



A

Remembering

Notice all the memory collocations in this dialogue between two old school friends.

Beth: I saw Terry last night. Do you remember her? We were at school together.

Tom: No, my **long-term memory**¹ is terrible these days. Come to think of it, my **short-term memory**² isn't that brilliant either. And I used to **have such a good memory**! Anyway, **give me a clue**³.

Beth: She was the one with long black hair and glasses. You always used to say that she **reminded you strongly** of that singer you used to like.

Tom: Oh, yes. I **vaguely remember** her now. She used to be friends with Jo, didn't she?

Beth: Yes. I'd **clean forgotten**⁴ about her too. She ran over to me in the street and said hello. My **mind went blank**⁵. I could **remember her face** but I'd **completely forgotten her name**. But once we started talking, the **memories came flooding back**⁶. My **earliest memory** of her is that we all went to the beach with her parents one weekend when we were about 12.

Tom: Oh yes. Now you're **stirring up memories**⁷ for me. I can **distinctly remember** being stung by a jellyfish in the water.

Beth: I can see why you wanted to **blot out that memory**⁸!

Tom: I can **vividly remember** it now though. Actually, the whole weekend was an **unforgettable experience**. We told ghost stories all night if I **remember rightly**.

Beth: Oh yes, that's right. Now I **remember it well**. It's terrible how **memories fade**⁹ as time passes, isn't it! Mind you, I'm happy to lose some of my more **painful memories** of school.

¹ memory of what happened a long time ago

² memory of what happened recently

³ informal: tell me something more to help me

⁴ informal: completely forgotten

⁵ I couldn't remember anything

⁶ lots of memories returned

⁷ making old memories come back

⁸ avoid remembering something unpleasant

⁹ memories get less clear

**ERROR
WARNING**

I've forgotten my homework I left it at home. NOT I've forgotten my homework at home.

B

Sensing

Read these problem letters from a magazine and notice the collocations relating to sensing.

When I first met my new boss, I **had/got the impression** that he might be a difficult person to work for. I **sensed** some **tension** between us. Now I **have a feeling** that he is trying to make things difficult for me. I don't know whether I should **trust my intuition**¹ and hand in my resignation. Or am I just being **ridiculously over-sensitive**?

For the last few weeks I've been much more **sensitive to heat** and **sensitive to light** than I used to be. I've always had **sensitive skin** and **sensitive teeth** but this is much worse than ever before. My hands have also started **going numb**² if I get at all cold. I used to have an **acute**³ **sense of smell** and **acute hearing** but I don't any more.

¹ feel confident that my instinctive feelings are correct

² losing all feeling ³ acute = sharp, very good

**ERROR
WARNING**

Remember the difference between a **sensitive person** [a person who is easily upset] and a **sensible person** [a person with good judgement].

Exercises

54.1 These people are all talking about their memories of childhood. Use words from A opposite to complete the collocations. The words in brackets give the meaning of the word you need.

1



Well, my (first) memory is of sitting in our garden on my mother's lap. I (not very clearly) remember that there was a cat or dog there too, but I can't remember much else.

2



I used to have a memory when I was young, but I'm 82 now, and as you get older your memory (memory for things that happened long ago) is very clear, but your memory (memory for things that happened recently) is less good. Sometimes I can't remember what happened yesterday. But I can (very clearly) remember my first day at school as a child.

3



My mother sometimes tells me things I did or said when I was little but which I've (totally) forgotten. One embarrassing memory which I'd rather out (avoid remembering) is when I took some scissors and cut my own hair. It looked awful!

4



Seeing schoolchildren often up all kinds of memories (makes old memories come to the surface) for me. I wasn't happy at school and I have some (unpleasant) memories of being forced to do sports, which I hated. Sometimes, when I hear certain songs, memories come back (lots of memories return).

54.2 Complete the collocations connected with remembering.

- 1 It was a nightmare. The moment I looked at the exam paper my mind went
- 2 Her name's Lyn, and she worked with Nick a few years ago, if I remember
- 3 Let me see if I can remember where we met. Give me a
- 4 It was a wonderful trip to India. It was a(n) experience.

54.3 Complete each sentence using a word from the box.

intuition sensitive numb acute impression sensible over-sensitive sensed

- 1 Do you ever get the that Jane is a little mad? She says some very odd things.
- 2 I a bit of tension between Mark and Pauline. I wonder if they've had a row?
- 3 Usually I can trust my to tell me if someone is lying or not.
- 4 You're ridiculously! You treat everything I say as a personal attack on you.
- 5 It was so cold and I had no gloves on. My hands went as I rode my bike.
- 6 He uses a special face cream and toothpaste as he has skin and teeth.
- 7 Dogs have hearing and smell, and are often used to rescue disaster victims.
- 8 Paul is a very person; you can trust him not to do anything foolish.

54.4 Choose the correct collocation.

- 1 I *distinctly* / *strongly* / *rightly* remember that we agreed to meet at the gym.
- 2 I *made* / *had* / *took* the impression that you didn't like Molly.
- 3 You must wear gloves in this cold or your fingers will *do* / *have* / *go* numb.
- 4 I usually find that I can *trust* / *rely* / *depend* my intuition.
- 5 I'd rather *stir up* / *flood back* / *blot out* such unpleasant memories.

Agreeing and disagreeing

A Verb and noun collocations

collocation	example
go along with an idea / a view	I go along with your view that crime and poverty are linked.
be in (complete) agreement	We are in complete agreement over the question of drug abuse in athletics.
tend to agree/disagree	I tend to agree that parents often blame teachers for problems which start within the family.
share an opinion / a view	I share your opinion that sport is over-commercialised.
appreciate someone's point of view	I appreciate your point of view , but I still think you are overstating the problem.
see someone's point [understand their opinion]	I can see your point ; I've never thought of it in that way before.
enter into an argument	I'd prefer not to enter into an argument over the war in Collocania.
differences arise/exist	Differences exist / have arisen between the unions and the management over how to solve the problem.
come to / reach a compromise	We disagree over what to do, but I'm sure we can come to / reach a compromise .
settle a dispute / your differences	The management and the union have finally settled their pay dispute . I'm sure we can settle our differences without damaging our friendship.
agree to differ [agree to have different opinions]	I don't think we will ever agree with each other. We'll just have to agree to differ .

B Verb and adverb collocations

verb	adverb	example
agree	entirely/ wholeheartedly	I entirely agree with you on the question of nuclear waste.
agree	partly/up to a point	I agree up to a point , but I also think there are other important factors.
disagree	fundamentally/ totally/strongly	The two philosophers disagreed fundamentally over the effect of the environment on behaviour.

C Adjective and noun collocations for disputes and strong disagreements

I've often disagreed strongly with Nancy but I've never had such a **head-on clash** with her before. [disagreement where two people confront each other directly]

The **bitter dispute** between the two groups finally led to violence.

We had a very **heated argument** about immigration the other day.

Jeff and I had a **fundamental disagreement** over who should be the next Chair of the club.

D Further collocations for agreeing and disagreeing

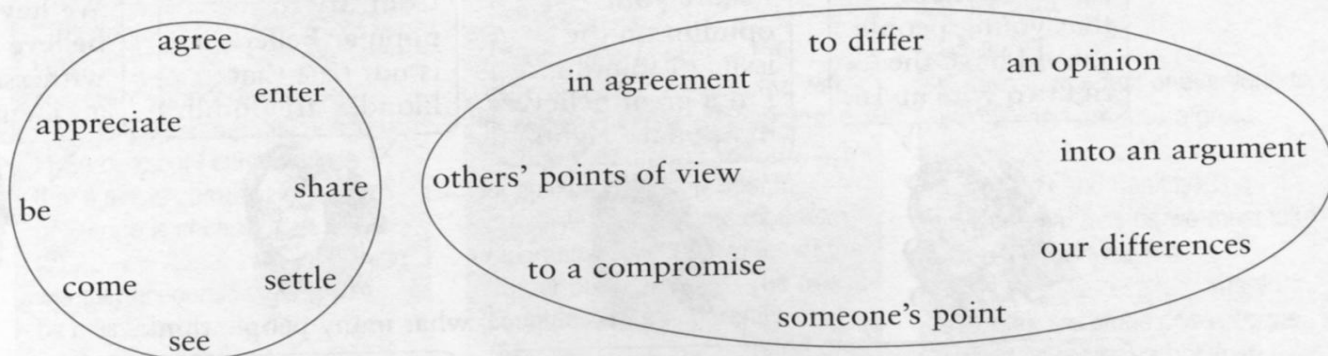
The Regional Education Committee has reached a **unanimous agreement** on a new system of exams for secondary schools.

Controversy continues to **exist/rage** over the appointment of the new Director.

A **conflict of opinion** within the National Olympic Association is threatening to delay the building of a new stadium.

Exercises

- 55.1** Look at A. Make collocations by matching words from the circle on the left with words from the oval on the right.



- 55.2** Put the expressions from the box into the appropriate category below.

a controversy rages a head-on clash a heated argument
settle a dispute come to a compromise differences exist

reaching agreement	disagreeing

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

- I don't completely agree with what you say. (POINT)
- I am in total agreement with you. (ENTIRELY)
- There was no disagreement among the committee members. (UNANIMOUS)
- There will always be differences of opinion even between friends. (ARISE)
- James and Brian had a big disagreement over the question of climate change. (STRONGLY)
- The project has been delayed because of the different opinions among the members of the committee. (CONFLICT)
- I find it difficult to agree with such an idea. (ALONG)
- We are in total disagreement about most things. (FUNDAMENTALLY)

- 55.4** Answer these questions about the collocations on the opposite page.

- Which collocation suggests that a disagreement is like a high temperature?
- Which two collocations suggest that a disagreement is like a fight or a war?
- Which collocation suggests that controversy is like anger?
- Why do you think the word *bitter* is used to refer to quarrels and disputes as well as to taste?
- Which collocation suggests that understanding someone's opinion is like using your eyes?

A Speaking about beliefs and opinions

I firmly believe that young people should have the right to vote at 16.



I share your opinion on the issue of hunting. I'm a great believer in animals' rights.



Contrary to popular belief¹, it is not true that blondes are dumb.



We have reason to believe that you witnessed the accident.



We are poles apart² in our attitudes to life.



It's a matter of opinion whether men are better drivers than women.



I had a difference of opinion³ with my brother.



I've got a sneaking suspicion⁴ you may be right.



² are completely different

³ disagreement

⁴ I'm beginning to think

B More formal ways of discussing beliefs

Look at this extract from a student essay and notice the collocations referring to beliefs.

The writer seems to **make assumptions**¹ based on an **unshakeable belief** in the superiority of his own value system. He seems to be unaware of the extent to which his own **set of beliefs** has **coloured his judgement**². His research **leads him to conclude** that military action was justified. However, his **evidence is based on** one single document and **attaches** too much **importance** to this. I do not **trust his judgement**. Moreover, other documents **cast doubt on**³ his conclusions. **Opinions** on the issue **are divided**⁴ and my own **considered opinion**⁵ is that the writer is not to be trusted. I **have serious misgivings about**⁶ his research and I **have doubts** about the accuracy of some of his facts.

¹ thinks or says things are true without enough evidence

² affected his judgement

³ suggest something may be wrong with

⁴ people have different opinions

⁵ opinion after much thought

⁶ I have serious doubts about

C Some error warnings

The expressions in this table are collocations that learners often have difficulty with.

collocation	comment
I hope you'll come to my party.	NOT wish
They've given up hope of any survivors.	NOT the hope
We need to think hard about this problem.	NOT consider hard – could be consider this problem carefully
I wish they would just leave me alone .	NOT let
Many people hold the view/opinion that ...	NOT meaning
He has strong opinions on many subjects.	NOT heavy or big