

Collocations (C1) – Worksheet 1

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ Score: / 39



Do this worksheet
online and check your
answers instantly

Exercise 1: Verb + noun collocations

Complete each sentence with a verb from the box. Use each verb once. There are two extra verbs you do not need.

Example: Scientists hope the study will ___ light on the causes of the disease. → shed

WORD BOX

raise draw meet pose strike reach conduct bear give set

- The campaign aims to _____ awareness of plastic pollution among teenagers.
- It would be unwise to _____ comparisons between two such different countries.
- The team worked through the weekend to _____ the deadline.
- Rising sea levels _____ a serious threat to coastal towns.
- Many parents struggle to _____ a balance between work and family life.
- After hours of discussion, the committee finally managed to _____ a consensus.
- The researchers plan to _____ a survey of 2,000 households.
- Managers must _____ responsibility for the decisions made by their teams.

Exercise 2: Collocations and their meanings

Match each collocation with its meaning from the box. There are two extra meanings you do not need.

Example: keep a low profile → avoid attracting attention

WORD BOX

form an opinion too quickly without knowing all the facts
do something less carefully to save time or money
continue to feel angry with someone because of a past wrong
remember a fact when you are making a decision
say you support something without actually doing anything about it
fail to appreciate something because it is always there gradually accept a difficult situation
make a great effort to achieve something refuse to change your opinion
make a promise you cannot keep

- jump to conclusions → _____

10. cut corners → _____
11. hold a grudge → _____
12. bear something in mind → _____
13. pay lip service to something → _____
14. take something for granted → _____
15. come to terms with something → _____
16. go to great lengths → _____

Exercise 3: Correct the collocation

Each sentence contains one wrong word in a collocation. Rewrite the sentence correctly.

Example: She made her homework before dinner. → She did her homework before dinner.

17. We need to make more research before we launch the product.

18. The man made a crime and was sent to prison.

19. The government has made drastic measures to reduce pollution.

20. There was a strong rain last night, so the roads are flooded.

21. I could tell from his face that he was saying a lie.

22. The museum attracts a big number of visitors every summer.

23. After a long discussion, the manager did a final decision.

24. Students should pay close attention for the safety instructions.

Exercise 4: Word forms in collocations

Use the word in capitals to form a word that completes the collocation.

Example: The two cities are in ____ (STARK) contrast to each other. → stark

25. It is a widely _____ (ACCEPT) fact that regular exercise improves mood.
26. The proposal was supported by an _____ (OVERWHELM) majority of members.
27. The strike brought public transport to a _____ (GRIND) halt.
28. Fans were bitterly _____ (DISAPPOINT) when the concert was cancelled.
29. Her research has made a _____ (SIGNIFY) contribution to the field.

30. In this storm, it is highly _____ (LIKE) that the match will go ahead.
31. After years of neglect, the old castle has fallen into _____ (REPAIR).
32. It is important to draw a clear _____ (DISTINGUISH) between facts and opinions.

Exercise 5: Rewrite with a collocation

Rewrite each sentence using the word in brackets so that the meaning stays the same.

Example: He wants to avoid attracting attention. (PROFILE) → He wants to keep a low profile.

33. Remember that the shop closes early on Sundays. (MIND)

34. The new rules will start to apply in January. (FORCE)

35. I think you are forming an opinion too quickly. (CONCLUSIONS)

36. She eventually accepted that she had lost her job. (TERMS)

37. He made a huge effort to keep the project a secret. (LENGTHS)

38. Many people don't appreciate clean water because it is always available. (GRANTED)

39. The two sides finally agreed. (CONSENSUS)

Answer key – Collocations (C1) – Worksheet 1

Exercise 1: Verb + noun collocations

1. **raise**
We say 'raise awareness' of an issue.
2. **draw**
'Draw comparisons' means to point out similarities or differences.
3. **meet**
You 'meet a deadline' when you finish on time.
4. **pose**
'Pose a threat' is the standard collocation for creating a danger.
5. **strike**
'Strike a balance' means to find a fair middle point.
6. **reach**
A group 'reaches a consensus' when everyone agrees.
7. **conduct**
'Conduct a survey' is the formal collocation for carrying out research.
8. **bear**
'Bear responsibility' means to accept that something is your duty or fault.

Exercise 2: Collocations and their meanings

9. **form an opinion too quickly without knowing all the facts**
You 'jump' to a conclusion before you have enough information.
10. **do something less carefully to save time or money**
Cutting corners means skipping steps to work faster or more cheaply.
11. **continue to feel angry with someone because of a past wrong**
A grudge is a lasting feeling of resentment.
12. **remember a fact when you are making a decision**
To bear something in mind is to keep it in your thoughts.
13. **say you support something without actually doing anything about it**
Lip service is support given only in words.
14. **fail to appreciate something because it is always there**
You take something for granted when you assume it will always be available.
15. **gradually accept a difficult situation**
This collocation describes slowly accepting something painful.
16. **make a great effort to achieve something**
Going to great lengths means trying very hard, often doing more than expected.

Exercise 3: Correct the collocation

17. **We need to do more research before we launch the product.**
We 'do' or 'carry out' research, not 'make' it.
18. **The man committed a crime and was sent to prison.**
The correct collocation is 'commit a crime'.
19. **The government has taken drastic measures to reduce pollution.**
We 'take measures', not 'make' them.
20. **There was heavy rain last night, so the roads are flooded.**
Rain is described as 'heavy', not 'strong'.
21. **I could tell from his face that he was telling a lie.**
We 'tell a lie', not 'say' one.
22. **The museum attracts a large number of visitors every summer.**
'Number' collocates with 'large', not 'big'.
23. **After a long discussion, the manager made a final decision.**
We 'make' or 'take' a decision, not 'do' one.
24. **Students should pay close attention to the safety instructions.**
The fixed phrase is 'pay attention to' something.

Exercise 4: Word forms in collocations

25. accepted

'Widely accepted' uses the past participle after the adverb.

26. overwhelming

'An overwhelming majority' means a very large majority.

27. grinding

'Come/bring to a grinding halt' means to stop slowly and completely.

28. disappointed

'Bitterly disappointed' describes how people feel, so we use the -ed adjective.

29. significant

'Make a significant contribution' needs an adjective before the noun.

30. unlikely

The storm suggests a negative meaning, so we need 'highly unlikely'.

31. disrepair

'Fall into disrepair' means to become in poor condition.

32. distinction

'Draw a distinction' needs the noun form.

Exercise 5: Rewrite with a collocation

33. Bear in mind that the shop closes early on Sundays.

'Bear/keep in mind' means to remember something important.

34. The new rules will come into force in January.

Laws and rules 'come into force' when they start to apply.

35. I think you are jumping to conclusions.

'Jump to conclusions' means to decide too quickly.

36. She eventually came to terms with losing her job.

The reviewer's answer was already accepted because 'came to terms with the fact that...' correctly uses the collocation, so the list now also covers 'having lost' and versions that begin with 'Eventually'.

37. He went to great lengths to keep the project a secret.

'Go to great lengths' means to make a great effort.

38. Many people take clean water for granted because it is always available.

'Take something for granted' means to fail to appreciate it.

39. The two sides finally reached a consensus.

'Reach a consensus' means that everyone agrees.

Notes for teachers: Start with Exercise 1 as a warm-up, then ask pairs to compare answers in Exercise 2 before checking as a class. A typical mistake is translating collocations directly from the first language, which leads to errors like 'make research' or 'say a lie', so draw attention to the verb in each pair. As a follow-up, ask learners to write a short opinion paragraph on a topic of their choice using at least six collocations from the worksheet.