

Exercises

56.1 Look at A. Complete the collocations in these letters to a newspaper.

Sir/Madam,
I (1) the
opinion of your correspondent
that the EU has brought peace
to Europe, but I cannot agree
that a single currency for all
of Europe is necessary. It is a
(2) of opinion
whether economic stability can
be maintained with one
currency, and there is
(3) to believe
that some European economies
were more stable before they
joined the euro.
Yours,
A. Tory

Sir/Madam,
According to popular
(4), the war
between Gronbia and Karzkut
started with a (5)
of opinion over how best to
preserve the beautiful mountain
environment on both sides of the
border between them. The two
countries were apparently
(6) apart on
how to approach the issue, and
war resulted. If this is indeed
true, how stupid can human
beings become?
Yours sincerely,
B. Leaver

Sir/Madam,
While I (7)
believe in the right of everyone to
own a car, I am also a great
(8) in
keeping fit and healthy. The
government tells us we must take
exercise, but I have a
(9) suspicion
that they are afraid of saying we
should sell our cars because they
would lose billions in road taxes.
Yours,
A. Sighklist

56.2 Correct the seven collocation errors in this text.

I wish we can solve a big problem we have regarding our student committee. Opinions are separated about how to approach the issue and, naturally, some members have very heavy opinions. Some of their views are based on their unstirred belief that they are always right and that no one can challenge their group of beliefs. My own thoughtful opinion is that we should have new elections, but I know that others have quite a different meaning.

56.3 Match each verb in the box with its noun collocation in the table below. Then write one sentence for each collocation.

cast colour attach make have trust

	verb	noun
1		assumptions
2		somebody's judgement
3		
4		importance to
5		doubt on
6		serious misgivings
		doubts

56.4 Make seven collocations using the words in the box. Use each word once only.

apart belief believe cast think firmly hard opinions
sneaking strong suspicion doubt poles popular

A

Decisions and judgements

Note the collocations in bold in these e-mails between colleagues.

Hi Rita,
Have you **made a decision** yet about the new job? It must be difficult. It's such a **big decision** to have to move to London and everything. I always **put off making decisions** till the last possible moment. I bet you're the same. I detected a **slight hesitation** in your last e-mail. Are you **having second thoughts**? Anyway, let me know.
Paul

Dear Carl,
You've probably heard that the management have **taken the decision** to close the Madrid office. There was a lot of discussion, but apparently it was a **unanimous decision** in the end. There's always been a **degree of uncertainty** surrounding the future of the Madrid office, but let's just hope this will now be seen as a **wise decision** by everyone.
Jane

Dear Mary,
After weeks of hesitating, it seems Archie has **arrived at a decision** about the research fund. He's going to increase it by £10,000. I think that's a **sensible decision** that combines generosity and **sound judgement**. But he's also **defending his decision** to close down the San Antonio project, which is losing a lot of money. However, he's **reserving judgement** on the Berlin project until he gets more reliable information.
Nick

B

Choices, opportunities, advice

Tim: I'm going to have to **make a choice** soon about next year. I've been **given the chance** of going on a six-month expedition to South America and I've been offered a job in a bookshop here.

Laura: Wow! South America! That sounds like **the opportunity of a lifetime!** How could you say no?

Tim: Well, believe it or not, I don't have a **burning desire** to see the world, I'd **much prefer** just to stay at home. Anyway, I'm going to **consider all the options** before I decide.

Laura: Well, I know you never **take my advice** but I would **strongly advise** you to think of the future. Overseas experience is much more useful than working in your home town. You're lucky to **have a choice**, a lot of people stay at home because they **have no option**.

Tim: I know, I know, but it's a **tough choice**. You wouldn't understand.

Laura: Well I think you're just **taking the soft option** if you choose the bookshop. I can't believe you're going to **pass up the opportunity** of a trip to South America.

Tim: Well, we all **face difficult choices** now and then.

Laura: Difficult! You're mad! Look, just don't **reject South America out of hand**. Promise me you'll think about it.

Tim: Yes, yes, I already said I'm going to **weigh up the options** and **come to a decision**.



TIP

Horoscopes often focus on choices and decisions in people's lives. Read horoscopes in English and note any new collocations connected with decisions and choices.

Exercises

57.1 Using collocations from section A on the opposite page, complete B's remarks in these conversations so that B agrees with what A says.

- 1 A: I still don't know whether to take the job or not. But I'll have to decide soon.
B: Yes, you can't go on putting the decision for ever.
- 2 A: It was good that absolutely everyone agreed in the end, wasn't it?
B: Yes, I'm glad it was a decision.
- 3 A: I think I'd prefer to wait and see what happens before judging the new system.
B: Yes, I think it's best if we all judgement till we see the results.
- 4 A: I said I would join the committee but now I'm not so sure.
B: Mm, it's obvious you're having thoughts.
- 5 A: I felt he was hesitating a little bit before deciding, didn't you?
B: Yes, I definitely detected a hesitation on his part, you're right.

57.2 Complete each sentence using a word from the box.

degree come wise take sound defend give tough arrive weigh

- 1 She has always been respected for her judgement in financial matters.
- 2 Do you think it was a decision to sell off the company's Dublin branch?
I think it was a mistake.
- 3 I think we should up the options before deciding.
- 4 It took the committee a whole day to at a decision.
- 5 There seems to be a of uncertainty as to whether they will sign the contract.
- 6 I don't think we can our decision to exclude some of the children from the competition. Everyone thinks it's very unfair.
- 7 It was a choice, but we had to make it, even though we hated doing so.
- 8 I think you should your father's advice and say no.
- 9 I wish someone would me the chance to prove how good I am.
- 10 Have you to a decision yet about your university course?

57.3 Read these remarks by different people, then answer the questions.

- Rhoda: I think I'll choose the supermarket job; the job at the children's hospital seems like very hard work. I want something easy.
- Zubaya: I've decided to say no to the offer to join the conservation team in Canada.
- Kim: I desperately want to see the world; I'll take any job if it means I can travel.
- Archie: I don't want to sell my flat but I have no other way of getting money.
- Mabel: Me, work in a zoo? Never, absolutely not! I'm not even prepared to consider it!
- Elaine: I've been offered a job singing on a cruise ship. It's fantastic! I'll never get an offer like this, ever again.

	name
1 Who is going to do something because they have no option?	
2 Who has been given the opportunity of a lifetime?	
3 Who wants to take the soft option?	
4 Who is rejecting something out of hand?	
5 Who has decided to pass up an opportunity?	
6 Who has a burning desire to do something?	

A Making accusations



A government minister is today facing accusations of taking bribes. There have been **heavy hints**¹ about this for some time. An article in *The Moon* last week **clearly implied**² that a top political figure was involved in a scandal and **dropped** a number of **broad hints**³ as to who it was. A **leaked document**⁴ published in today's *Moon*, however, **makes** a number of **serious allegations**⁵, which **openly accuse** the Minister of corruption. The Minister has **issued a statement**⁶, saying the claims are **unfounded**⁷. He claims that he has been **wrongly accused** by *The Moon* because of its **long-running battle**⁸ with the government.

¹ strong suggestions

² suggested clearly but indirectly

³ made a number of obvious suggestions

⁴ an official document unofficially given to the press

⁵ makes serious claims of criminal behaviour

⁶ made a formal statement

⁷ the claims are untrue, have no basis in reality

⁸ an argument that has been going on for a long time

B Putting forward a point of view

Jones **puts forward** an interesting **theory**¹ of language learning, **backing up**² his **argument** with thorough data. **Fully accepting** the fact that different learners find different methods useful, Jones **makes the point**³ that motivation is the key factor in most learners' success. Although this has been **widely acknowledged**⁴ in general terms for some time, Jones is more precise than most, **stating clearly** that motivation is more important than all other factors, and **substantiating**⁵ this **claim** with impressive data.

¹ proposes a theory ² supporting ³ presents an argument

⁴ accepted by many people ⁵ supporting

C Denying

collocation	example
strongly deny	The PM strongly denied claims of corruption made against him.
deny charges / an accusation	Despite the evidence against him, the accused denied the charges .
deny a rumour / an allegation	The pop star has denied all the rumours about her marriage.
disclaim responsibility	The hotel disclaims all responsibility for guests' vehicles.
reject an idea / a suggestion	Ann rejected all Joe's suggestions about how to decorate their flat.
run contrary to	The research findings run contrary to popular belief.
contradictory evidence/advice	Contradictory evidence made it hard for the jury to reach a verdict.

**ERROR
WARNING**

Note these collocations: **deny/reject a claim**, **deny a rumour / an allegation / an accusation** but **reject an idea / a suggestion** and **refuse an invitation/offer**. You **deny/reject/refuse something**. You **deny that something** is true. You can also **refuse to do something** (in the future) but **deny doing something** (in the past).

Exercises

58.1 Complete the sentences, using collocations from A.

- 1 A provided the press with information about the government's secret plans.
- 2 Management has been having a with trade union representatives over a number of aspects of employees' rights.
- 3 I'm going to get my son an iPod for his birthday. He's been dropping about what he wants for some time.
- 4 At the end of the three-day meeting a spokesperson will to inform the press about any agreements that have been signed.
- 5 A front-page article in today's paper is making some about the behaviour of some top international bankers.
- 6 The article did not name anyone directly but it who was involved.

58.2 Fill each gap in this extract from a scientific article.

In his latest article on the free market Milton King puts (1) some original theories. He (2) earlier ideas which up until now most economists have accepted without question. He (3) some fascinating points based on his own extensive research which is widely

(4) as an important contribution to economic thought. The data from his research (5) up his theories and help to (6) his claim that modern economies would benefit from major reforms.

58.3 Replace the underlined words with an appropriate form of either *deny*, *reject* or *refuse* to give the sentences the opposite meaning.

- 1 The politician agreed that the allegations made against him were true.
- 2 I think we should accept Jill's invitation to their New Year's Party, don't you?
- 3 Hill accepts the theories put forward by Jackson.
- 4 Katie agreed that she had been present at the meeting.
- 5 I hope they will accept my offer of help.

58.4 Rewrite each sentence using the word in brackets, so that it keeps the same meaning.

- 1 We are not responsible for valuables that are not left in the hotel safe. (DISCLAIM)
- 2 The pop star insisted that there was no basis to the claims made against him. (UNFOUNDED)
- 3 Jones's views do not accord with the facts. (RUN)
- 4 The newspaper clearly suggested who the actor's new lover was. (DROPPED)
- 5 Paul insisted that what people were saying about him was untrue. (DENIED)
- 6 Whatever idea I suggest, Jim says it is no good. (REJECTS)
- 7 I don't know what to do, as everyone keeps suggesting I do something different. (CONTRADICTORY)
- 8 The student is being accused of cheating in his exam. (FACING)
- 9 In his new book the writer presents an interesting theory of art. (FORWARD)
10. Recent research supports McIntyre's theory. (UP)