

Exercises

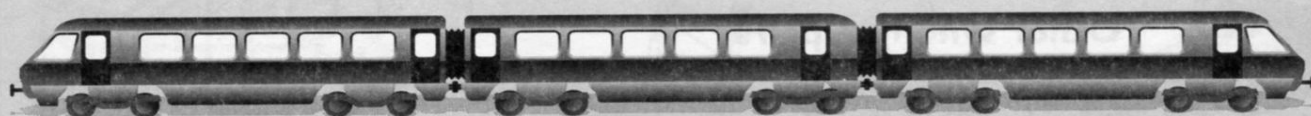
9.1 Complete the questions using collocations from A opposite.

- 1 You want a friend to look at a letter you have written before you send it.
YOU: Could you
- 2 You want to know why your two friends aren't speaking to each other.
YOU: Why aren't you speaking to Rosa? Did you
- 3 A friend comes to school on crutches with a bandage round her head.
YOU: What happened? Did you
- 4 You want to know if a friend did lots of enjoyable things on their recent holiday.
YOU: How was the holiday? Did you
- 5 You are having a meeting with some colleagues. You think it is time to stop for half an hour or so.
YOU: Shall we
- 6 A friend has just bought a new bicycle. You'd like to ride it to see what it's like.
YOU: Nice bike! Can I
- 7 You want to talk informally to your teacher about what to do next year.
YOU: When you're free, could I
- 8 A friend is trying with difficulty to read your address, which you have just written down for them.
YOU: What's the matter? Are you

9.2 Choose the correct collocation.

- 1 She *had / took / paid* attention to what I told her and started working harder.
- 2 I *had / made / took* over a hundred photographs on my trip to Antarctica.
- 3 She *made / paid / brought* me a nice compliment yesterday.
- 4 I *got / made / had* a bad dream last night and woke up sweating.
- 5 The President *made / gave / paid* tribute to all the people who had supported him.
- 6 I *got / took / had* a liking to our new teacher the moment I met her.
- 7 I *gave / made / had* a feeling I had met Richard before, but I couldn't remember where.
- 8 I went to Douglas Farnham's funeral to *give / take / pay* my last respects to a fine man.
- 9 I think I'll *take / make / do* a chance and leave my flight booking till the last minute.
I may get a cheaper ticket.
- 10 Shall we *make / get / have* a party for Jane? She's leaving the school next week.
- 11 We need to *make / get / take* action immediately!
- 12 I *had / got / took* a feeling that he was trying to hide something from me.

9.3 Which collocations in this text could be replaced by collocations with *take* instead of the verbs used?



Next time you go on a trip to the coast, why not get the train?

Why suffer endless delays in long traffic jams? And why run risks when you're travelling – travel by train and arrive safely. What's more, if you decide to have a holiday in the capital city, you'll have a more relaxing time if you go by rail. Or why not pay a surprise visit to an old friend during an off-peak time? Call now and make use of our special offers.

0800 347655

A Common synonym pairs

The (a) and (b) words in each pair in the table have similar meanings. Sometimes either word can be used in a sentence to give the same meaning, but in the collocations below only one word is possible.

| synonyms | (a) example | (b) example |
|------------------------|--|--|
| (a) close (b) shut | The chairperson closed the meeting at 4.30. [We close meetings/discussions/conferences , etc.] | She was very rude. She said ' Shut your mouth! ' [impolite way of telling someone not to speak] A dentist might ask you to <i>close</i> your mouth. <i>Shut</i> is generally more informal. |
| (a) start (b) begin | It was a cold morning and I could not start my car . [<i>Start</i> , NOT <i>begin</i> , is used for engines and vehicles.] | Before the universe began , time and space did not exist. [<i>Begin</i> is preferred in more formal and abstract contexts.] |
| (a) big (b) large | It was a big decision to make. There were some big problems to solve. | I wanted the sweater in the large size but they only had medium. |
| (a) end (b) finish | The film ended with the hero dying. They ended their relationship a year ago. [<i>End</i> here means decide to stop.] | I haven't finished my homework yet. [<i>Finish</i> here means complete.] |

B Groups of words with similar meanings

Words meaning 'old'

I met an **old friend** the other day. It's a very **old building**.

She studied **ancient history**. In **ancient times**, life was very hard.

This shop sells **antique furniture**. She collects **antique jewellery**. [old and valuable]

I helped an **elderly person** who was trying to cross the road. [*elderly* is more polite than *old*]

Words meaning 'with no one or nothing else or with nothing similar'

Donna is a **single parent**; it's difficult for her to work full time.

He lives in a very **lonely place/spot** up in the mountains.

At first I felt **desperately lonely** when I moved from London to the countryside.

I **live alone**, but I don't like **travelling alone**; it's nice to be with someone.

There was just one **solitary figure** on the otherwise deserted beach. [one person on their own]

She was the **sole survivor** of the crash. Everyone else died. [only survivor]

I am an **only child**; I sometimes wonder what it would be like to have a brother or sister.

This is a **unique occasion**, with three past Prime Ministers all together in one room.

C Other synonym pairs

| synonyms | (a) example | (b) example |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| (a) charge (b) load | I need to charge my phone . [used for batteries, electrical items] | They loaded the lorry and drove away. [used for cargoes, lorries, vans, ships, etc. and for weapons] |
| (a) injure (b) damage | Three injured people were taken to hospital after the accident. [collocates with words to do with people] | The shop tried to sell me a damaged sofa but I noticed it just in time. [collocates with words for things] |
| (a) grow (b) raise | In the south the farmers grow crops . [collocates with crops, plants] | In the north the farmers mostly raise cattle . [collocates with animals, children] |

Exercises

10.1 Choose the correct collocation.

- 1 The dentist told me to *shut / close* my mouth.
- 2 I didn't know what to do when I got into my car and couldn't *start / begin* the engine.
- 3 I want to buy a sweater for my dad. He needs one in a *big / large* size.
- 4 I haven't *finished / ended* my essay yet. I can't decide how to *finish / end* it.
- 5 At what time do you plan to *shut / close* the conference?
- 6 All societies develop their own stories about how the world *started / began*.
- 7 It's far too *big / large* a problem for you to solve on your own.
- 8 It's never easy to *finish / end* a relationship.

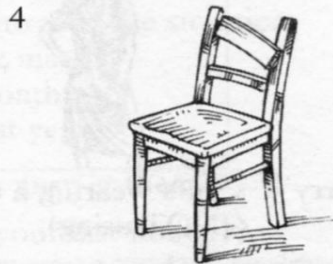
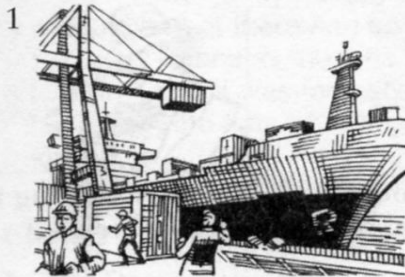
10.2 Look at B. Complete each phrase with a word meaning either 'old' or 'alone'.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 a figure on the horizon | 6 to live |
| 2 a shop selling furniture | 7 to feel desperately |
| 3 to be an child | 8 to catch up with friends |
| 4 the survivor of the accident | 9 support for parents |
| 5 to study history | 10 a home for people |

10.3 Correct these sentences.

- 1 Were many people damaged in the earthquake?
- 2 Single parents growing children without a partner's support are entitled to financial help from the government.
- 3 My mobile isn't working. I need to load the battery.
- 4 She has a lot of beautiful elderly jewellery.
- 5 When we moved house, two men helped us to charge the van.
- 6 That's not news – it's antique history!
- 7 I don't know how to charge a gun, let alone fire one.
- 8 I've never been very successful at raising plants.

10.4 Which of the collocations on the opposite page do these pictures illustrate?



**FOLLOW
UP**

Look up *big* and *large* in a good learner's dictionary of English and see what other collocations it suggests for them.

Synonyms and confusable words 2

A

Verbs connected with gaining, winning and achieving

Note these typical collocations connected with 'gaining' or 'achieving'.

| verb | collocates with | example | comments |
|---------------|--|---|--|
| gain | power, control, access | The socialist party gained control of the National Assembly. | <i>Gain</i> is often used with abstract nouns relating to political authority. |
| gain [formal] | a reputation, publicity, recognition, an advantage | Her paintings gained recognition thanks to a major exhibition in New York. | <i>Gain</i> is often used with abstract nouns that suggest benefit to the 'gainer'. |
| win | an award, a prize, a medal, a match | He won a medal in the 2004 Olympic Games. | <i>Win</i> is often used in contexts associated with competition. |
| win | a battle, a war, an election | The conservative party won the 1994 General Election . | <i>Win</i> is often used in contexts associated with fighting. |
| earn | a salary, money | I earn \$2110 a month. | You earn money by working for it. |
| make | a profit, money | The company made a profit last year. | You can make money by investing etc., not just by working. |
| achieve | success, your goals, your aims | It's difficult to achieve success in international sport. | <i>Achieve</i> is used mainly with abstract nouns. |
| beat/defeat | a team, an opponent | He defeated his opponent in the tennis final. | You win a match but beat/defeat an opponent . <i>Defeat</i> is more formal than <i>beat</i> . |

B

Other words that are often confused



You'll need to **take** warm clothes when you go to Alaska. (NOT ~~carry~~)



I always **carry** my mobile phone whenever I go out. (NOT ~~wear~~)



She was **wearing** a hat. (NOT ~~carrying~~)



He kindly offered to **carry** my suitcase for me.



She's **wearing** a dress. (NOT ~~using~~)



He's **using** a laptop.

ERROR WARNING

Notice how *spend* is used when talking about time and money.

We **spent three days** in the mountains. It was wonderful. (NOT ~~passed~~)

If you buy a big car you'll have to **spend more money** on petrol. (NOT ~~use~~)

Last night I **spent two hours** watching TV. (NOT ~~stayed~~)

I **spent an hour** looking for the keys before I found them in my bag. (NOT ~~passed~~)

Exercises

11.1 Look at A. Use a verb from the box in the correct form to complete each collocation.

achieve beat earn gain make win

- 1 I don't have ambitions to a lot of money, I just want to be happy in life.
- 2 Jack has already a very good reputation as a talented lawyer.
- 3 Kim has several prizes for her singing.
- 4 It is important to have goals even if you do not always them.
- 5 Chris a lot of money when he sold some old shares on the stock exchange.
- 6 In the tournament Hannah all her opponents and the gold medal.
- 7 Nowadays John a very good salary.
- 8 In the cycle race, Henrik an advantage when several of his opponents had punctures.

11.2 Look at the picture and answer the questions.

- 1 What is the woman wearing?
- 2 What is the woman carrying?
- 3 What is the woman using?
- 4 What is the man wearing?
- 5 What is the man carrying?
- 6 What is the man using?



11.3 Correct the nine collocation errors in this paragraph.

Last year I got a new job and started gaining a lot more money. I realised I could afford to use more money on my holiday than I usually do and decided to pass a month in Australia. I knew it would be hot there and so I wouldn't need to carry warm clothes with me. In fact, I used a t-shirt and jeans all the time I was there. I carried a hat all the time too, of course, to protect me from the sun. It was fantastic there. I passed a week sightseeing in Sydney and then stayed the rest of the time travelling round the country. I even did my lifelong ambition of stroking a koala.

11.4 Change the underlined words so that each sentence has the opposite meaning.

- 1 The Democratic Party lost the election.
- 2 The ruling power has lost control of the situation.
- 3 Our team was defeated in the match.
- 4 I spent a lot of money last month.
- 5 Our company made a loss last year.

11.5 Complete these questions. Then answer them.

- 1 Where did you your last holiday?
- 2 How much money did you last week?
- 3 What do you always with you when you go out?
- 4 Have you ever a trophy?
- 5 What aim would you particularly like to in life?