



COLLOCATIONS

When producing formal language in essays, report writing, and letters, or communicating in formal or informal situations, it is important to express yourself and convey meaning as clearly, precisely and accurately as possible.

This can be achieved in part by choosing the right word combination or **collocation**.

Moreover, using the right collocation will make your writing and speech sound more natural and closer to that of a native speaker.

COLLOCATION – WORD COMBINATION

Collocation is a term used to describe the way particular words in English combine and occur together regularly and commonly. For example, in English we say a 'short film' and 'long walk' but not a '~~small film~~' or '~~large walk~~'. The adjectives 'short' and 'long' collocate naturally with 'film' and 'walk'. Their usage is common and predictable. So also is 'small house' and 'large family' but not '~~short house~~' and '~~long family~~'. Though word combinations are predictable for native speakers, they are not predictable for students of English who will need to learn them as they learn new vocabulary. With practice, using collocations will become second nature.

STUDY TIPS

Using collocations appropriately is vital for communicating in English competently, and producing native-like writing and speech.

Whenever reading or listening, be on the look out for any new word combinations to expand your database of collocations. This will be an indispensable tool in assisting you with your spoken and written language.

Building your collocation vocabulary and databases will also be of benefit for both the IELTS Writing and Speaking tests.

TYPES OF COLLOCATIONS

There are different types of word combinations, including:

- adjective + **noun**

~ + **friend**

best, close, family, good, great, old, special, school **friend**

- adjective + noun

strong + ~

strong chair, current, drug, leader, swimmer, team, supporter

- verb + **noun**

~ + **friends**

become, have, make, remain, stay, and win **friends**

- **verb + adverb**

decrease + ~

decrease considerably, dramatically, gradually, significantly

- **adverb + adjective**

~ + friendly

extremely, genuinely, naturally, really, reasonably, very **friendly**

- **short phrases** with specific word order
rain or shine; salt and pepper; rise and shine; pick and choose; safe and sound; hot and cold; left, right and centre; head and shoulders; hard and fast; dollars and cents

- **defined sets of words**
points of the compass: north, south, east, west
days of the week: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday
months of the year: January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December
seasons: summer, autumn, winter, spring

COLLOCATION NOTEBOOK

When learning collocations it is helpful to have a **collocation notebook** as a kind of database to which you can refer, especially when writing.

Organising the word combinations according to a **topic** and/or **headword** (main word) allows you to readily find appropriate and more precise expressions. For example, when writing on a topic about the environment, by looking through your database under the topic Environment you would have at your fingertips such collocations as: 'adapt to a new environment', 'environment spokesperson', 'conservation of the environment', 'polluted environment' and others.

Accordingly, it would be beneficial to create your collocation database around IELTS topics, such as the ones covered in *Study English – IELTS Preparation*: **Environment, Medicine, Finance, Economy, Technology, Tourism, and Education**. Further, the entry should also include other important information such as, the pronunciation of the headword, its meaning and then the various types of combinations with the headword.

The following collocation notebook is organised according to IELTS topics. These topic headings also function as the headword for the entry. The structure of the entry includes: the pronunciation, meaning, and the various types of word combinations for the headword indicated in bold.

COLLOCATION NOTEBOOK

ECONOMY	
/ə'kɒnəmi/	
<i>noun</i> managing and operating a country's supply of money, production & trade	
adjective + noun	advanced, Asian, black, booming, burgeoning, Cambodian, capitalist, cash, Chinese, controlled, depressed, developed, developing, diversified, domestic, dynamic, false, flagging, fragile, free-market, global, healthy, Indonesian, integrated, international, Japanese, local, managed, market, market-driven, mixed, monetary, national, planned, rigid, rural, socialist, stable, stagnant, thriving, unstable, weak, world
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">~ + economy</div> The <i>local economy</i> grew at a healthy rate of more than 15 percent.	
verb + noun	boost, build, control, damage, develop, expand, flourish, harm, improve, kick-start, manage, operate, promote, rebuild, regenerate, regulate, rescue, restructure, revive, run, stabilise, stimulate, strengthen, weaken
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">~ + economy</div> Strategies were discussed to <i>revive</i> the economy .	
short phrases	a sector of the economy, growth in the economy, handling of the economy, improvement in the economy, mainstay of the economy, management of the economy

EDUCATION	
/ɛdʒə'keɪʃən/	
<i>noun</i> teaching and training someone, usually in a school, college or university; being involved with teaching; teaching a specific subject	
adjective + noun	adult, better, college, continuing, formal, full-time, further, good, health, higher, local, part-time, pre-school, primary, private, professional, public, school, secondary, solid, special, state, tertiary, university, vocational
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">~ + education</div> The school will be introducing <i>health education</i> as a subject this year.	
verb + noun	complete, continue, finish, get, have, provide
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">~ + education</div> After INSEARCH John <i>will continue</i> his education at UTS.	
noun + noun	act, authority, campaign, centre, certificate, committee, courses, department, institution, minister, organisation, policy, system
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">education + ~</div> The education department will be launching the new curricula with the start of the semester.	
short phrases	board of education, colleges of education, administration of education

ENVIRONMENT /ɛn'vaɪrənmənt/	
1. <i>noun</i> physical conditions in which somebody or something exists	
adjective + noun	business, commercial, changing, clean, cold, competitive, controlled, dangerous, domestic, economic, educational, extreme, family, familiar, fragile, friendly, harsh, healthy, home, hostile, learning, new, noisy, office, physical, pleasant, polluted, protected, rural, safe, school, secure, social, stable, teaching, unfamiliar, urban, work, working, workplace <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">~ + environment</div> The school created a <i>friendly, learning environment</i> in which the students thrived.
verb + noun	adapt to, create, explore, provide <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">~ + environment</div> The foreign students had to <i>adapt to</i> a new environment when they arrived in Australia.
2. <i>noun</i> natural world of people, plants and animals	
adjective + noun	global, healthy, marine, natural, rural, safe, stable, urban, world <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">~ + environment</div> The zoo built a <i>natural environment</i> to accommodate the marine mammals.
verb + noun	be concerned about, care about, clean up, conserve, damage, destroy, harm, have an impact on, improve, maintain, pollute, preserve, protect, safeguard, save <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">~ + environment</div> Undoubtedly, the recent crude oil spillage <i>has damaged</i> the environment .
noun + noun	committee, conservation, department, minister, spokesperson, policy, protection, issues <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">environment + ~</div> The environment <i>spokesperson</i> held a press conference regarding the recent disaster.
short phrases	change to the environment, conservation of the environment, damage to the environment, damaging to the environment, effect (of something) on the environment, harmful to the environment, impact (of something) on the environment, pollution to the environment, preservation of the environment, protection of the environment, threat to the environment The children were given a lesson on the <i>conservation of the environment</i> .

FINANCE	
/'fa næns/	
1. <i>noun</i> money used to fund an activity, project, business etc.	
adjective + noun	additional, bank, bridging, business, capital, credit, debt, external, housing, independent, internal, international, joint, long-term, medium-term, mortgage, private, public, short-term <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">~ + finance</div> The credit union will be able to assist you with <i>mortgage</i> finance .
verb + noun	allocate, arrange, get, need, obtain, provide, raise <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">~ + finance</div> Will the couple <i>get</i> the finance they need from the bank to enable them to buy their first home?
noun + noun	committee, company, corporate, department, sector <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">finance + ~</div> The new finance <i>company</i> performed well in the last quarter.
2. <i>noun plural</i> amount of money which is available	
adjective + noun	borrowed, company, family, government, personal, private, provide, public, solid <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">~ + finance</div> Jane will be able to fund the project from her <i>personal</i> finances .
verb + noun	have, improve, lack, manage, plan, raise <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">~ + finance</div> The funds from the private sector will <i>improve</i> their overall finances .

MEDICINE	
/'m dəsən/	
1. <i>noun</i> a substance one takes to treat an disease, illness, injury	
adjective + noun	bitter, cough, herbal, mild, potent, prescription, strong, weak, <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">~ + medicine</div> The <i>bitter</i> medicine was difficult for the child to swallow.
verb + noun	administer, down, give, prepare, prescribe, swallow, take <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">~ + medicine</div> Jane <i>downed</i> the medicine to avoid the bitter taste.
short phrases	shortage of medicine
2. <i>noun</i> the treatment or prevention of disease, illness, injury	
adjective + noun	alternative, herbal, Chinese, complementary, holistic, homeopathic, modern, naturopathic, orthodox, orthopaedic, preventative, traditional, Vietnamese, western <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">~ + medicine</div> Paul turned to <i>naturopathic</i> medicine when all other treatments failed to provide relief.



TECHNOLOGY	
/t k'n lə i/	
1. <i>noun</i> device, equipment, machinery etc. designed for practical use	
adjective + noun	advanced, agricultural, basic, broadband, capital-intensive, communications, cheap, computer, current, cutting-edge, digital, electrical, electronic, emerging, energy-saving, environmental, expensive, high, information, labour-intensive, leading-edge, management, medical, modern, new, novel, nuclear, old, satellite, state-of-the-art, superior, telecommunications, the latest, waste-free <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">~ + technology</div> The school recently installed <i>state-of-the-art technology</i> in its computer laboratory.
verb + noun	acquire, apply, assess, design, depend on, develop, embrace, employ, harness, have, improve, install, invest in, possess, purchase, showcase, supply, update, use, utilise <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">~ + technology</div> The team of engineers will be <i>improving</i> on telecommunications technology .
short phrases	advance in technology, development in technology, science and technology, vanguard of technology The Institute was known to be in the <i>vanguard of technology</i> .

TOURISM	
/'tuə r zəm/	
1. <i>noun</i> the activity of providing services for people travelling for pleasure, entertainment etc.	
adjective + noun	eco-friendly, ecological, environmental, international, sustainable <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">~ + tourism</div> The matter of <i>sustainable tourism</i> was placed high on the agenda for today's meeting.
verb + noun	decline, depend on, increase, promote, <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">~ + tourism</div> The Thai government did everything possible to <i>promote tourism</i> in the region after the tsunami struck.
noun + noun	business, development, industry, market, promotion <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">tourism + ~</div> There has been a steady decline in the <i>tourism industry</i> .
short phrases	development of tourism, downturn in tourism, growth in tourism, impact of tourism, income from tourism The team will investigate the <i>impact of tourism</i> on the environment.