COMMONLY USED COLLOCATIONS IN ENGLISH

Khudayberganova Madinabonu Qudratovna
English teacher at Foreign Language and literature department
Urgench State Pedagogical institute
Yusupova Dilnoza Raximboy qizi
Student of Urgench State Pedagogical institute,
Foreign Language and literature department

Abstract: *This article explains the reasons why learning collocations is significant and provides explained data with proper examples. In this article there is stated several ways how to find and learn collocations, how remember and use collocations on a regular basis.*

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What is a collocation?

In the world of acquiring English as a foreign language, language learners mostly pay a special attention to improving their language skills and more importantly their sub-skills. As the reason of that they would prefer to master vocabulary basis first of all along with grammatical structures and it shows that it is as essential as to be like native ones, such as on the pronunciation, flow of the speech and the usage of the language. In some points they are correct to be chosen based on the practice and data collection of the scholars, but sometimes it makes their way longer and harder in this language learning journey. However, improvement on the vocabulary by a student always makes their way as much as easier. This is because of the fact that they consider as important point to learn by heart and use the collocations and other chunks of the language

In English some words can fit together and others do not. For instance, it can be said "heavy traffic" but it is not right to use "hard traffic". It is function of a collocation to match two or more words together. There is given more examples for basic collocations in English: "do someone a favour, do someone's best, make a mistake, make the beds, get in, get confused, give someone a lift, give me a minute, have a break, have a big problem". These are examples for verb-based collocations. However, Make and Do are perfect examples of verbs that go together with specific <u>nouns</u>. A verb + noun combination that always go together are considered collocations. Generally, "make" refers to things that are made that weren't there before. "Do" refers to actions that we take or do such as chores.

Collocations with "Make"

make a cup of coffee / tea make noise make the bed make a business deal make a fuss make sense make time for someone

Collocations with "Do" do the laundry do the errands do business with someone do a chore do the shopping

Why Do Words Collocate?

There is often no reason for a collocation. People just put certain words together more often than they put other words together. In fact, the use of collocations has become popular in English and language teaching because of corpus linguistics. Corpus linguistics study huge volumes of data of spoken and written English to come up with statistics on how often people use certain words and word combinations. Through this study, corpus linguistics has been able to define what are strong and weak collocations.

Beare states (2020) about the collocations as that are used especially often in business English and there are dictionaries such as the Oxford Dictionary of Collocations that can help you learn these common collocations.

Collocations can be based on any part of speech:

Adjective + noun

Adverb + adjective

Noun + noun

To speak English fluently and naturally learners should pay attention to collocations.

How to find and learn collocations?

The best way to learn collocations is to do regular reading and listening practice in English. When reading a passage a reader can highlight or underline the collocations to understand and catch the meaning better. Additionally, it may be easier to remember it by this way. A collocation is a separate word that everyone should learn and remember. Because if somebody knows the word it does not mean that they know the collocations which include it.

There is not limit in terms of collocations. They can make other meaning by collocating a word with different ones, provided they should match together to make a collocation. The following are some collocations with "friends": make friends with someone, a good friend, best friend, a true friend, closest friend; "demanding": a demanding person, a demanding period, a demanding situation (There may be some other possibilities).

How to remember and use collocations?

Learning and remembering a collocation is the same as learning and remembering a simple word. It is better to read and learn collocations from authentic and real sources, for example reading from articles or books, listening to songs or podcasts, having a conversation with others. It may be useless to make long lists of vocabulary. It is better to learn the whole sentence whenever this sentence has a collocation. It is said to be lucrative to use a flashcard app like "Quizlet" or "Anki" to make a system of reviewing them regularly. Another good way could be to divide the collocations to various groups, for instance collocations to describe a person, collocations to describe a city, collocations about relationships. Finally, if the collocations on a certain topic are more than 10, it is possible to make a fluent speech with them.

Conclusion

Many collocations use the words that students are already familiar with. So it can be advantageous to spend more time on learning collocations not just for single words but combinations and phrases with them. By this way it may be more straightforward to learn to

use the vocabulary that everyone knows to express a wider range of ideas based on the point of view of the scientists.

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