PEOPLE: Behavior & Personality

We meet different kinds of people in life. They can be described in various ways, depending on their character traits and the behavior they indulge in. Here are some common collocations revolving around character types and behavior.

Different Character Types

Great company

Outgoing personality/extrovert

Good sense of humor

Vivid imagination

Selfish streak

Brilliant mind

Extremely shy/introverted

Absolutely confident

Sense of responsibility

Completely honest

Short-tempered

Wild and wacky

Boisterous people

▶▶ Examples

- Some of my friends are pretty **wild and wacky** characters.
- He is known to have mean **selfish streak** that puts people off.
- As a child she always had **vivid imagination** and **good sense of humour**.
- Some people think he is **extremely shy** but **completely honest**.
- Her boss has a **brilliant mind** but he is **short-tempered**.



DIFFERENT BEHAVIOR

Play a prank/joke

Take offence

Throw a tantrum

Lose your patience

Come to terms with reality

Reveal your true character

Break the silence

»» Examples

You can find people of all hues working in an organisation. Most have an **outgoing personality** and are **great company**, there are others who love to **play a joke** every now and then and have a **good sense of humor**. Working with a **sense of responsibility** is a must-have trait for all employees, and one should be **completely honest** towards their work. One always resolves to work harder without **taking offence** about some mistakes being made while carrying out day-to-day work.



PEOPLE: Physical Traits

People can be described in different ways, with various adjectives detailing their physical traits. Here are some useful collocations for the same:

Collocations for Bodily appearance

Round/oval/pointed face
Breaded/wrinkled/plump face
Slim/good figure
Slender waist
Fair/wheatish/dusky/dark complexion
Perfectly groomed
Coarse/frizzy/curly/straight/thick hair
Lanky legs
Well-built/powerful physique
Broad shoulders
Handsome/youthful appearance
Young/old/advanced/senile age
Age gracefully

▶▶ Examples

- Rohit is **muscular** lad with **broad shoulders** but has **lanky legs**.
- Most elderly tend to become grumpy due to **senile age** and don't **age gracefully**. (*senile age = old age*)
- His charisma and **youthful good looks** belie his actual age.
- Police has been looking for the suspect who happens to a middle-aged male with **dark complexion**, **frizzy hair** (*curly hair*), and **wrinkled face**.



Collocations for bodily appearance

Sparkling/cold eyes

Chubby cheeks

Dark/blonde/black hair (Colour)

Go grey

Go bald

Stout man (fat)

Dumpy woman (fat)

Uncanny/striking resemblance

Crooked nose/smile/teeth

Tall/short-statured

Disheveled hair (Untidy)

▶▶ Examples

Arranged marriages can be a real headache in modern India. It is akin to auditioning for a role in a movie or for a modelling agency. People pass judgment on your physical appearance – whether you have a **round face**, a **pointed face**, a **slim figure**, are **well-built**, have a **thick hair**, have a **fair complexion** and so on. Only those who are superficial pay excessive attention to physical appearances. Instead, the focus should be on whether the person is **perfectly groomed** and is **well-presentable**. For instance, a person can be **good-looking**, **tall-statured** with **bushy eyebrows**, but can have **disheveled hair** and a **shabby appearance**. Ultimately, one should judge the character and not the looks.



RELATIONSHIP: Family

Families are the bedrock of a stable life. If we have a great support system at home, then our lives can be much easier. However, the reverse is also true. A dysfunctional family or estranged relationships can cause much distress in a person's life. It is extremely important that you maintain cordial relations with your immediate family.

FAMILY AND RELATIONSHIPS

Nuclear/extended/immediate family

Close/distant/blood relatives

Close-knit/joint family

Loving/respectable/dysfunctional

Late/estranged husband or wife

Legal separation

Get a divorce

Bitter/acrimonious divorce

Ex-husband/wife

Broken/stable/deprived families

Eligible bachelor

Troubled childhood

Married couple

Marital bliss

▶▶ Examples

- He went through **an unhappy marriage** which eventually ended in a **legal separation**.
- Despite having a **troubled childhood**, Prateek has created quite a life for himself.
- Kids from **broken families** often end up as juvenile delinquents.



PARENTS AND PARENTING

Start a family
Have children
Expecting a baby
Had her baby
Single parent
Raise children
Shared custody
Breadwinner for the family
Adoptive/foster parents
Biological parents/mother/father
Foster care
Born and raised

»» Examples

An alarming trend is being witnessed in India, especially the northern states. **Married couples** are no longer eager to be a part of a **joint family** system and for professional purposes, they prefer to set up home as a **nuclear family**. This can sometimes create friction within the husband and wife, resulting more often than not in a **bitter and acrimonious divorce**. The **estranged couple** has to **apply for custody** of the children, a process that can lead to a **difficult childhood** for the kids. More young people are becoming disillusioned with the idea of marriage, with some couples preferring to raise a child as **adoptive parents**. Being a **single mother** is still immensely tough because of the taboo associated with it in society. But there are some remarkable women who are shouldering the responsibility of a **single parent** quite effectively despite facing challenges on multiple fronts.



RELATIONSHIP: Friendship

FRIENDSHIP
Make friends
Strike up a friendship
Develop/establish a friendship
Destroy/spoil a friendship
Eternal/lasting/lifelong Friendship
Close/special/mutual/childhood friends
A casual acquaintance
Have a good relationship with
Keep in contact
Stay in touch
Faithful/fair-weather friends
Old/lifelong friend
Bonds of friendship
The hand of friendship
A token of friendship
A friend of mine

▶▶ Examples

- I hope the **bond of friendship** we share shall last forever.
- He extended the **hand of friendship** towards his former business rivals.
- I have been playing this online multiplayer game with **a friend of mine** since Monday.
- With the advent of social media, it has become increasingly easy to **stay in touch** with friends.
- He is not my friend. I know him as a **casual acquaintance**.



ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS

Fall in love

Love at first sight

Love of my life

Desperately in love

Make a commitment

Love unconditionally

Head over heels in love

Get engaged/married

Celebrate first anniversary

▶▶ Examples

Nothing is more beautiful in life than **striking up a friendship** with a like-minded person. There are many cases in which a **childhood friendship** has blossomed into **romantic love** among couples, eventually getting married. Thus, you should always stay in touch with your **lifelong friends** and avoid those **fair-weather friends** who only seek their own gain. Some people don't believe in **love at first sight**, they advocate that **love** should be **nurtured** gradually after they **make a commitment** to each other.

However, no love in this world is as **pure and unconditional** as a mother's love. It is even better when the **best friend** in the world is your mother or father.

LOVE COLLOCATIONS

Parental/brotherly/sisterly/filial **love**

Eternal/real/genuine/pure/true **love**

Platonic/romantic/mutual/divine **love**

Unconditional/undying/everlasting **love**



MANNER OF SPEAKING

Now let's look at the collocating words that are often used by people at special occasions like wedding, funeral, birthdays etc.

COLLOCATIONS USED FOR WEDDING SPEECH

Make a toast

Lifetime of togetherness

Tell jokes

Narrate a story

Belong together

Wish the couple luck

Treasured memories

Enduring love

Congratulations on your big day

Momentous occasion

Grand adventure

»» Examples

On my best friend's **wedding day**, I rose up to **make a toast** as it was a **customary tradition**. I started my speech by **telling few jokes** about my friend's annoying habits. Then I **narrated a short story** about how the couple met four years ago and why they **belong together**. I wished them a **lifetime of togetherness**. In the end, I said, "on this **momentous occasion**, I wish both of you **nothing but happiness** and **enduring love** as you guys embark on a **grand adventure** of life and begin a new chapter. May you create and cherish **treasured memories** together. Congratulations on your **big day!**"



COLLOCATIONS USED FOR FUNERAL

Sorry for your loss	Inconsolable grief
Heartfelt condolences	Express/offer your condolences
A sense of grief	Give a eulogy (at funeral)
Fond memories	In loving memory
Rest in peace	Sorely missed
Deepest sympathy	Time heals

» Examples

- We are **sorry for your loss** and may our prayers **ease the pain** of this **unfortunate loss**.
- Our **heartfelt condolences** go to the family who just lost the most valuable member.
- The sudden demise of her husband caused **inconsolable grief**.
- My grandmother's presence will be **sorely missed**.
- She rose to the occasion and **gave an empathetic eulogy** at her uncle's funeral.
- Please know that we are thinking of you and your family during this **time of sorrow**. Time heals every wound.
- May we offer our **deepest sympathies** on the death of your son.

COLLOCATIONS USED FOR BIRTHDAY

Special day	Joyous celebration
Surprise party	Birthday gift
Heart filled with joy	Dearest friend
Closest companion	Family gathering
Celebratory mood	Best of everything
Surprise party	Realize your dreams
Truly remarkable	Happiest moment



▶▶ Examples








- What do you want **for your birthday**?
- We are planning a **surprise birthday party** for my nephew.
- May you **realize all your dreams** on this special day.
- **Make a birthday wish** son! Enjoy your day and the life ahead.
- He was in **celebratory mood** and danced all evening.
- Happy birthday to my **dearest friend, closest companion** and love of my life.
- I hope you had a **wonderful birthday**.
- She will be 26 on her **next birthday**.
- Your birthday is coming up, wish you **best of everything** in life.



MANNER OF WALKING

KEY COLLOCATIONS: Go on foot | go for a walk | take a stroll | go running | go jogging | go for a run | brisk walk | walking meditation | keep up the pace | take long steps | long-distance walks

IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS:

-  Run into problems
-  Different walks of life
-  Make a headway
-  Make great strides
-  Get off on the wrong foot
-  A walk down memory lane
-  Walking on thin ice

ADJECTIVES AND ADVERBS

Romantic walk	Easy/gentle walk
Heavy/light steps	Leisurely stroll
Lakeside walk	Casual stroll
Evening stroll	Walk confidently/swiftly
Pleasant walk	Wander aimlessly
Stride angrily/confidently	Short stride



» Examples

- We went for a **long walk** after dinner.
- He has done several **long-distance walks** for charity.
- She is not at home. Probably she is **taking a stroll** in the park.
- We often went for **romantic walks** along the beach on moonlit nights.
- I enjoy **taking solitary walks** to clear my mind and rejuvenate.
- The stadium was located nearby so I preferred to **travel on foot**.
- After dinner, let's **go for a walk**.
- Every morning, I **go running** in the park, while my parents go for a **brisk walk**.
- The portly man **walked briskly** with **heavy steps**.
- After I lost my way in the forest, I was **wandering around aimlessly** for hours.
- He **strode confidently** into the room for the interview.
- Rajat was a **walking encyclopaedia**. His knowledge was very immense. (*person having great knowledge*)
- We have **made great strides** in the field of Artificial Intelligence.
- Let's meet again. I think we **got off on the wrong foot** in our first meeting. (*bad start of a relationship*)
- Meeting my childhood friends was a **walk down memory lane**.



BELIEFS AND OPINIONS

COLLOCATIONS WITH BELIEF

Absolute | deep-seated belief

Firm | strong | unshakeable belief

Common | general | popular belief

Strongly held | deeply held belief

Commonly held | widely held belief

Rational | irrational | superstitious belief

Erroneous | false belief

Traditional | orthodox belief

Cultural | religious belief

Have | Hold on to belief

Express | give up belief

BELIEFS AND OPINIONS

Firmly believe | Share opinion

Reason to believe | can hardly believe

Matter of opinion | difference of opinion

Strong | mixed | honest | second **opinion**

Expert | informed | minority | majority **opinion**

In my opinion | in my humble opinion | change opinion



» Examples

I **firmly believe** that there is a larger entity than all of us that controls the universe.

Priyanka doesn't **share your opinion** about organized religion being a positive force for the world.

I have **reason to believe** that terrorism is the most dangerous idea since the dawn of history.

We are poles apart in our **cultural beliefs**.

In his opinion, the **traditional beliefs** of tribal communities are rigid.

Contrary to **popular belief**, one should not give importance to superfluous things in their life.

'*Die Hard* is the best action movie.' 'That's a **matter of opinion**.'

Her boss has a very **high opinion** of her design work.

Reema had some **erroneous beliefs** about how the law works.



LIKES AND DISLIKES

COMMON COLLOCATIONS

Really like something	Had a liking for
Take a liking to	Have a particular liking for
Have a genuine liking for	Passionately love
Passionate about	Greatest regard
Highest regard	Real enjoyment
Bring/found enjoyment	Great pleasure
Widely admired	Have great admiration
Clear/strong preference	Intense/instant dislike
Huge/strong aversion	Deep hatred
Irrational hatred	Filled with hatred

OTHER COLLOCATIONS

State your preference

Cater to everyone's tastes

Keep an open mind

Entertain the thought

Take pleasure

All-time favorite

Great lover

Ardent fan

Keen admirer



» Examples

I get **sheer enjoyment** from meeting my friends.

They **found real enjoyment** just in each other's company.

She has a **particular liking** for pizzas.

The **pure enjoyment** of the trip to the beach brought great pleasure to the office-goers.

The two communities had **deep-rooted hatred** towards each other because of historical hostilities.

The comedian tried to **cater to everyone's tastes** in his act. As a result, no one **took offence**.

I am an **ardent fan** of the classic rock band *Pink Floyd*.

The president's speech **filled me with admiration**.

George Carlin is an **all-time favorite** stand-up comedian of mine.

Our videos **brought enjoyment** to millions of viewers.

Our institute is **widely admired** for top-notch language training.

I **have great appreciation** for her as a singer.

I have nothing but **admiration for the way** she fulfilled every responsibility in her life.





Life & Lifestyle





ACCOMMODATION

A PLACE TO LIVE

Rented accommodation

Studio flats

Newly-built apartment

Fully-furnished kitchen

Parking space

Suitable accommodation

Temporary accommodation

Luxurious accommodation

Decent accommodation

Reserved parking

PG accommodation

Sky-high rates

High-rise building/premium villas

»» Examples

- You can get **decent accommodation** online these days.
- They have been living in **rented accommodation** for five years.
- The new city plan includes large scale construction of both **high-rise buildings** and **premium villas**.
- We are looking for **luxurious accommodation** with **modular kitchen** and **reserved parking**.
- Living in a **studio flat** temporarily is not a bad option for a student.
- Providing **affordable housing** for all is the stated goal of the government.



DESCRIBING YOUR HOUSE/FLAT/ROOM

Dream home

Spacious living room

Wonderful view

Cosy room

Completely refurbished

Move in /Move out

Rundown building

Huge hall

Empty corridor

Cramped room/cluttered room

A place of my own

Affordable housing

House-warming

Prime location

▶▶ Examples

Finding **reasonable accommodation** in Delhi-NCR can be a huge headache if you don't **stay in touch** with the right people. The **rates are sky-high** and for students, a **PG accommodation** is usually the best choice. There are times, though, when you become lucky and get your **dream home** or **affordable housing** at a **decent price**. However, going for too **cheap housing** can also mean you get to live in a **dilapidated building** with **dark halls**, and rarely in a **prime location**. The best way to **get a place of your own** is to plan ahead and invest in **dream home** at the right time.



FOOD

TYPES OF FOOD

Junk/healthy/organic/GM food

Nourishing/wholesome meal

Freshly prepared food

Processed/Packaged/frozen food

Perishable food

Food poisoning

Exotic/fresh fruits

Unsavory/Unappetizing food

Artificial flavors

Fast food

Savoury food

Staple food/diet

▶▶ Examples

- It's important to get plenty of exercise and eat **wholesome food**.
- I would rather eat home-made **savoury food** than salty **junk food**.
- Rice is the **staple food** for millions around the globe.
- The energy drinks are replete with **artificial sugar** and **additives**.
- The restaurant has been dishing out **unhygienic** and **unsavory food** to customers for quite some time.
- She has developed a habit of **finishing her meal** with a piece of **fresh fruit**.



EATING AND DRINKING
Quick snack
Light/Full/Large/substantial meal
Gourmet meal
Home-cooked food
Refreshing/sumptuous meal
Dying of hunger
I am famished (<i>very hungry</i>)
Healthy breakfast
Hot/cold drink or beverage
Hearty breakfast
Healthy appetite/Spoil your appetite
Reasonably priced
International cuisine

▶▶ Examples

There are different kinds of food available to consume - **healthy, processed, frozen** etc. but none has caused more controversy than Monsanto's **genetically modified GM food**, which has been allegedly linked to the farmer suicides in India. To maintain a healthy lifestyle, one should try to avoid **packaged, processed, and frozen food** as much as possible. Office-goers tend to go for a **quick snack** or **fast food** due to their fast-paced life, and mostly miss out on a **healthy breakfast** or a **hearty meal**. The need of the hour is regular **substantial diet** and light workout that help you maintain sustainable lifestyle.



HEALTH

COLLOCATIONS FOR GOOD HEALTH

Vigorous exercise

Balanced diet

Healthy lifestyle

Fitness programme

Stay fit/keep fit

Public health

Regimented lifestyle

State of health

Regain health

ILL-HEALTH

Terminally ill, unbearable pain

Incurable illness/minor ailments/serious illness

Life-threatening disease

Acutely/intensely/excruciatingly painful

Acute/chronic illness

Fall ill/sick

Heavy cold/tension headache

Get injured/bruised

Fragile/frail health

Health warning

Feeling of sickness

Sick and tired of (*annoyed*)

Chronically sick



» Examples

- He had to retire due to **fragile health**.
- **Frail health** compelled her to get a health insurance.
- Processed food poses serious threat to **public health**.
- District **health authority** issued a **health warning** last month.
- He cannot commute daily because of his **state of health**.
- After three months of regimented exercise he **regained health**.
- She endured **excruciating pain** with mental fortitude.
- We all get **tension headaches** from time to time.
- The NGO is providing support to 50 **chronically sick** people at the clinic.
- I'm **sick and tired of** all the verbal conflicts and fighting.

Describing ailments and diseases

Catch a cold

Suffer from severe depression

In state of chronic depression

Contract a disease/malaria/dengue

Suffer from fever/backache

Develop cancer/diabetes/arthritis

Have an heart attack

Have an attack of asthma/diarrhea

Be diagnosed with cancer/AIDS/autism

Meet with an accident

Sustain major/minor/serious injuries

Outbreak of swine flu



» Examples

In the monsoon season, there is a tendency to **catch a cold** and **contract a disease** because of the **outbreak of virus** and rampant breeding of mosquitoes. As winter approaches, those **suffering from asthma** suffer from **worsening health** due to the soaring pollution levels. To avoid **falling ill** and **stay fit**, one needs to do **vigorous exercise** and follow a **balanced diet**. Alternatively, you can also enroll in a gym and follow a **fitness programme**. The best way to be **in the best of health** entails maintaining **healthy lifestyle** all year round. Following such a **regimented lifestyle**, you can minimize the risk of **cardiovascular diseases** and other **lifestyle diseases**. Moreover, it not only boosts your **physical health** but also adds to your **mental health** quotient.

Last year my cousin **met with an accident** while he was driving to work. He **sustained serious injuries** and bruises on forehead and left leg. He **underwent multiple surgeries** at AIIMS. Subsequently he was discharged from the hospital and **gradually recovered** at home. Recently he was diagnosed with **acute depression** as he was not able to cope with tragic **health loss** and now he **is in state of chronic depression**. He constantly complained of **shooting chest pains** and **throbbing headaches**. Now he is **undergoing treatment** at a **wellness centre** in Kerala where focus is on **holistic well-being** of the individual. So far response has been positive.



EDUCATION

STUDY COLLOCATIONS

Take an exam/a test

Sign up for an online course

Take/do a course

Have a degree/diploma

Get a degree/diploma

Do/complete a training

Write/submit an assignment

Give a lecture or talk

Get good grades

Get good marks

Get a qualification

Get an education

Deliver/give a speech

Do/conduct a research

Take up a project

Find/have a mentor

Get certified

Receive quality education

Do a professional course

Apply for an post-graduate program



COLLOCATIONS RELATED TO SCHOOL

Attend the lecture/class

Complete the course

Withdraw from the course

Pass/fail a course

Keep a notebook

Make classroom notes

First draft/final draft

Give feedback

Receive feedback

Continuous assessment

Take notes

Residential school

Language skills

Distance education

COLLOCATIONS - EDUCATION

Higher education

Further education

Technical education

Class commenced/rescheduled

Convocation ceremony

Submit your application

Hand in your essay

Leave the course

Dropped out of school

Scholastic achievement

Extra-curricular activities

Provide/impart training



» Examples

If you **do proper research** and get **good grades**, you will get a **good education** and **obtain a qualification or diploma**. In college, one needs to **attend all the lectures** and receive **continuous assessment** of their performance. One has to **submit all the assignments** on time and even undergo compulsory **industrial training**. It is needless to say, student has to strive for sublime **scholastic achievement** and also participate in **extra-curricular activities** like singing, dancing, extempore speeches etc.

To provide **quality education**, teachers should do their part as well by **delivering lectures** and encouraging students to **take up interesting projects**. In ultimate analysis, **educational institutes** should focus on **academic excellence** instead of churning out beeline of **mediocre minds**. The entire **education system** in India needs to be revamped in order to **impart quality instructions** at primary, secondary and tertiary education levels.



WRITING

Academic Writing and Journals

Groundbreaking research

Make a significant contribution

Cogent arguments (*persuasive*)

Influence our thinking

Give an account of

Provide evidence

Support an argument

Concise summary

Establish a connection

Strongly defend

Come under criticism/attack

Vital role

Go into great detail

Irrefutable proof

» Examples

The latest paper published by Rajeev signifies the **ground-breaking research** undertaken by him in the field of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. His research has **made a significant contribution** to the field, and his **cogent arguments** are expected to **influence our thinking** in AI for years to come.

Daniel's latest theory about cognitive evolution has **come under attack** from several academics, but he has **strongly defended** it as a new perspective that hasn't been explored before. Daniel **goes into great detail** to support his argument and highlights the **vital role played** by societal perceptions.



Expressing opinions

Significant trends

Major factor

Perfect/excellent example

Clear illustration

Logical explanation

Broadly support

Strong tendency

Gather evidence

Carry a detailed study

Offer new insights

Challenge pre-existing notion

Acknowledge your sources

WRITING AN ESSAY

Draw a distinction between

Take into consideration

Make reference to

Address all the questions

Touch on issues | Make a case for

Value importance of | Lay emphasis on

Lend support to | Hold firmly to

Draw an analogy | Draw parallels between

Put forward the argument



Presenting arguments

Takes up/adopts the position

State position

Argue convincingly

Draw attention to

Research suggests

Briefly summarize

Disagree totally

Draw the conclusion

▶▶ Examples

In her latest book, Anupama gives a **detailed account** of the life of Shahrukh Khan, and **provides anecdotal evidence** to **support the argument** that he is one of the greatest superstars in Bollywood. In addition, she offers a **concise summary** of the life of Shahrukh's parents and what role they played in shaping the life of the superstar.

Sharmistha Thakur attempts to **establish a connection** between increased video game usage and violent behavior in teenagers, but does not offer **concrete proof** or **undeniable facts** to show any **significant trends**. The **proposed correlation** has been **briefly summarized** in her latest paper on the matter in which she **draws conclusion** from existing research but fails to offer **new insights** on the **subject matter**.



CONVERSATIONS

As social beings we humans often spend considerable time in having conversations with our siblings, parents, friends, spouse and colleagues. Here are collocations related to conversations for different situations.

ADJECTIVE

Interesting | fascinating | stimulating

Brief | long | endless | pointless

Face-to-face | phone

Friendly | polite | civilized

Animated | casual | intelligent

Private | intimate | personal | honest

Serious | real | proper | meaningful

Two-way | boring | awkward

VERB THAT COLLOCATES WITH CONVERSATION

Start	End/finish
-------	------------

Resume	Have
--------	------

Join	Avoid
------	-------

Overhear	Hear
----------	------

Encourage	Interrupt
-----------	-----------

Get into	Be engaging in
----------	----------------

Strike up	Continue
-----------	----------

Proceed	Carry on
---------	----------



PHRASES

In a close conversation

Conversation with someone

Conversation on some topic

Conversation between two individuals

A topic of conversation

Keep the conversation going

During the course of conversation

» Examples

- Social Media has been the death of **good conversation**.
- After very long time I had a **long interesting conversation** with my friend.
- She always try to **avoid conversation** about relationship troubles.
- The **casual conversation** between Sanjay and his parents ended in a verbal fight.
- She tried to **make conversation** with her colleague about approaching project deadline.
- When did you **have this conversation** with your sister?
- It's always good to have a **meaningful conversation** with yourself about the things that matter the most.
- Yesterday, I met Sunil and had to listen to his **pointless conversation** about trivial things for two hours.
- **During the course of conversation**, she mentioned about her plans to pursue her passion for fashion photography.
- The central **topic of the conversation** was Lok Sabha election.
- Please call me when you are ready have a **civilized conversation**.



COMPUTERS & INTERNET

INTERNET COLLOCATIONS
Online resources
Web/internet/online search
Browse webpages
Wikipedia entry
Write blogs/blogging
Input keywords
Anti-virus software
Check your e-mail/inbox
Click on the link
Open an attachment
Download free/paid app
Upload your files
Cloud storage
Hack into a computer
Like and comment on
Subscribe to a channel

▶▶ Examples

- One can **upload, share and download files** using a **cloud storage** app on your mobile.
- Please run a virus-scan before **opening the attached files**.
- The **social media app** allows users to **turn off notifications**.
- It's not easy to **hack into a computer** if you are using **network firewall** on your system.
- After extensive **online search** I came across this amazing website on relaxation and meditation.



COMPUTERS
Memory card
Computer repairs
Flash drive/Pen drive
Access internet/a website
Register a domain
Local Area Network (LAN)
Internet browser
Internet service provider (ISP)
High-speed internet connection
Internet security
Instant message
Connect to the internet
Broadband connection
Wi-Fi Connection
Take a printout

▶▶ Examples

Academic research has undergone a **sea change** ever since the advent of the internet. Through a mere click of the mouse, an **online search** can throw up a lot of information from the available literature on a particular topic. There are other ways through which internet has changed the business, such as **digital marketing** strategies that can connect potential clients to their products and services just by **inputting particular keywords** and **putting adverts** on **popular websites**. However, one needs to be beware of **computer hackers** and **cyber-attacks** that can expose your **personal data** and lead to frequent **computer crashes**.



CHANGE

ADJECTIVE + Change

Abrupt | rapid | sudden | gradual

Fundamental | important | major | massive

Profound | radical | revolutionary

Long-term | short-term

Marginal | minor | small | subtle

Pleasant | welcome | unwelcome | unexpected

Cultural | economic | social | technological

VERB + CHANGE

Make

Bring about

Cause

Effect

Produce

Undergo

Adapt to

Prevent



COLLOCATIONS WITH CHANGE

Change places/seats

Change jobs/schools

Change your mind/mindset

Change the subject/lane/direction

PHRASES WITH CHANGE

A change of heart/mind

The pace/rate of change

A period of change

The tide of change

A change for the better or worse

» Examples

- The film industry has undergone a **massive change** in the last decade.
- **Minor changes** were made in the anti-corruption legislation.
- The tech company has **adapted to change** to stay relevant in the current business climate.
- It's difficult to convince him to **change his mind**.
- An entrepreneur must keep up with the **pace of technological change**.
- After listening to her story, Rajiv **had a change of heart** and readily agreed to donate food and money.



» Examples

- The department needs to introduce **short-term changes** in the recruitment policy.
- All of the sudden, she **changed the topic** of conversation.
- The girl education would definitely **bring about change** in attitude if implemented effectively.
- The process of globalization is responsible for some of the recent **cultural changes** in Indian society.
- I had to **change my school** after my father was transferred.
- Rahul has a terrible of habit of **changing jobs** every six months.
- The management couldn't prevent **the tide of change** and eventually accepted demands of the workers.
- The film franchise *Avengers* has undergone some **radical changes** since 2008.
- In the current **climate of change**, constant innovation is the key to success for businesses.



METAPHORICAL COLLOCATIONS

Metaphors are an integral part of English and when used as collocations, they have an entirely different meaning from their literal one. For example, the word sunny is usually used to describe the weather, but is also used in expressions like ‘a sunny smile’ and ‘the sunny faces of the kids’.

Pivot word	Collocation words
Light	Eyes light up, face lights up, mood lightens, atmosphere lightens, the light of my life, see the light (understand something), on a lighter note (not serious),
Dark	Thoughts darken, mood darken, face darken, darken life, dark secrets, dark vision, dark days, dark side, keep somebody in dark, expression darkens
Water	Ideas flow, conversation flows, flood of tears, tears pour down, people pour, people trickle, tears trickle, stream of traffic, cash flow, flow of money, creative juice flow, ocean of emotion, traffic of thoughts
Air	Walk on air, air of confidence, defiant air, air of luxury, air your concerns, airy promises, airy speculation, airy speech, atmospheric performance



PIVOT	COLLOCATIONS
Fire	Heated debate, heated argument, fiery temper, fiery look, fiery speech, tempers flared up, fire imagination, blaze of glory

▶▶ Examples

- His face **lightened up** when he heard that he was selected for the interview.
- Shilpa's **mood darkened** when she listened to the news of the accident.
- There was a **steady stream of traffic** on the highway.
- There was a **heated debate** among the news panelists and **tempers flared up** pretty quickly.
- The speaker's funny comments **lightened the atmosphere**.
- Her **mood lightened up** as she started singing alone.
- His **fiery speech** was able to **fire the imagination** of young cadets who were aspiring to join the army.
- The baroque music helps an artist to let **creativity flow**.
- When she heard the terrible news, **tears trickled down** her cheeks.
- As gala commenced, the **visitors poured** in numbers to see the exquisite exhibits.
- **Sweat poured** from his forehead as he took the stage.
- Soon the friendly discussion turned into a **heated argument**.
- Our new manager is known to have a **fiery temper**.
- He walked with an **air of confidence** and gave an **atmospheric performance** on the stage.



Work & Business





CAREER & JOB

PIVOT WORD	COLLOCATION WORDS
Job	Challenging, fulfilling, satisfying, demanding, boring, high-powered, highly-paid, decent (Adjective) Have, look for, apply for, find, lose, offer, resign (Verb)
Work	Carry out, supervise, complete, take on, undertake, get done, delegate
Career	Great, brilliant, promising, successful, distinguished (Adjective) Pursue, start, embark, build, wreck, ruin, have a career in (Verb) At the height of, peak of, climb up the career ladder, a change of career (Phrases)
For job adverts	Have experience, good team player, stimulating work environment, language proficiency, communication skills, strategic thinking, problem solving skills, analytical skills
Workplace	Work ethics, corporate culture, daily commute, team synergy, cog in the wheel, attitude towards work, managerial responsibilities, Key Responsibility Area (KRA), Key Performance Indicator (KPI), workplace harassment



» Examples

- **On my first job**, I was entrusted with the responsibility of **supervising work** of new trainees.
- The field of Digital Marketing offers a plethora of **promising career opportunities** across various **functional domains**.
- In the current economic scenario, many graduates aspire to get **high-powered jobs** as data scientists.
- She had an **illustrious career** as a diplomat.
- She pursued a **successful career** in fashion photography.
- The company hires professionals with strong **work ethics** and good **analytical skills**.

» Examples

For a **satisfying job**, one has to find their passion. You cannot be **successful in your career** if you are not good at the job you do. A **brilliant career** means you need to be in a good organization, work in a **stimulating environment** and **climb up the career ladder**. For select few passionate and internally driven individuals well-defined **career trajectory** is more important than just getting a **run-of-mill job**. These individuals experience **job satisfaction** in their **professional life** and value their **professional accomplishments**.



BUSINESS

BUSINESS COLLOCATIONS

Start a business venture

Set up a business

Enter into partnership

Make a loss/profit

Economic viability

Go out of business

Fickle world of business

Grow/expand your business

Merger and acquisition

Tough competition

Business deal

Job creation

Sales target

Annual turnover

Secret of success

Successful entrepreneur

BUSINESS COLLOCATIONS SET 1

Carry out market research

Launch a new product

After-sales support

Run a successful business

Go public

Stock exchange

Business rival

Market forces/dynamics



BUSINESS COLLOCATIONS SET 2

Brisk business	Generate business
Business is booming	Strike a business deal
Balance a budget	Business investment
Business acumen	Go into business
Go out of business	Go bankrupt
Business secrets	Business studies
Business assets	Business meeting

»» Examples

The success of a firm depends whether it can **make a profit or loss** with its business strategy and vision. For this, it needs to **win business contracts** and stave off **tough competition** to ensure its **annual turnover** is worth in millions. There are other aspects also involved, for instance, **launching a new product** to capture the market, having a robust **after-sales support** and understand the **market forces** to ensure a **brisk business**. In this **fickle world of business**, a **successful entrepreneur** has to show considerable **business acumen** in order to make strategic **business investment** to **expand business** keeping **sales target** in mind.



PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION
Prepare/give presentation
Central message
Target audience
Interactive presentation
Sales/business presentation
Connect with audience
Body language
Hand gestures
Maintain eye contact
Breathe deeply
Speak clearly
Tone of voice
Public speaking
Prepare handouts
Q&A session
Listen carefully

» Examples

- Product Manager has to **give a presentation on** new line of sports shoes.
- The **sales presentation** will be followed by a **Q&A session**.
- **The art of public speaking** is the most valued soft skill in business world.
- While presenting, your words must be in consonance with the **body language**.
- The most vital aspect of presentation is your **central message**.



VISUAL AIDS
Make an impact
PowerPoint slides
Presentation skills
Digital presenter
Effective presentation
Easy to read
Simple slides
Key points
Bullet points
Follow your argument
Pie chart, bar diagrams
Present data/fact
Visual slides
Text-heavy

»» Examples

In the corporate world, **preparing** and **giving presentations** is a sure-shot way to climb up the ladder of success. There are several aspects that you need to focus on while giving a presentation e.g. having proper **body language**, **maintaining eye contact**, **breathing deeply**, and **speaking clearly**. Your **PowerPoint slides** need to be simple and effective, and should present data in **bullet points**, **pie charts** and **bar diagrams**. The key is to focus on **visual slides** rather than **text-heavy** data. The number of slides in a presentation should be limited and due emphasis should be placed on **style of public speaking**. In order to **make an impact on** your audience, **visual data** should be presented in an aesthetically interesting manner. If need be one can master the use of **presentation tools** like **digital presenter** and **slide projector**.



DECISION MAKING

Making a decision is very important aspect of any successful business. Here let us look at some of the important collocations that are used for decisions and choices.

ADJECTIVE + DECISION

Big | crucial | important | landmark | major | momentous

Final | irreversible | irrevocable (*can't be changed*)

Difficult | hard | tough

Hasty | rash | reckless

Poor | wrong | bad | irrational

Wise | rational | right | prudent | sensible

Policy decision | informed decision

Investment decision

VERB COLLOCATIONS

Arrive at | come to | make | reach | take **decision**

Reconsider **decision**

Put off | defer **decision**

Defend your own **decision**

Reverse judgement | reserve judgement

Have second thoughts



» Examples

- Preeti **made a big decision** when she decided to move out of her abusive marriage.
- There was a **slight hesitation** on his part when he had to do the bungee jumping.
- The team **arrived at a decision** after a series of trial and errors by them.
- I will **reserve my judgment** till I have heard both sides of the cases.
- It was really a **tough decision** for her but she came forward to point out financial mismanagement in the department.
- The coach made a **hasty decision** to make that crucial substitution and team lost the match.
- The manager asked me to **reconsider my decision** of quitting my job.

CHOICES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Career choice	Life choices
Moral choice	Stark choice
Make a choice	Freedom of choice
Opportunity of a lifetime	Burning desire
Personal preference	Consider all options
Take up the opportunity	Have no choice
Make a hard choice	Pass up the opportunity
Face difficult choices	Weigh up the options
Come to a decision	Informed choice



» Examples

- Dressing style is a matter of **personal preference**.
 - She expressed a **strong preference** for dark chocolate.
 - It's the right time to make some **hard choices** for your future.
 - How can you possibly **pass up such an opportunity**?
 - She faced the **stark choice** of starting her own business or keeping a well-paid job.
 - Right now I am **weighing my options** regarding new business ventures.
 - I **had no choice** but to cancel my flight tickets.
 - There is a **burning desire** within the students to improve.
 - The employer **had no option** but to make a **tough choice** and hand out the pink slips.
 - Ashish had an **opportunity of a lifetime** when he got the chance to interview with the army but he decided to **pass up the opportunity**.
-



MONEY

EXPENDING MONEY

Spend money

Allocate/set aside money

Waste/squander money

Change money

Throw money around

Throw money at

Donate money to

Invest money

Run out of money

EARNING MONEY

Big/easy money

Make/earn/raise money

Collect/deposit/borrow money

Money is always tight

Steady income

Earn a good salary

Make a withdrawal

Get a really good deal

Make a big fortune



COLLOCATION FOR PRICE

High low/price

Price increase/decrease

Price rise

Price soar/shoot up

Price drop/go down

Reasonably priced

Budget/rock-bottom price

Exorbitant/inflated price

Pay a heavy price

Rising/falling prices

» Examples

Whenever we receive our monthly salary, we tend to **spend money** on useless things we don't even need. It is good to be **financially literate** and **invest your money wisely** since **money is always tight** these days. If you have a philanthropic nature, it is better **to donate money** to a charity or some other good cause. According to many people, it is better to be in the services sector since there is a **steady income**, compared to a business, where the profits and losses can swing to extremes.

Whenever some sudden political changes happen in a country e.g. Brexit or the election of Donald Trump, a lot of **financial volatility** is witnessed in the **capital markets** across the globe. **Prices can go up or down** suddenly, with consumers suddenly finding **reasonably priced** items extremely expensive. Sometimes consumer has to pay **exorbitant price** for commodity of daily use. Despite climate of economic uncertainty reliable online platform like Amazon offers excellent deals at **bargain prices**.



SUCCESS & FAILURE

SUCCESS

ADJECTIVE + SUCCESS

Business | commercial | financial | academic

Considerable | phenomenal | remarkable

Great | notable | spectacular | tremendous

Moderate | modest | immediate | long-term | short-term

OTHER COLLOCATIONS

Achieve | enjoy | ensure **success**

End in | lead to | result in **success**

The key to success | the secret of success | a symbol of success

TALKING ABOUT SUCCESS

Made a breakthrough	Remarkable achievement	Dramatic improvement
Crowning success	Take advantage of	Guaranteed success
Pass with flying colors	Good progress	Substantial contribution
Brilliant success	Enjoy the fruits of hard work	Brought out the best in him



» Examples

- The campaign to stop smoking in public places had only **limited success**.
- His first music album was a **great success**.
- Everyone is interested to know **the secret of** his financial **success**.
- The scientists **made a breakthrough** in the genetic technology.
- The discovery of the strand of the virus that could potentially inhibit cancer was a **remarkable achievement** for the team.
- For many entrepreneurs, self-discipline is **the key to success**.
- They have been best of friends for years as they **bring the best in** each other.
- Timothy passed the exams with **flying colors**.
- Mayank **enjoyed the fruits of hard work** when he successfully cracked the Civil Services examination.
- The months of hard work **resulted in remarkable success**.

FAILURE

ADJECTIVE + FAILURE

Complete | total | utter

Abject | humiliating | catastrophic | disastrous

Inevitable | unexpected

Personal | moral | academic | economic | military

FAILURE + VERB

Be doomed to | end in | result in

Expect | fear | avoid | feel



PHRASES

Fear of failure

A history of failure

A sense of failure

OTHER COLLOCATIONS

Fail miserably	Spectacular failure	Box-office flop
Unsuccessful attempt	Never brought to fruition	In a desperate attempt
Go badly wrong	Fail the exams	Dismal failure
Go out of business	Recipe for disaster	Missed the boat

»» Examples

The marketing campaign to boost sales of new line of smartphones was a **complete failure**.

Fear of failure should not stop you from taking determined actions. Despite having balanced team, the coach is expecting **inevitable failure**.

His half-hearted attempt was **doomed to failure**.

Something **went badly wrong** during first half of my presentation.

Once regarded as a great success, the company eventually **went out of business**.

The new Spielberg movie was a **box-office flop** despite being critically acclaimed.

The team **failed miserably** as they were not able to make it past the first round of the tournament.

The in-fighting within the team was a **recipe for disaster**.



CAUSE & EFFECT

○ VERBS RELATED to CAUSE

VERBS	COLLOCATION
CAUSE	Havoc chaos damage alarm concern great anxiety embarrassment
PRODUCE	Result desired outcome improvement feeling of excitement,
BRING ABOUT	Revolution change transformation downfall collapse
CREATE	Awareness problems unnecessary troubles disturbance confusion
SPARK OFF	Riots protests demonstrations rumours
ATTRACT	Criticism interest support attention
ENGENDER	Controversy problems feelings change

▶▶ Examples

The haphazard developmental activities **caused a lot of damage** to the environment.

If you enroll in a course, the trainers will **bring about a transformation** in your personality.

The social activists **created awareness** about the stigma of leprosy.

The controversial painting **sparked off riots** in the region.

The politician's sexist remarks **attracted criticism** from the feminist group.

The recent attacks on journalists has **engendered political controversy**.



○ CAUSE AND EFFECT Collocations

Root | real | underlying **cause**

Chief | primary | principal **cause**

Major | main | fundamental **cause**

Profound | huge | significant **impact**

Minimal | limited | adverse **impact**

Reduce | minimize impact (verb)

Increase | maximize impact (verb)

○ CAUSE AND EFFECT Collocations

Desired | possible | successful | final **outcome**

Unexpected | unfortunate | unforeseen **outcome**

Anticipated | inevitable **outcome**

Positive | beneficial | visible | significant **effects**

Dramatic | far-reaching | powerful **effect**

Negative | devastating | adverse **effects**

Disastrous | lasting | inevitable **result**

Impressive | spectacular | unforeseen **result**



» Examples

- The **underlying cause** of the poisoning was the stale raw material provided by the wholesaler.
- The mound of grass **minimized the impact** of the fall.
- An **inevitable outcome** of the toxic male behavior was an increase in the number of complaints by the female employees.
- A **positive effect** of the new regulations was that the employees became more dedicated to work.
- Despite determined efforts, Rohan failed to get the **desired outcome**.
- The ongoing project will have some **unexpected outcomes** as it is not based on sound financials.
- Air pollution is the **disastrous result** of growing number of vehicles in recent times.
- His poor financial decisions had rather some **devastating consequences**.



FACTS and FIGURES

DESCRIBING NUMBERS

Huge figure

Enormous number

Significant/insignificant number

Minimum/maximum marks

Substantial/Significant number

Surprising/startling figure

Odd/even number

Finite number

Lucky/unlucky number

Exact/approximate number

Total number

A decline/increase in the number

Yearly growth rate

Number decline/dwindle/diminish

DATA VISUALISATION

Uniform growth

Exponential increase

High rate of interest

Consistent numbers

Accelerating trend

Rise sharply

Fall steeply

Dramatic rise

Gradually increase

Remain constant



» Examples

A **surprising number** of people in India are superstitious. This can be attributed to the lack of education.

There was a considerable **decline in the number** of births in the city after more people were educated on birth control.

There was **accelerating trend in support** for the government's policies on education.

When the presidential candidate started his campaign, there was an **exponential increase** in political followers.

Rhinoceros found in wild are **few in numbers**.

Whale **numbers** have **dwindled** due to excessive hunting.





General Knowledge





NEWS

Collocations about newspapers

Fake news

Breaking news

Print news

News coverage

News leaks out

Hit the headlines

Make headlines

Front-page headlines

The latest news

News item

News just in

Flick through the newspaper

▶▶ Examples

The massive earthquake made the **front-page headlines** of the newspaper, but the communal riots were relegated to the latter pages. **Print news** is going out of favor with most people, as **news feeds** on social media websites are being used to inform people of **breaking news** in real-time. This has also led to the increasing scourge of **fake news**, with even respected media houses falling prey to this growing menace.

▶▶ Examples

- **News coverage** of the civil war in Syria was extremely biased.
- The **news** of president's assassination **spread like wildfire**.
- The **news broke** when we were holidaying in Spain.



Collocations Related to News Stories

(Interesting) Turn of events

Interested parties

Hold talks

Top job

Attracted attention

Controversial decision

Talks broke down

Appear in news

Seized control

Bring order

Keep a close watch

Keep you informed

A matter of controversy

No loss of life

▶▶ Examples

In an interesting **turn of events**, the **interested political parties** announced they would **hold talks** to break a logjam and finally decide who would get the **top job**. The controversial decision **attracted much attention** but it was of no use as eventually **talks broke down**. But the media is **keeping a close watch** on the recent political developments. It is highly anticipated that the leader of opposition will **bring order** in the house by **rallying support** for the new legislative amendment.



LAW AND JUSTICE

○ LAW

Verbs that collocate with law – Obey | observe | pass | break | violate | interpret | introduce | respect | uphold | enact | enforce | abide by.

▶▶ Examples

People should **observe the law** at all times.

Anyone who **breaks the law** or fails to **respect the law** should be **put behind the bars**.

The company **law was introduced** for the rights of the employees.

The authorities **enforced the law** by deploying police in the area.

Noun and verb collocations – Law forbids | Law prohibits | Law permit | Law allow | rules/regulation apply to | follow the rules | bend the rules | regulations require/stipulate | comply with the regulations.

▶▶ Examples

The new **law forbids** smoking in public places. The **rules and regulations** will apply to all people, irrespective of their status.

Those who don't **follow the rules** or try to **bend the rules** through subterfuge will have to face a penalty. Additionally, new **traffic law requires** every pillion rider to wear a helmet.



CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

○ CRIME

ADJECTIVE + CRIME

Bloody, Brutal, heinous, horrible, violent

Petty, minor, major, political, alleged

Cyber, organized, juvenile, serious

Growing, mounting, rising, notorious

VERB + CRIME

Commit crime

Combat, control, carry out, report

Fight, prevent, tackle, solve, investigate

Crime - double, rise, increase

MISCELLANEOUS COLLOCATIONS – commit an offence | conviction for robbery | common criminals | petty offenders | felony | vehicle theft | break into your house | crime rate | spate of burglaries | drug abuse | staggering increase in crime | notorious gangsters | nefarious activities | an organized crime syndicate | crime against woman | crime against humanity



COLLOCATIONS
Crime scene, crime rate, crime wave
A crime of passion, a victim of crime
The scene of the crime, a life of crime
An act of terror, convicted criminal
Juvenile delinquent, political prisoner
Mindless vandalism, wanton violence

▶▶ Examples

There are many **hardened criminals** in the city of Mumbai. The soaring **crime rate** is primarily due to the rising unemployment, forcing the youth to become **petty offenders** and indulging in **substance abuse**, eventually moving on to more **serious crimes** like murder, extortion, and kidnapping. The latest **crime wave** is being dealt by the police and the government in a serious manner, with the former **doubling down** their **crackdown efforts** against some of the most **notorious gangsters**.

During winters, **common criminals** took to the streets and resorted to **mindless vandalism** in **blatant violation** of city laws. Later it was found that some of them were **convicted criminals** who had chosen **a life of crime**. They even tried to rope in several **juvenile delinquents** in such **acts of mayhem**. During that period it was reported these **street hooligans** did commit unspeakable **crime against women**. Later in public trials most of these criminals were convicted and **put behind bars**.



○ PUNISHMENT

COLLOCATIONS USED FOR PUNISHMENT

Carry out an investigation | appear in court | go on/went to trial | reach a verdict

Cruel/heavy/harsh/severe/mild/appropriate/fitting/corporal **punishment**,

Administer/hand out/impose/inflict/mete out **punishment**

Receive/suffer/avoid/escape **punishment**

Fair trial | pay a heavy fine | face the death penalty | award a life term

COLLOCATIONS

Act as a deterrent

Suffer the consequences

A harsh penalty

A harsh legal battle

Win a case

Plea deal/bargain



▶▶ Examples

The commissioner ordered his team to **carry out an investigation** into the murder case. After the accused was caught, the case **went to trial** and he was ordered to **appear in court** by the judge. A **harsh legal battle** ensued but the judge ensured that a **fair trial** was carried out. In order to escape harsh punishment, the accused filed a **plea bargain** but the defendants wanted the judge to **mete out severe punishment** to him. **Taking cognizance** of the circumstances, the judge imposed 7 years of **rigorous imprisonment** on the accused and also ordered him to **pay a heavy fine** as well.



WAR AND PEACE

○ WAR

ADJECTIVE + WAR

Long, bloody war

All-out, total war

Holy, civil war

Guerrilla war

World, global war

Nuclear, cold war

Trade, price war

VERB COLLOCATION

Fight, wage war

Declare, win, lose war

Go to war

Prevent, avert war

War - break out, start

War - go on, rage on

War - come to an end, end



OTHER COLLOCATIONS RELATED TO WAR		
War crimes	Fierce fighting	Minor skirmish
Within firing range	Open fire	Decisive battle
Join the army	Peacekeeping forces	The horrors of war
On a war footing	A prisoner of war	A war on terror

»» Examples

When **war broke out** during 1939, the U.S. army called upon its healthy and able citizens to **join the army**. The Allied forces **went to war** against the Fascist forces and **fierce fighting** ensued and soon the regional rivalry turned into a world war affecting millions around the globe. Many soldiers were **taken prisoner** as **battle continued to rage on** across several countries. Even colonies in Asia and Africa became active **theatres of war**.

Scores of **decisive battles** were fought across several **war fronts**. During the war, unspeakable **war crimes** were committed in the name of political ideology. However, the true **horrors of war** were only revealed after the atom bombs were dropped upon Japan, bringing the war to a horrifying end. Though in 1945, the **world war came to an end** but a different **ideological war** in form of **cold war** between the US and USSR started which **raged on** for decades.

The cold war also **ended** but terrorism remained a global problem across many parts of the world. The US declared **a war on terror** after horrific 9/11 **terrorist attack**. To curb the **menace of terrorism** we need global efforts **on a war footing**. At the same time there is a need to deploy UN **peacekeeping forces** in countries facing scourge of **guerrilla war** and ethnic conflict.



○ PEACE

COLLOCATIONS WITH ADJECTIVE

- > World peace
 - > Lasting peace
 - > Fragile peace

COLLOCATIONS WITH VERB

- > Bring about peace
 - > Establish peace
 - > Keep peace
 - > Peace prevail

OTHER COLLOCATIONS

Negotiate a peace agreement	Peace process/talks/efforts	Call a truce/ceasefire
Sign a peace treaty	Peace activist	Peace mission
Restore order	Peace proposal	Broker a peace plan



» Examples

The modern world is also beset with strife and war, and efforts have been futile to **bring about peace** or **negotiate a peace agreement** when you have militant groups hell-bent on unleashing violence on innocent citizens. There are foreign-assisted rebel groups that offer some resistance but there is no **lasting peace**. The world leaders often come together to **restore peace and order** but such **peace efforts** often **go in vain**.

EVERYDAY LANGUAGE

Running battle

Put up a heroic fight against

Win the battle but lose the war

Fight for his life

Battle of ideas/words

A battle of wits/wills

Fight your own battles

In vain

Pit your wits against

» Examples

Ashima **put up a heroic fight against** cancer, but eventually **lost the battle**. For months, she used her mental faculties to stay strong and doctors battled **in vain** to save her life but in the end, she succumbed to the malady.

In every sphere of life, you have to **pit your wits against** all odds to accomplish something extraordinary. You ought to **fight your own battles** to overcome big challenges. At times you must secure a victory in a **battle of words** to do the right thing or to prove your credentials.



GLOBAL PROBLEMS

ENVIRONMENT

Loss of biodiversity	Climate change	Global Warming
Greenhouse gases	Rising sea levels	Fossil Fuels
Natural disasters	Tackle pollution	Exhaust fumes
Disturb the ecological balance	Irreparable damage to the environment	Deplete the ozone layer
Green politics	Clean energy	Crops failure
Renewable energy	Devastating famines/floods	Biodiversity Conservation
Green building	Agrarian crisis	Hydrological cycle

POVERTY

Grinding poverty	Abject poverty	Vicious circle of poverty
Poverty trap	Below the poverty line	Lift them out of poverty
Widening gulf	Deprived section	Impoverished area
Living in deplorable conditions	Underprivileged community	Marginal sections of society
Sleeping rough	Street children	Live on the streets
Desperate need	Breed crime	Eradicate poverty
Alleviate poverty	Income disparity	Escape poverty
Widespread poverty	Global poverty	Urban/rural poverty



OTHER GLOBAL PROBLEMS	
Political asylum	Asylum seekers
Took to the streets	Heavily indebted
Human trafficking	Physical abuse
Gender discrimination	Cyclone-devastated region
Displaced population	Communal riots
Ethnic conflicts	Separatist movement
Regional disparity	Public health crisis
Economic migrants	Racial discrimination
Earthquake hit area	Terrorist attack
World-wide problem	Child labor
Climate change refugees	Hurt religious sentiments

»» Examples

Climate change is an undeniable reality today and the **rising sea levels** and increasing concentration of **greenhouse gases** are **disturbing the ecological balance** of nature. Due to the **depleted ozone layer**, **irreparable damage** is being caused to the natural ecosystems around the globe. Several countries have introduced legislation for **green building** and **clean energy** e.g. the Climate Change Agreement signed in France.



» Examples

A large fraction of the Indian population lives **below the poverty line**. Efforts to **eradicate poverty** haven't proved to be much useful, and there has been a **widening gulf** between the rich and the poor people. There are many homeless people who **live on the streets** and **street children** are especially susceptible to falling to crime. Though successive governments have launched numerous programs to **alleviate poverty** and **lift millions out of the poverty** but the **underprivileged sections** of the society still continue to live in the most **deplorable conditions**.

In recent years, the issue of migrants has become a major **world-wide problem**. While some countries have outright displayed their hostility towards migrants seeking **political asylum**, **economic migrants** like Mexicans have also faced opposition from conservative parties. However, the underlying problem is that people are fleeing **war-hit zones** and **economic exploitation**, and they have to seek refuge on humanitarian grounds. Several African countries are severely affected by multitudinous **ethnic conflicts** and **geopolitical struggles**. The fact of the matter is such conflicts in the most **impoverished region** of the world create serious **public health crisis** and leads to uncountable incidents of **human right violation**. This is **global problem** which requires **global efforts** to solve it.



