

Exercises

4.1 Complete each sentence with a collocation from A.

- 1 Come to my office ten minutes before the meeting so we can have ...
- 2 With her lovely dark hair Uma looks best when she wears ...
- 3 In your essay on the influence of TV, don't forget to discuss these ...
- 4 There is some crime in our town but it isn't ...

4.2 Replace the underlined words with a collocating verb from B.

- 1 We are going to introduce an exciting new product in June.
- 2 The economy was extremely high 20 years ago.
- 3 The new university they are planning will provide a lot of job opportunities.
- 4 There are always some problems when two companies join together but I think it will be worth it in the long run.
- 5 The increase in oil prices certainly creates a problem for us.
- 6 The company got bigger and has now added children's clothing to its product range.

4.3 Choose the correct feeling from the box to complete each sentence.

anger horror tears nostalgia pride pride

- 1 Most older people feel a slight pang of as they think back on their schooldays.
- 2 Carla's father was filled with when he saw that she had dyed her beautiful black hair blonde.
- 3 When Paul saw how harshly the poor were treated by the wealthy landowners he felt a surge of
- 4 Swelling with, Dan watched his daughter pick up her violin and play.
- 5 When she saw her exam results, Kate burst into
- 6 If people have a sense of in their town, they are more likely to behave well there.

4.4 Look at E and F and choose the correct adverb to complete these sentences.

- 1 Perhaps it's a good thing that Ken's unaware of what people really think of him.
- 2 I am aware that there will be problems whatever we decide.
- 3 Nadya smiled as she watched the children playing happily in the garden.
- 4 My grandparents have been married for 45 years.
- 5 Place the glasses in the box – they're very fragile.
- 6 Paul whispered in Anna's ear that he would always love her.

4.5 Which of the sections A–F on the opposite page would each of these collocations fit into?

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 make a decision | 6 roar with laughter |
| 2 blissfully happy | 7 a key factor |
| 3 tread carefully | 8 prices rise |
| 4 a surge of emotion | 9 a ginger cat |
| 5 acutely embarrassing | 10 burst into song |

**FOLLOW
UP**

Make a page in your vocabulary notebook for each of the types of collocations listed on the opposite page.

Often, collocations rather than individual words suggest a particular register. For example, phrases using *pretty* meaning *fairly* sound informal when used with negative adjectives (*pretty awful*, *pretty dreadful*, *pretty dull*), and are typical of spoken English.

A Spoken English

Here are some more collocations which are almost exclusively found in spoken English.

I'm bored stiff¹
in this lesson!



¹extremely bored

You badly need
a haircut!



I'll have a think about it
and let you know.



Give me a ring²
when you get home.



²give me a phone call

B Formal English

Some collocations are typical of formal English and are most likely to be found in an official, often legal, context, such as in notices.

Passengers must
not alight from
the bus whilst it
is in motion.

[get off the bus]

Cyclists must
dismount
here

[get off their
bicycles]

Trespassers will
be prosecuted

[people who go onto
someone's land or
enter their building
without permission
will be taken to court]

Please dispose of¹
unwanted items
in the receptacle²
provided

¹throw away

²container used for storing
or putting objects in

C Newspaper English

Some collocations – particularly ones that use short, dramatic words – are found mainly in newspapers. In most cases they would not normally be used in everyday conversation.

COMPUTER FACTORY
TO AXE JOBS

[make staff redundant]

AIRLINE SLASHES PRICES

[cuts prices drastically]

GOVERNMENT SPENDING
WILL ROCKET THIS YEAR

POLICE CRACK DOWN ON SPEEDING

[start dealing with it in a more severe way]

POLICE QUIZ 16-YEAR-
OLD IN MURDER ENQUIRY

[ask questions]

FLU OUTBREAK HITS SOUTHERN EUROPE

D Business English

Some collocations are characteristic of business English.

to submit a tender [present a document offering to do a job and stating the price]

to raise capital [get money to put into a business]

to go into partnership with someone [agree to start or run a business with someone]

to start up a business

Exercises

5.1 Underline formal (F) or informal (I) collocations in these sentences (one per sentence) and put F or I in the brackets at the end.

- 1 Cyclists should dismount before crossing the footbridge. ()
- 2 Never dispose of batteries and similar items by throwing them onto a fire. ()
- 3 The students were all bored stiff by the lecture. ()
- 4 Passengers must alight from the bus through the rear door. ()
- 5 The grass badly needs cutting. ()
- 6 Please place all used tickets in the receptacle provided as you leave the building. ()

5.2 Underline typical news/media collocations in these newspaper clips.

1 **OIL COMPANIES SLASH PRICES**

There was good news for motorists today as pump prices were lowered by the major oil companies.

3 **FLOODS HIT CENTRAL REGION**

Towns and villages in the Central region were battling against floods tonight as heavy rain continued.

2 **DETECTIVES QUIZ
BUSINESSMAN OVER
MISSING TEENAGER**

Senior detectives interviewed a man who has been named as prime suspect in the case of a missing 18 year-old who is feared to have been abducted.

4 **CAR FIRM TO AXE 200 JOBS**

The Presco car firm has announced that 200 workers will be made redundant at its Kenton factory. The job losses are the result of falling profits.

5.3 Rewrite the headlines in exercise 5.2 using collocations more typical of ordinary conversation, as if you were telling a friend the news. Start each answer with 'Have you heard...?' Use a dictionary if necessary.

5.4 Match the beginning of each sentence on the left with its ending on the right to make typical collocations used in business English.

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 1 We raised | partnership to develop a new range of products. |
| 2 They submitted | capital to expand the business. |
| 3 They went into | a business to supply sports equipment to schools. |
| 4 We started up | a tender for the new stadium. |

5.5 Choose a formal or informal collocation as instructed at the end of each sentence. Use a dictionary if necessary.

- 1 She was *dead* / *extremely* keen to meet the new director. (informal)
- 2 We should be *boarding the aircraft* / *getting on the plane* in about ten minutes. (formal)
- 3 Mr Trotter *paid for* / *bore the cost of* the repairs. (formal)
- 4 I *withdrew from* / *dropped out of* my university course after a year. (informal)
- 5 The president *launched into* / *embarked upon* a detailed explanation of his policies. (informal)

6

Intensifying adverbs

In English there are lots of other ways of saying *very* or *very much*. For example, we can use words such as *highly*, *utterly*, *bitterly*, *deeply*. These alternatives collocate strongly with specific words, and other combinations often sound unnatural.

A Highly

collocations	comments
(un)likely unusual successful competitive profitable effective controversial recommended	<i>Highly</i> is used with some probability words (<i>likely</i> , <i>unusual</i>). With the exception of highly controversial it usually combines with very positive words. Extremely can also be used with all the opposite adjectives except <i>recommended</i> .

It is highly unlikely that I'll finish my work on time.
Jill's highly unusual behaviour began to worry her parents.

B Absolutely, utterly

collocations	comments
ridiculous stupid impossible wrong alone appalled convinced devastated miserable	<i>Absolutely</i> and (slightly more formal) <i>utterly</i> combine with adjectives with very extreme meanings where we can't use <i>very</i> . For example, we say absolutely/utterly exhausted , not <i>very exhausted</i> , whereas we say <i>very tired</i> , but not <i>absolutely</i> or <i>utterly tired</i> . Often, but not always, these words have negative connotations.

It was an absolutely stupid comment to make.
The whole area was utterly devastated after the earthquake.

C Bitterly, deeply, ridiculously, strongly

word	collocations	comments
bitterly	disappointing/disappointed resent criticise regret complain cry weep	carries a feeling of deep sadness; used slightly more in writing than in conversation
deeply	ashamed concerned shocked committed moved affected hurt (of feelings) regret care religious unhappy	collocates mainly with words associated with feelings; used slightly more in writing than in conversation
ridiculously	cheap expensive easy low high long short small large early	suggests something extreme, which seems unbelievable or unreasonable
strongly	oppose influence believe deny recommend support condemn suggest feel argue object	collocates with verbs, particularly verbs that relate to having an opinion

I was bitterly disappointed when I failed the exam.
Professor McDellvit was always deeply committed to her students.
The restaurant was ridiculously expensive. I don't think we'll go there again.
I would strongly recommend that you learn a foreign language.

Exercises

6.1 Choose an adverb from the box to replace *very* in each of these expressions.

utterly strongly bitterly ridiculously highly deeply

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 very ashamed | 6 very disappointing |
| 2 very cheap | 7 very opposed |
| 3 very controversial | 8 very ridiculous |
| 4 very stupid | 9 very easy |
| 5 very successful | 10 very concerned |

6.2 Use a collocation from exercise 6.1 to complete each of these sentences.

- The flight from London to Rome was It only cost 20 euros.
- Some people love her new book, others are very angry about it. It is
- His father was a pacifist all his life and was to war.
- The exam results were for the whole class. We had all expected to do much better.
- When I realised how much my selfish behaviour had upset everyone, I was
- In the 1990s she ran a(n) company which made outstanding profits.
- Everyone got more than 95% correct in the test; it was
- You must apologise immediately. It was a(n) remark to make.
- She has always been about the environment and would like to work for a conservation agency.
- That you should even *think* that I would steal money from you is ! You must be crazy!

6.3 In each of these sets of phrases, one is not a correct collocation. Cross out the incorrect one.

- strongly recommend strongly influence strongly love strongly dislike
- highly educated highly profitable highly unusual highly exhausted
- bitterly regard bitterly regret bitterly resent bitterly criticise
- absolutely convinced absolutely tired absolutely devastated absolutely absurd
- deeply unhappy deeply religious deeply successful deeply committed

6.4 In this short text, the writer has often misused the word *strongly*. Correct the wrong collocations using adverbs from the box. Use each adverb once only.

bitterly strictly deeply utterly

Everyone was complaining strongly when they heard about the new plan. People were strongly shocked to hear that children would be strongly forbidden to use the sports ground and most people were strongly opposed to the new rules. Even people who normally never expressed an opinion were strongly appalled by the proposals.

