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Learning about collocations

- 1 What is a collocation?
- 2 Finding, recording and learning collocations
- 3 Using your dictionary
- 4 Types of collocation
- 5 Register

Grammatical aspects of collocations

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

Special aspects of collocation

- 10 Synonyms and confusable words 1 *close a meeting, antique furniture, only child*
- 11 Synonyms and confusable words 2 *gain power, achieve your goals, defeat an opponent*
- 12 Metaphor *sunny smile, ideas flow, heated discussion*

Topics: Travel and the environment

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

Topics: People and relationships

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

Topics: Leisure and lifestyle

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

Topics: Work and study

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

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

Topics: Society and institutions

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

Basic concepts

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

Functions

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

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