

Exercises

51.1 What are the opposites of the underlined phrases in these sentences?

- 1 We can make a late start tomorrow if you like.
- 2 The competition has got off to a disappointing start as far as the British are concerned.
- 3 Meeting Josh on the beach on the last day was a horrible end to my holiday!
- 4 The meeting came to an unsatisfactory close.

51.2 Correct the collocation errors in these sentences.

- 1 It was such a near finish that no one was quite sure who had won.
- 2 I've just got to put the ending touches to my painting and then you can see it.
- 3 I expect the meeting will go to an end at about 5.30.
- 4 Everyone is here, so I think we should do a start now.
- 5 We all hope that the negotiations will succeed in taking the strike to an end.
- 6 E-mail marked the start of the end for the fax machine.
- 7 Our journey finished – as it had begun – in Cairo.
- 8 Have you heard yet what the finish result of the talks was?

51.3 Put the words in order to make sentences.

- 1 meeting / I / will soon / close / a / hope / draw / the / to
- 2 Town Hall / excellent reception / The conference / good / got / with / in / off / a / start / to / an / the
- 3 didn't / As / know / a single word / beginners' / Dan / was put / class / he / Japanese / absolute / an / of / in
- 4 as a politician / The / end / scandal / Jackson's / brought / abrupt / to / career / an
- 5 won / nail-biting / a / Lance Armstrong / finish / cycle / the / race / in

51.4 Match the questions on the left with the responses on the right.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Do you think we should get started soon? | a No, it's a complete mystery to me. |
| 2 Did you already know some French when you started your course? | b No, I was looking forward to university. |
| 3 Was the race exciting? | c Yes, most people are here now. |
| 4 Were you sad when your school days came to an end? | d No, I was an absolute beginner. |
| 5 Did you enjoy the opera last night? | e Yes, the finish was nail-biting! |
| 6 Do you know why their relationship came to such an abrupt end? | f Yes, it made the perfect end to a lovely day. |

FOLLOW UP

Look up the words *begin*, *start*, *end* and *finish* in a good learner's dictionary and note down any other interesting collocations that you find there.

A Success

Notice the collocations for talking about success in this schoolboy's end-of-term report.

SCHOOL REPORT	
James Turner	
MATHS:	James has made a breakthrough in his maths this year, doing excellent work in comparison with last year. A remarkable achievement .
ENGLISH:	This year has seen a dramatic improvement in James's English. His crowning achievement was his performance in the school production of Othello.
FRENCH:	James has an excellent grasp of French. This will come in useful for the school trip to France next year, and we hope he will take advantage of the opportunities to speak French there.
SCIENCE:	James has done very well this year, passing his exams without any problems. If he continues to work hard, his success next year is guaranteed .
GEOGRAPHY:	James has made good progress with his geography this year, gaining good marks in the end-of-year exam.
HISTORY:	James's history project was a great success . His use of original sources was highly effective . He makes useful contributions in class and has the ability to explain difficult ideas clearly to less able pupils.
ART:	James found some effective ways of working with natural materials this year and his self-portrait was a brilliant success .
SPORT:	James has been training hard and, as a member of the First Football Team, is now able to enjoy the fruits of his hard work . Playing for the school has certainly brought out the best in him and he has rightly won the respect of all his team-mates.

B Failure

Notice the collocations relating to failure in these extracts from a newspaper called *Today's Bad News*.

Unfortunately the peace talks now seem likely to **fail miserably**. [be totally unsuccessful]
Although a lot of money was invested in the film it has proved to be a **spectacular failure**. [extremely unsuccessful]

O'Connor's first play was a great success but his second **play flopped**. [failed to attract audiences]

Hopes that the play would enjoy a long run in London **were dashed**. [hopes have had to be abandoned]

Unfortunately, more pupils than ever are said to be **failing** their final exams.

The mountaineer's attempt to climb Mt Everest **went badly wrong**.

Everyone agrees that the peace talks are **doomed to failure**. [are certain to fail]

Hopes were initially high for the new project but it has proved to be a **dismal failure**. [a total failure]

A couple of major companies in the area **went out of business** last month. [stopped doing business]

I think the new plans for cutting railway costs **are a recipe for disaster**. [will certainly lead to major problems]

At the last moment the Olympic ski jumper **lost his nerve** and did not take part in the competition. [was not brave enough]

The President's speech was disappointing as it totally **missed the point**. [failed to understand what is really important]

Exercises

52.1 Look at A. Complete these speeches congratulating people on various types of success.

Over the years, Henry has (1) the respect of his colleagues, and now, as he retires, we all hope he can enjoy the (2) of his many years of hard work. His career has been a (3) success, and he has (4) an enormous contribution to our profession. Thank you from all of us.



As Head Teacher I am proud to say the school has had a great year. 87% of students (5) their exams with grades B or higher, while the remaining 13% (6) good or very good marks. The school rugby team has done well; its (7) achievement was winning the regional championship for the third year running. We believe that Garfham School (8) out the best in our boys and girls, and this year is no exception. Well done everyone!

Our research team has (9) a breakthrough this year, and I think we can say the success of the project is now (10) It has been a (11) achievement. We must now (12) advantage of the excellent progress we have (13) and find more (14) ways of persuading the public of the importance of our work. I know we (15) the ability to do this successfully, but we shall need all your support in this.



I am delighted to present our annual school Language prize to Tom Linton. Tom now has an excellent (16) of five major languages, which will certainly (17) in useful as he plans to work abroad. Tom was not always a brilliant language learner, but his work showed a (18) improvement last year, and his success has continued. Well done, Tom.

52.2 Match the beginning of each sentence on the left with its ending on the right.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 Our plans went | miserably. |
| 2 My hopes were | to failure. |
| 3 After the horse threw me I lost | complete flop. |
| 4 The scheme is doomed | disaster. |
| 5 He failed his | business. |
| 6 Our political campaign failed | point completely. |
| 7 His plans are a recipe for | badly wrong. |
| 8 A year later he went out of | dashed when I heard the news. |
| 9 She seemed to miss the | final exams. |
| 10 His latest novel was a | my nerve and couldn't get back on. |

52.3 Correct the six collocation errors in this text.

I was always a dismal fail at school. I completely passed the point of maths and I failed sadly at most other subjects. Only the drama teacher managed to bring off the best in me and gave me a part in the school play. However, I lost my courage on the day of the performance and my hopes of a career on the stage were smashed.

A Different 'cause' verbs

topic	verb	examples
negative events, situations and feelings	cause	The storm caused chaos / havoc / a lot of damage . Her remarks caused alarm/concern . Her son's behaviour caused her great anxiety / a lot of embarrassment .
positive and negative changes	bring about	The discovery of X-rays brought about a revolution/transformation in medical science. The events brought about the downfall/collapse of the government.
positive and negative situations and feelings	create	His book helped create awareness of inner-city poverty. Your presence on the committee is creating problems for all of us.
sudden, often negative, events	spark off	The announcement sparked off riots/demonstrations in the cities. His wife's absence sparked off rumours in the media.
reactions from people	attract	His book has attracted a lot of criticism/interest . The charity appeal attracted support from a wide range of people.
results and effects	produce	My comments produced the opposite effect to what I intended. His research has not yet produced any results , but we must wait.

B Causes and effects

The immediate cause of the problem was an oil leak.	The underlying cause of the problem was a lack of funds over many years.
The government hopes to reduce/minimise the impact of the new taxes.	The support she got from the Prime Minister strengthened/increased the impact of her report.
The new measures had an unexpected/unforeseen outcome .	The new tax led to the predictable/inevitable outcome that many people became poorer.
The positive/beneficial effects of the changes were soon apparent.	The negative/adverse effects of the changes were not noticed immediately.
The crisis was the direct/inevitable result of bad economic planning.	One indirect/unforeseen result of the new laws has been a rise in unemployment.

C Common expressions for everyday events

The book **caused an uproar** in the United States. [made a lot of people complain angrily]
 If you make him angry, you'll have to **suffer the consequences**.
 The accident **had a huge effect** on her life.
 Latino singers have **had a major impact** on pop music this year.
 Remember that it **makes/creates a bad impression** if you're late.
 The drug companies **have a lot of influence** on doctors.
 Their love affair **caused a sensation**.

ERROR WARNING

To **affect** means 'to have an influence on someone/something, or to cause them to change'. (Her death **affected** everyone **deeply**.) To **effect** means 'to achieve something / make something happen'. (We are trying to **effect a change** in the way people think about their diet.) The noun **effect(s)** refers to the result(s) of something. (His stressful life **has had an effect** on his health.)

Exercises

53.1 Complete each sentence with a verb from A. Use each verb once only.

- 1 The film has a lot of criticism, both positive and negative.
- 2 The extra work Olga's had to do has her a lot of stress.
- 3 The experiment didn't the results we'd expected.
- 4 David Line wrote an excellent article on the factors that the collapse of the Soviet Union.
- 5 The rise in the price of fuel has a series of protests.

53.2 Choose the correct collocation.

I've just been reading the very interesting biography of Rhoda Legge, an early star of silent films. She isn't generally well-known now but she caused a(n) (1) *impression / sensation / outcome* in the 1920s when she had an affair with a minor member of a European royal family. This turned out to have a (2) *major / principal / chief* impact on her career. At first she was very distressed by the (3) *effect / influence / uproar* it caused in the press. However, ultimately, she did not suffer the negative (4) *results / consequences / outcomes* she initially feared. On the contrary, the affair had an (5) *unpredicted / unknown / unexpected* outcome. The (6) *good / advantageous / positive* effects of the affair soon began to make themselves felt as she began to be offered all sorts of interesting new roles. The affair (7) *affected / effected / infected* the way people thought about her. The relationship did not last more than a few months but it (8) *produced / attracted / caused* a sensation that (9) *had / did / got* a huge impact on her movie career.



53.3 Choose an ending from the box to complete each sentence below.

some changes in the way the college is structured.
the development of personality very deeply.
the impact of the tragedy on our children.
result of the huge tax rises.
a considerable influence on his choice of career.

cause of the fire was.
the impact of the new measures.
results which no one could have predicted.
a good impression at a job interview.
causes of crime.

- 1 The enquiry aims to establish what the immediate
- 2 Henry's grandmother had
- 3 The changes had some unforeseen
- 4 Criticising your previous boss doesn't create
- 5 We must do all we can to minimise
- 6 What happens in childhood affects
- 7 Management is trying to effect
- 8 The TV coverage they have received has strengthened
- 9 The government should do something about the underlying
- 10 The riots were an inevitable

**FOLLOW
UP**

Look up the words *influence*, *effect*, *impact* and *consequence* in a good learner's dictionary. Make a note of any other interesting collocations that you find.