

A Strong statements: nouns and adjectives

noun	collocations
liking	I have a particular liking for quiet, relaxing music. She had a genuine liking for her cousins.
love	His great love of nature can be seen in his paintings. Her passionate love of the sea inspired her to sail round the world.
regard [formal]	I have always had the greatest regard for her. She has the highest regard for her teacher.
enjoyment	I will never forget the sheer enjoyment of listening to the children singing. We get great enjoyment out of our little cottage in the mountains.
pleasure	It's been a great pleasure meeting you. I hope we meet again. It was such a huge pleasure to be able to relax and do nothing for a week.
preference	When asked, many people expressed a clear preference for organic food. I've always had a strong preference for short stories rather than novels.
dislike	I have an intense dislike of rock music that is played too loud. She took an instant dislike to Mr Peabody, but she did not know why.
aversion ¹	He has always had a huge aversion to hard work of any kind. Most people have a strong aversion to excessive violence on TV.
hatred	She had a deep hatred of politicians, especially corrupt ones. The deep-rooted hatred between the two tribes led to a bloody civil war.

¹ a feeling of strong dislike or a lack of willingness to do something

B Verbs and nouns

These people are talking about their favourite airlines.

I think Globe Air are pretty good. You can **state your preference** for a special low fat menu, or seafood or vegetarian. They have great in-flight entertainment too – they try to **cater for everyone's tastes**. They seem to **take pride in** their service.

I do a lot of long-distance flying and I **don't relish the thought¹** of a twelve-hour flight with no leg-room, so I usually fly with Arrow. They give you a lot of space, even in economy. And they seem to **take pleasure** in looking after you.

¹ don't like to think that it is going to happen

I think most people **take offence²** if they're just treated like a number. I **have no sympathy** for airlines that lose customers because they're too lazy to **give them a warm welcome** when they step on board. Visa Airlines are always very friendly.

² become upset because someone has insulted or disrespected them

C Other useful collocations for likes and dislikes

I like most James Bond Films, but *Goldfinger* is my **absolute/all-time favourite**.
I've always been a **great lover** of Mozart's operas.

She's a(n) **ardent¹/dedicated fan** of American football. [¹showing strong feelings]

I'm a **keen admirer** of President Futral of Collocania. He is such a strong leader.

My wife's father always **filled me with admiration**. He achieved so much during his life.
It always **gives me pleasure** when I see my children doing well at school.

Exercises

59.1 Look at A. Rewrite each sentence using the word in brackets, so that it keeps the same meaning.

- 1 In the survey most people said they much preferred coffee to tea. (PREFERENCE)
- 2 Karl really dislikes people using mobile phones in restaurants. (AVERSION)
- 3 The staff all think very highly of their managing director. (REGARD)
- 4 I've enormously enjoyed getting to know you. (PLEASURE)
- 5 Suzie genuinely likes cowboy films. (GENUINE)
- 6 My parents absolutely detest most modern architecture. (HATRED)
- 7 We enormously enjoy our weekends in the country. (GREAT)
- 8 Rex knew at once that he could never like his new secretary. (INSTANT)

59.2 Mark the statements with + if they are about liking and – if they are about disliking.

- 1 I have no sympathy for anyone who takes such foolish risks.
- 2 Jane Austen is my all-time favourite writer.
- 3 I'm a dedicated fan of Robin Williams.
- 4 I don't relish the thought of a holiday with all my cousins.
- 5 It gives me no pleasure to have to say this to you.
- 6 I take pride in doing my work as neatly as I can.
- 7 I must say I rather took offence at what she said to me.
- 8 I'm a great lover of the open air life.
- 9 I've always been a keen admirer of Nelson Mandela.

59.3 Choose the correct collocation.



I went to a new Italian restaurant last night. It claimed to (1) *cater / cook / feed* for everyone's tastes. I went there with my brother. We both have a (2) *large / heavy / strong* preference for Italian food. We also both have a (3) *peculiar / special / particular* liking for sitting out-of-doors and this restaurant had a lovely garden. Unfortunately, the food did not (4) *make / give / pass* us quite so much pleasure. Although the staff gave us a very (5) *warm / hot / boiling* welcome when we arrived, they didn't seem to (6) *take / do / make* much pride in their service or their cooking. I certainly don't much relish the (7) *suggestion / proposal / thought* of going there again.

59.4 Answer these questions.

- 1 Does it give you more pleasure to give a present or to receive a present?
- 2 Are you more likely to take an intense dislike to a person or a place?
- 3 If you are asked to state your preference for a window or an aisle seat on a plane, what do you normally go for?
- 4 Which singer is your absolute favourite?
- 5 Name one person who has filled you with admiration in the last five years.
- 6 Do you take more pride in your work or your home?
- 7 Name three people or things that you feel great love for.
- 8 Do you get more pleasure from reading or from listening to music?

A Praising

Read this review of a theatre production from a local newspaper.

I have **nothing but praise** for this production of *Dogs* and **offer my congratulations** to all the cast. The **thunderous applause** at the end of **last night's performance** was **richly deserved**. The actors had managed to **put on a simply dazzling production**. James King, in particular, **gave an outstanding performance**. Of course, the cast cannot **take full credit** for its success;

we must also **warmly congratulate** the producer. He has **received critical acclaim**¹ many times in the past. He **justly deserves** all the **rave reviews**² he will undoubtedly receive from many others as well as myself. We must also **give credit** to the production's wardrobe department. I am sure they will also **win** a lot of **praise** for their original and exciting costumes.

¹ enthusiastic words

² very enthusiastic review [informal]

Also note these collocations relating to praise:

The orchestra received a **standing ovation** for their performance of the symphony. [the audience liked the performance so much that they stood up to applaud]

Your boss **thinks the world of you**. He's always **singing your praises** to me. [informal]

My parents always used to **speak well/highly of** that journalist.

Her father **warmly/heartily approves** of her new boyfriend.

I hope you will **give your blessing** to the plan. [say you wish it well]

Let's **give the winner a big clap / a round of applause**.

You deserve a **pat on the back** for such excellent marks! [you deserve praise]

B Criticising

When you are criticised you **come in for criticism**. You may **respond to this criticism**, you may **counter the criticism** [criticise your critic back] or you may **dismiss the criticism** [say it is untrue or unimportant].

A person may **show his/her disapproval** or **express his/her disapproval** and this is often done by giving a **look of disapproval** or with a **frown of disapproval**.

word	collocates with	example
criticism	harsh [strong], constant, constructive [useful]	The play came in for some harsh criticism .
critical	highly and sharply	The writer is sharply critical of our political system.
criticise	roundly [thoroughly], fiercely, bitterly	He was roundly criticised for his rudeness.
a critic	harsh, outspoken [critic who says exactly what s/he thinks]	Actors fear him because he is such an outspoken critic .
disapprove of	strongly, thoroughly	I strongly disapprove of smoking.
condemn	severely	The politician was severely condemned for his dishonesty.
condemnation	wholesale, universal [both mean by (almost) everyone]	The country's aggressive behaviour has earned universal condemnation .
object to	strongly, strenuously [with a lot of effort]	Local residents strenuously objected to the development plans.

Exercises

60.1 Complete these extracts from TV programmes where the speakers are praising people.



For this young violinist, Nuria Shilov, her performance ends with a (1)..... ovation and (2)..... applause. Her playing has received critical (3)..... in the last year in her home country, and now her talent has been recognised by an international audience.



Now the President of the National Badminton Federation (4)..... congratulates Wang Shih-Ping on his (5)..... deserved victory in this year's tournament. His skilful playing has (6)..... a lot of praise from commentators, though he personally refuses to (7)..... full credit for his achievements, and (8)..... credit instead to his manager, Karla Ennais.



Well, the team manager is ecstatic and is at this moment making a speech (9)..... the praises of the captain, Blake Samson, and the rest of the team. And there is no doubt that they (10)..... deserve all this praise for such a remarkable victory.



So, at the end of this week's quiz, the blue team have won. Let me (11)..... my congratulations to you all. You'll be coming back next week. And let's give the losers a (12)..... of applause. The red team also played a great game.

60.2 Circle T (True) or F (False) after each statement. If you circle F, say why.

- 1 If you speak highly of someone, you praise them. T F
- 2 If you have nothing but praise for someone, you do not approve of what they do. T F
- 3 If you criticise someone roundly, you criticise them only slightly. T F
- 4 If you heartily approve of something, you are in favour of it. T F
- 5 If you counter criticism, you just accept it. T F
- 6 If someone gives their blessing to something, they are against it. T F
- 7 If you give someone a clap, it is usually because you like what they have done. T F
- 8 If you give constructive criticism, you normally have a positive intention. T F

60.3 Put the words in order to make sentences.

- 1 lot / He / in / for / criticism / a / of / came
- 2 criticism / the / responded / of / to / disapprove / how / I / thoroughly / she
- 3 him / condemned / lying / for / severely / judge / The
- 4 disapproval / my / behaviour / of / want / I / express / to / her
- 5 outspoken / were / but / dismissed / critics / he / The / criticisms / their
- 6 comments / condemnation / His / universal / received
- 7 objected / plan / We / and / strenuously / the / to / were / critical / it / highly / of
- 8 always / a / government / been / I / critic / of / have / corrupt / harsh

60.4 Complete the collocations in this text.

This is the last exercise in this book. May we give you a pat on the for getting to this point. Indeed, you deserve a clap. We have but praise for you and would like to you our warm congratulations!

Key

Unit 1

1.1 1 A collocation is a pair or group of words which are often used together in a way which sounds natural to native speakers of English.

2 *car* and *food*

3 *narrow-minded*, *teapot* and *car park*

4 idioms

1.2 make mistakes

powerful engine

have breakfast

make an effort

watch TV

ancient monument

substantial meal

bitterly cold

pitch dark

strictly forbidden

Other possible collocations are: make breakfast, substantial breakfast.

1.3 The first four statements are all true. The final statement is probably not true. You may well be understood if you use less natural collocations but you will not sound as you probably wish to sound.

1.4

<i>compound</i>	<i>collocation</i>	<i>idiom</i>
teapot	make a mistake	pull somebody's leg
key ring	heavy snow	a storm in a tea cup
checkpoint	valid passport	
	bitterly disappointed	
	live music	

1.5 The most useful collocations to learn are underlined here.

When I left university I made a decision to take up a profession in which I could be creative. I could play the guitar, but I'd never written any songs. Nonetheless I decided to become a singer-songwriter. I made some recordings but I had a rather heavy cold so they didn't sound good. I made some more, and sent them to a record company and waited for them to reply. So, while I was waiting to become famous, I got a job in a fast-food restaurant. That was five years ago. I'm still doing the same job.

Unit 2

2.1 All of the underlined phrases are strong collocations.

My friend Beth is desperately worried about her son at the moment. He wants to enrol on a course of some sort but just can't make a decision about what to study. I gave Beth a ring and we had a long chat about it last night. She said he'd like to study for a degree but is afraid he won't meet the requirements for university entry. Beth thinks he should do a course in Management because he'd like to set up his own business in the future. I agreed that that would be a wise choice.