

Collocations Cheat Sheet

A concise guide to understanding and using collocations effectively. This cheat sheet provides examples and categories to enhance your vocabulary and writing skills.



Understanding Collocations

Definition

Collocations: Words that frequently occur together.

Understanding and using collocations improves fluency and makes your language sound more natural.

Types of Collocations

Adverb + Adjective	utterly ridiculous
Adjective + Noun	heavy rain
Noun + Noun	a bar of soap
Noun + Verb	lions roar
Verb + Noun	commit suicide
Verb + Expression with Preposition	burst into
Verb + Adverb	wave frantically

Why Use Collocations?

- Sound Natural: Using collocations makes your English sound more authentic.
- Enhance Clarity: They help you express ideas more precisely.
- Improve Writing: Collocations add sophistication to your writing.

Common Collocations by Category

Time

Spend time	Spend time wisely
Kill time	Kill time reading
Make time	Make time for hobbies
In the meantime	In the meantime, we wait
Time flies	Time flies so fast

Money

Make money	Make money online
Save money	Save money for future
Waste money	Waste money on useless things
Invest money	Invest money wisely
Earn money	Earn money through hard work

Weather

Heavy rain	Heavy rain is falling
Strong wind	Strong wind is blowing
Light snow	Light snow is expected
Freezing cold	Freezing cold weather
Scorching heat	Scorching heat in the desert

More Examples and Usage

Collocations with 'Take'

Take a break	It's important to <i>take a break</i> during work.
Take a chance	I decided to <i>take a chance</i> on the new job offer.
Take responsibility	He needs to <i>take responsibility</i> for his actions.
Take care	Take care and see you soon!

Collocations with 'Do'

Do homework	Remember to do your homework.
Do a favor	Can you do me a favor?
Do your best	Just do your best.
Do business	They do business internationally.

Collocations with 'Get'

Get ready	Get ready for the party!
Get started	Let's get started on the project.
Get together	We should get together soon.
Get in touch	Get in touch when you can.

Tips for Learning Collocations

Effective Strategies

- Read Widely: Expose yourself to a variety of texts to see collocations in context.
- Note Collocations: When you encounter a new collocation, write it down with its context.
- Use a Dictionary: Consult a collocation dictionary to find common word pairings.
- Practice Regularly: Use collocations in your own writing and speaking.
- Real-life examples: Look for collocations in newspapers, movies, and conversations.

Resources

- Collocation Dictionaries: Oxford Collocations Dictionary, Macmillan Collocations Dictionary.
- Online Resources: Websites and apps dedicated to learning collocations.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Literal Translation: Avoid translating wordfor-word from your native language.
- Mixing Collocations: Be careful not to mix up similar collocations.
- Ignoring Context: Always consider the context when using collocations.

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