

Collocations (C1) – Test 1

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ Score: / 30



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Choose the best option (A, B, C or D) for each question.

Part 1: Verb + noun collocations

Choose the word or sentence that forms a natural collocation.

- The committee hopes to _____ a decision by the end of the month.
A reach B do C put D carry
- Researchers hope the new findings will _____ light on the causes of the disease.
A give B shed C put D bring
- Several residents _____ a strong objection to the proposed changes.
A rose B lifted C raised D built
- Which sentence contains an incorrect collocation?
A The manager tackled the problem head-on.
B They did a lot of progress on the project.
C She bore the brunt of the criticism.
D The new policy has met with fierce opposition.
- It took him years to _____ a reputation as a reliable journalist.
A raise B form C set D build
- The new evidence _____ serious doubt on his version of events.
A casts B puts C gives D places
- Which sentence is correct?
A She has always carried an ambition to direct films.
B She has always fed an ambition to direct films.
C She has always harboured an ambition to direct films.
D She has always grown an ambition to direct films.
- Before signing the contract, it is wise to _____ legal advice.
A search B look C ask D seek
- The storm _____ havoc across the region, bringing down trees and power lines.
A made B wreaked C produced D rose
- The two companies have agreed to _____ forces to develop the new software.
A link B attach C join D tie

Part 2: Adjective and adverb collocations

Choose the option that best completes or answers each question.

- Our team faced _____ competition from more experienced rivals.
A hard B stiff C firm D solid

12. I'm _____ aware that this plan involves certain risks.
A fully **B** highly **C** strongly **D** heavily
13. The results of the experiment were _____ different from what we had expected.
A highly **B** deeply **C** radically **D** heavily
14. Many parents are _____ opposed to any cuts in the school budget.
A heavily **B** highly **C** widely **D** bitterly
15. His explanation was utterly _____; nobody believed a word of it. (CONVINCE)
A inconvincing **B** unconvincing **C** disconvincing **D** nonconvincing
16. The proposal received a lukewarm response from staff. What does 'lukewarm' mean here?
A unenthusiastic **B** hostile **C** extremely positive **D** confused
17. Which phrase contains an incorrect collocation?
A a heavy smoker **B** a strong coffee **C** a high wind **D** a powerful rain
18. The new director is _____ regarded throughout the industry.
A greatly **B** highly **C** largely **D** deeply
19. It is _____ important that all applications arrive before the deadline.
A heavily **B** deeply **C** vitally **D** greatly
20. There has been a _____ increase in the number of people working from home. (DRAMA)
A dramatically **B** dramatic **C** dramatised **D** dramatist

Part 3: Collocations in context

Read the text and choose the best option for each numbered gap (21–30).

When Amara Osei opened a small bakery on a quiet side street five years ago, few of her friends expected it to (21) ___ the test of time. Rents in the area were rising, and she had (22) ___ little experience of running a business. Nevertheless, she was determined to (23) ___ a go of it.

In the first year, Amara worked long hours and (24) ___ every effort to get to know her customers. She paid (25) ___ attention to their feedback and quickly introduced changes, such as gluten-free bread and a weekend breakfast menu. Word soon spread, and the bakery began to (26) ___ a loyal following.

Success, however, brought its own challenges. When a large café chain opened nearby, Amara's sales (27) ___ a sharp fall. Rather than panic, she decided to (28) ___ advantage of what made her bakery different: its personal service and its links with local farmers. She also started running baking classes, which proved (29) ___ popular with families.

Today, the bakery employs eight people and is regarded as an important part of the neighbourhood. Looking back, Amara says the key lesson she has learned is never to (30) ___ sight of why she started in the first place.

21. Gap (21): few of her friends expected it to _____ the test of time.
A keep **B** pass **C** stand **D** hold
22. Gap (22): she had _____ little experience of running a business.
A heavily **B** relatively **C** deeply **D** largely
23. Gap (23): she was determined to _____ a go of it.
A do **B** get **C** take **D** make

24. Gap (24): Amara worked long hours and _____ every effort to get to know her customers.
A made **B** did **C** put **D** took
25. Gap (25): She paid _____ attention to their feedback.
A near **B** tight **C** close **D** narrow
26. Gap (26): the bakery began to _____ a loyal following.
A raise **B** rise **C** set up **D** build up
27. Gap (27): Amara's sales _____ a sharp fall.
A suffered **B** made **C** held **D** kept
28. Gap (28): she decided to _____ advantage of what made her bakery different.
A make **B** take **C** get **D** have
29. Gap (29): baking classes, which proved _____ popular with families.
A deeply **B** strongly **C** heavily **D** immensely
30. Gap (30): the key lesson is never to _____ sight of why she started.
A miss **B** lose **C** drop **D** forget

Answer key – Collocations (C1) – Test 1

1 A	2 B	3 C	4 B	5 D	6 A	7 C	8 D	9 B	10 C
11 B	12 A	13 C	14 D	15 B	16 A	17 D	18 B	19 C	20 B
21 C	22 B	23 D	24 A	25 C	26 D	27 A	28 B	29 D	30 B

Explanations

- A** – We 'reach' (or make) a decision; 'do', 'put' and 'carry' do not collocate with 'decision'.
- B** – 'Shed light on' is a fixed collocation meaning to help explain something.
- C** – We 'raise an objection'; 'rose' is the past of the intransitive verb 'rise'.
- B** – We 'make progress', not 'do progress'.
- D** – We 'build (up)' a reputation over time.
- A** – 'Cast doubt on' is the natural collocation meaning to make something seem less certain.
- C** – We 'harbour an ambition', meaning to keep a hope in mind for a long time.
- D** – We 'seek advice'; 'ask' would need 'for', and 'search' and 'look' do not fit.
- B** – 'Wreak havoc' is a fixed collocation meaning to cause great damage.
- C** – 'Join forces' means to work together towards a common goal.
- B** – 'Stiff competition' is the natural collocation; 'hard competition' is a common learner error.
- A** – 'Fully aware' is the standard adverb + adjective collocation.
- C** – 'Radically different' means completely different; the other adverbs do not collocate with 'different'.
- D** – 'Bitterly opposed' expresses very strong opposition.
- B** – The negative of 'convincing' is formed with 'un-', and 'utterly unconvincing' is a natural collocation.
- A** – A 'lukewarm response' shows little interest or enthusiasm.
- D** – We say 'heavy rain', not 'powerful rain'.
- B** – 'Highly regarded' means greatly respected.
- C** – 'Vitaly important' is a strong, fixed adverb + adjective collocation.
- B** – An adjective is needed before the noun 'increase', and 'dramatic increase' is a common collocation.
- C** – 'Stand the test of time' means to last or remain successful for a long time.
- B** – 'Relatively little' means not much compared with what is usual or needed.
- D** – 'Make a go of something' means to make it succeed.
- A** – We 'make every effort' to do something; 'put' would need 'into'.
- C** – 'Pay close attention' means to watch or listen very carefully.
- D** – A business 'builds up' a loyal following gradually.
- A** – 'Suffer a sharp fall' is a typical collocation for a sudden drop in sales or prices.
- B** – 'Take advantage of' means to make good use of an opportunity or quality.
- D** – 'Immensely popular' means extremely popular; the other adverbs do not collocate with 'popular'.
- B** – 'Lose sight of' means to forget an important aim or fact.

Notes for teachers: Use this test after a unit on collocations or as a diagnostic for advanced learners. Distractors target typical learner errors such as 'do progress', 'hard competition', 'search advice' and 'powerful rain', which come from literal translation. For follow-up, ask students to record each correct collocation in a notebook with an example sentence, or to rewrite the reading text using different collocations with the same meaning.