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## Learning about collocations

- 1 Introducing collocations
- 2 Strong, fixed and weak collocations
- 3 Grammatical categories of collocation
- 4 Using your dictionary and other resources
- 5 Finding and working on collocations in texts
- 6 Register

## Varieties of collocations

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 7 Metaphor                                    | <i>foot the bill, heavy burden, run into trouble</i>            |
| 8 Intensifying and softening adverbs          | <i>deeply offensive, spotlessly clean, wildly inaccurate</i>    |
| 9 <i>Make</i> and verbs that mean <i>make</i> | <i>make a contribution, make a habit of, turn in a profit</i>   |
| 10 Communicating                              | <i>generally speaking, talk business, get a message across</i>  |
| 11 Collocations with phrasal verbs            | <i>take up office, work up an appetite, see off an intruder</i> |

## Topics: work and study

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 12 Working life                            | <i>make a living, take up a post, move up the ladder</i>      |
| 13 New employment                          | <i>fit the job description, land a new job, menial tasks</i>  |
| 14 Thoughts and ideas                      | <i>bear in mind, widespread belief, jump to conclusions</i>   |
| 15 Business reports                        | <i>fierce competition, stimulate growth, hike in prices</i>   |
| 16 Customer services                       | <i>fit for purpose, kick up a fuss, grounds for complaint</i> |
| 17 Student life                            | <i>gifted child, mature student, thirst for knowledge</i>     |
| 18 Writing essays, assignments and reports | <i>working hypothesis, confront issues, critical analysis</i> |

## Topics: leisure and lifestyle

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 19 Social life                | <i>call for a celebration, social whirl, play host to</i>       |
| 20 Talking                    | <i>juicy gossip, broach the subject, opening gambit</i>         |
| 21 News                       | <i>declare independence, reach agreement, bow to pressure</i>   |
| 22 Current affairs            | <i>refuse point-blank, decline to comment, gauge reaction</i>   |
| 23 Festivals and celebrations | <i>date back to, movable feast, propose a toast</i>             |
| 24 Advertisements and fashion | <i>set the trend, fashion victim, flawless complexion</i>       |
| 25 Traffic and driving        | <i>lengthy delays, grind the gears, bear left</i>               |
| 26 Travel and adventure       | <i>get itchy feet, off the beaten track, leg of the journey</i> |
| 27 Sport                      | <i>keep in shape, reach fever pitch, score an own goal</i>      |
| 28 Plans and decisions        | <i>toy with an idea, tentative suggestion, deciding factor</i>  |
| 29 Film and book reviews      | <i>star-studded cast, glowing reviews, hold one's attention</i> |



## Topics: the modern world

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|------------------------------|---|
| 30 Regulations and authority | <i>minimise danger, grant permission, faceless bureaucrats</i>                |
| 31 The environment           | <i>dump waste, searing heat, offset carbon emissions</i>                      |
| 32 Town and country life     | <i>back of beyond, rural idyll, urban regeneration</i>                        |
| 33 Personal finance          | <i>clear one's debts, agreed credit limit, identity theft</i>                 |
| 34 The economy               | <i>curb inflation, safeguard one's interests, plummeting profits</i>          |
| 35 Social issues             | <i>antisocial behaviour, dysfunctional family, unfit for human habitation</i> |
| 36 Science and technology    | <i>harness technology, cutting edge design, wireless hotspots</i>             |
| 37 Health and medicine       | <i>build up resistance, adverse reaction, shake off a cold</i>                |
| 38 Criminal justice          | <i>custodial sentences, beyond reasonable doubt, trumped-up charges</i>       |
| 39 War and peace             | <i>deploy troops, pre-emptive strike, collateral damage</i>                   |

## Topics: people

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 40 Friendship                 | <i>lifelong friends, platonic relationship, heal the rift</i>    |
| 41 Youth and age              | <i>child prodigy, go through a midlife crisis, senior moment</i> |
| 42 Celebrities and heroes     | <i>go into rehab, kiss and tell, heap praise on</i>              |
| 43 Criticising people         | <i>bone idle, poison the atmosphere, nasty piece of work</i>     |
| 44 References                 | <i>act as a referee, accumulate experience, financial acumen</i> |
| 45 Appearance and personality | <i>boundless energy, stubborn streak, act one's age</i>          |

## Basic concepts

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|-------------------------|---|
| 46 Time and space       | <i>cramped conditions, waste of space, go down in history</i>   |
| 47 Sound                | <i>husky voice, incessant noise, let out a cry</i>              |
| 48 Making things easier | <i>viable options, simplicity itself, take the easy way out</i> |
| 49 Difficulty           | <i>severe blow, hinder progress, encounter difficulties</i>     |
| 50 Quantity and size    | <i>finite number, endless supply, unknown quantity</i>          |
| 51 Change               | <i>sweeping changes, would make a change, sudden shift</i>      |

## Functions

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|-------------------------------------|---|
| 52 Stopping and starting            | <i>bring a halt to, close off a street, dispel rumours</i>                    |
| 53 Cause and effect                 | <i>root cause, provoke an outcry, dire consequences</i>                       |
| 54 Describing groups and amounts    | <i>swarm of bees, flurry of activity, stroke of genius</i>                    |
| 55 Comparing and contrasting        | <i>bear little resemblance to, polar opposites, draw a comparison between</i> |
| 56 Making an effort                 | <i>give it one's best shot, abortive attempt, worth a try</i>                 |
| 57 Social English                   | <i>not lose any sleep, to be brutally honest, be on the go</i>                |
| 58 Discussing issues                | <i>make a commitment, give a straight answer, miss the point</i>              |
| 59 Negative situations and feelings | <i>nasty shock, take exception to, suffer at the hands of</i>                 |
| 60 Positive situations and feelings | <i>sense of achievement, state of euphoria, derive pleasure from</i>          |

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