

# SHORTCUT TO ENGLISH COLLOCATIONS

MASTER **2000+** ENGLISH  
COLLOCATIONS IN USED EXPLAINED  
UNDER **20** MINUTES A DAY



**RACHEL MITCHELL**

## **Shortcut To English Collocations**

Master 2000+ English Collocations In Used Explained Under 20 Minutes A  
Day

**(5 books in 1 Box set)**

**RACHEL MITCHELL**

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## Introduction

Collocations are the keys to use English more like a native speaker. Learning English Collocations may help students build essential vocabulary and learn to speak more fluent and natural-sounding English.

This book “Shortcut To English Collocations” presents and practices 2000+ collocations in used explained in typical contexts, topics, and in alphabetical order to help students improve their style of written and spoken English. The book is well designed and written by an experienced teacher who has been teaching English for more than 20 years to make sure that all the collocations inside are the most frequent and useful for students at each level.

As the author of this book, I believe that this book will be an indispensable reference and trusted guide for you who may want to use English words in a correct but natural way. Once you read this book, I guarantee you that you will have learned an extraordinarily wide range of useful, and practical English Collocations that will help you become a successful English learner, particularly in examinations such as Cambridge FCE, CAE, CPE, and IELTS; as well as you will even become a successful English user in work and in life within a short period of time only.

Thank you for downloading the book “*Shortcut To English Collocations: Master 2000+ English Collocations In Used Explained Under 20 Minutes A Day (5 books in 1 Box set)*”

Let's get started!

## What is a collocation?

A collocation is a pair or group of two or more words that are often used together by native speakers.

Here are some simple examples:

We say: **blond** hair (NOT ~~yellow~~ hair), **make** friends (NOT ~~get~~ friends).

We say: **make** mistakes (NOT ~~do~~ mistakes), **heavy** rain (NOT ~~strong~~ rain).

We say: a **fast** car (NOT a ~~quick~~ car), **do** homework (NOT ~~make~~ homework).

We say: a **quick** meal (NOT a ~~fast~~ meal), **make** an effort (NOT ~~do~~ an effort).

When we make mistakes with collocations, the listeners will usually understand us but our English won't sound natural because it's different from how a native speaker would talk. Therefore, if you want your English to sound natural like native speakers, you have to make efforts to learn collocations since they are difficult to guess.



## Why do you have to learn collocations?

Mastering collocations will help you:

- Use the English words more accurately.
- Sound more natural in your English speaking and writing.
- Gain higher scores in academic exams because you know how to express yourself in a variety of ways (vary your speech or your writing).
- Improve your comprehensive reading skills when you read academic books or articles which are written by skillful writers.

## Types of Collocation

1. **[Verb + Noun]:** launch a product, play a joke/trick, create opportunities, do homework, make the bed, abuse drugs, accept a challenge, accept an apology, commit murder, etc.
2. **[Verb + Verb]:** can't afford, can't help, can't stand, don't care, don't mind, keep going, make believe, etc.
3. **[Noun + Verb]:** phone rings, lion roars, the plane took off, the bomb went off, etc.
4. **[Noun + Noun]:** action movie, abuse of power, block of flats, contact details, desk job, interest rate, job opportunity, junk food, living conditions, etc.
5. **[Adjective + Noun]:** empty promise, tough question, alternative medicine, bad breath, bad temper, big brother, big money, regular exercise, clean energy, common knowledge, bright future, bright idea, broken home, casual clothes, etc.
6. **[Adjective + Adjective]:** boiling hot, neat and tidy, safe and sound, etc.
7. **[Adverb + Adjective]:** bitterly cold, badly hurt, bitterly disappointed, fully aware, utterly stupid, fast asleep, seriously ill, etc.
8. **[Adverb + Adverb]:** all along, almost certainly, far away, hardly ever, just now, long ago, quite a lot/a bit, right away, straight ahead, quite often, etc.
9. **[Verb + Adverb]:** become increasingly, arrive on time, eat properly, need badly, try hard, do likewise, fight hard, read aloud, whisper softly, vaguely remember, etc.
10. **Phrase:** burst into tears, run out of money, be filled with horror.

## COLLOCATIONS/A

***A streaming cold*** [*Adjective + Noun*] (*a heavy cold.*)

He's got a streaming cold.

She has caught a streaming cold.

She has been in bed with a streaming cold.

***A massive heart attack*** [*Adjective + Noun*] (*a very serious heart attack.*)

She died of a massive heart attack last year.

No one would like to suffer from a massive heart attack.

***Academic year*** [*Adjective + Noun*] (*the time during a year when the school is open and students are studying.*)

David is graduating at the end of the academic year with a bachelor degree in law.

The Opening of the Academic Year 2015-2016 took place on Monday.

***Attend a school*** [*Verb + Noun*] (*to go to a school.*)

It is important for children to attend a school.

Her daughter prefers to attend a school that provides education for females only.

***Ancient/ historic monument*** [*Adjective + Noun*] (*a very old building, especially one that is an important part of a country's history and is open to visitors*)

The ancient/ historic monument fell down during the bombing.

The ancient monument should be restored immediately.

There are many ancient/ historic monuments in my hometown.

***A decline in demand*** [*Noun + Noun*] (*a fall in demand.*)

There was a decline in demand for female services in some occupations.

An increase in automobile prices may lead to a decline in demand for gas.

**A surge of anger** [*Noun + Noun*] (a powerful rush of an emotion or feeling of anger.)

Susan felt a surge of anger.

Lucy felt a surge of anger as she watched her ex-husband enter the room with his new girlfriend.

**A sense of pride** [*Noun + Noun*] (a feeling of pleasure and satisfaction that you get when you, or someone connected with you, have done or achieved something good.)

She felt a sense of pride after she had finished the assignment.

Doing well in school gives students a sense of pride.

We have a sense of pride in our community.

**Absolutely/utterly ridiculous** [*Adverb + Adjective*] (very silly or completely unreasonable.)

He looked utterly ridiculous when he dressed like a teenager.

She looks absolutely ridiculous in that yellow hat.

**Absolutely/utterly stupid** [*Adverb + Adjective*] (very silly)

Jack was utterly stupid to quit his job like that.

His behavior was absolutely stupid.

**Absolutely/utterly impossible** [*Adverb + Adjective*] (very badly or is extremely difficult to deal with a situation; extremely difficult to achieve something.)

My cell phone is broken into so many pieces, it'll be absolutely impossible to put it back together again.

It is utterly impossible to dig since the ground is frozen hard.

It's absolutely impossible to climb that mountain.

**Absolutely/utterly wrong** [*Adverb + Adjective*] (completely wrong/incorrect)

His answer for that question was absolutely wrong.

That clock is utterly wrong - it's 10.30, not 2.15.

**Absolutely/utterly alone** [*Adverb + Adjective*] (if someone is absolutely/utterly alone, there is no one else with him/her.)

He was absolutely alone in the house.

She has been utterly alone since her husband died.

**Absolutely/utterly convinced** [*Adverb + Verb*] (completely sure or certain that something is true)

She is utterly convinced of her husband's innocence.

I'm absolutely convinced that he is lying.

**Absolutely/utterly devastated** [*Adverb + Verb*] (extremely upset and shocked; very sad or unhappy)

He was absolutely devastated when the doctor told him the news.

Susan was utterly devastated when her husband died.

**Absolutely/utterly miserable** [*Adverb + Adjective*] (extremely unhappy or uncomfortable)

They were cold, wet, hungry and utterly miserable.

Jane is absolutely miserable living on her own.

**Absolutely necessary** [*Adverb + Adjective*] (totally or completely essential or needed to do something, provide something, or make something happen.)

The operation is absolutely necessary for him at the moment.

He doesn't want to be disturbed unless something is absolutely necessary.

**Abuse drugs** [*Verb + Noun*] (to use illegal drugs in a way that is harmful to your health)

Bill has abused drugs for over 5 years.

He died early due to abusing drugs for many years.

**Abuse of power** [*Noun + Noun*] (the harmful, unethical or improper use of authority by someone who has that authority.)

He was charged with abuse of power to keep prices artificially high.

The president was accused of abusing his power after ordering soldiers to shoot at protesters.

**Accept (a) defeat** [*Verb + Noun*] (to accept the fact that you cannot succeed in doing something and stop trying to do it.)

He finally had to accept a defeat.

Tom thought he couldn't win the game, so he had to accept a defeat.

**Accept a challenge** [*Verb + Noun*] (to agree to do something difficult or dangerous that needs a lot of skill, energy, and determination to deal with or achieve, especially something you have never done before.)

It's possible that peter will accept the challenge to be the captain of the football team.

Tom accepted the challenge to climb the high mountain.

**Accept an apology** [*Verb + Noun*] (to forgive someone who says they're sorry for doing something wrong or for causing a problem.)

They accepted his apologies since his mistake was not serious.

Paul refused to accept his wife's apology and said he wanted a divorce.

**Accept an invitation** [*Verb + Noun*] (to agree to spend time with someone socially or to come to a social event after getting an invitation.)

Most of the people he invited to his birthday party were happy to accept his invitation.

Tom accepted an invitation to the party.

**Accept responsibility** [*Verb + Noun*] (to take the blame for something bad that has happened.)

He refuses to accept responsibility for the mistake.

Mark accepted responsibility for the failure of the deal.

**Alternative energy** [*Adjective + Noun*] (power or electricity produced by using energy from moving water, wind, the sun, and gas from animal waste.)

It is very important to use alternative energy.

Alternative energy sources include water, wind, the sun, etc.

**Alternative medicine** [*Adjective + Noun*] (medical treatments using natural substances and traditional knowledge such as homeopathy and acupuncture, plants instead of artificial drugs and modern surgery.)

Alternative medicine includes treatments such as homeopathy and acupuncture and hypnotherapy.

A practitioner of alternative medicine gave her some acupuncture and Chinese herbs.

**Answer the door** [*Verb + Noun*] (to go and open the door after someone knocks or rings the doorbell.)

As soon as she heard someone knock, Jessica jumped out of the bed and answered the door.

No-one answered the door although he rang the doorbell many times.

**Answer the phone** [*Verb + Noun*] (to pick up a phone that's ringing and talk to the person calling)

It took him 15 minutes to answer the phone

I called his number, but he didn't answer the phone.

**Ask a question** [*Verb + Adverb*] (to ask somebody to tell you something when you want information.)

The police asked him questions all day.

If you want to ask a question, please raise your hand.

**Ask for advice** [*Verb + Noun*] (to ask someone about what you should do or how you should act in a particular situation.)

Don't be afraid to ask your teacher for advice on how to prepare for the exam.

Why don't you ask your brother for some advice? He knows all about English.

**Note:** related collocations include "ask for help" and "ask for suggestions"

**Ask for directions** [*Verb + Noun*] (to ask somebody to show you the way to a particular place.)

If you don't know which way to go, you can ask for directions.

Her house was not easy to find, I had to ask someone for directions.

**Ask permission** [*Verb + Noun*] (to ask someone in authority, such as your boss, teacher, parent, etc. To give you the right to do something.)

She always asks her boss's permission for all major expenditure.

Children should ask their parents' permission before playing games.

**Above average** [*Adverb + Adjective*] (more than average; higher or better than the usual amount or level esp. In amount, age, height, weight, etc.)

The teacher said that her children are of above average intelligence.

She is above average height.

**Advertising campaign** [*Noun + Noun*] (a series of advertisements that will be used to promote a product or service.)

The advertising campaign has generated a lot of sales for our company.

We've just launched our new nationwide advertising campaign.

**Achieve a goal** [*Verb + Noun*] (to do something that you'd planned or hoped to achieve.)



I think she will be able to achieve her goal of losing ten kilos before Christmas.

He hasn't yet reached his goal of buying the house of 1 million dollars.

**Active ingredient** [*Adjective + Noun*] (the chemically active part of a drug, medicine or pesticide that makes it work.)

What's the active ingredient in this chemical compound?

Do you know what the active ingredient in aspirin is?

**Admit defeat** [*Verb + Noun*] (to accept that you can't achieve a goal or succeed in doing something and stop trying to do it.)

He never admits defeat before a game's over, no matter how far behind he is.

Mark couldn't fix the car himself, so he admitted defeat and called a mechanic.

**Against the law** [*Adjective + Noun*] (illegal; not allowed by the law/rules)

Selling drugs is against the law.

It will be against the law if you park your car here overnight.

**All along** [*Adverb + Adverb*] (all the time; from the very beginning)

I think she's been cheating us all along.

He realized it was in his pocket all along.

He knew all along that it wasn't her real name.

**Almost certainly** [*Adverb + Adverb*] (almost definitely)

I think Susan will almost certainly get the job.

Without operation, he will almost certainly die.

**Alphabetical order** [*Adjective + Noun*] (an order based on the letters of an alphabet, with "a" being the first and "z" being the last in English.)

He neatly arranged his books in alphabetical order.

The children put the words in alphabetical order.

**Not...anymore/ any longer** *adverb + adverb* to say that a situation has ended or someone has stopped doing something

I couldn't wait any longer.

She doesn't want to see him anymore.

They don't live there anymore. They've already moved to New York.

**Apply for a job** *[Verb + Noun]* (to make an official request for a job)

He has applied for many jobs this week.

It's really hard to get this job because so many people apply for it.

**Arrive on time** *[Verb + Adverb]* (to arrive at the correct time and not late.)

The plane arrived was on time.

Don't worry, David will arrive on time.

**Attract attention** *[Verb + Noun]* (to make someone notice you or something)

Movies with excellent actors and actresses always attract great attention.

He has tried to attract her attention, but she hasn't noticed him yet.

**An awful lot** *[Adjective + Noun]* (a very large amount)

His wife has spent an awful lot of money on clothes these days.

John is a famous lawyer. He gets an awful lot of clients.

**Ancient history** *[Adjective + Noun]* (things that happened a long time ago and no longer new, interesting, important or relevant.)

We are studying ancient history.

My father and my grandfather are very interested in ancient history.

The origins of these customs are still unknown. They lost somewhere in ancient history.

**Antique jewelry** [*Adjective + Noun*] (*jewelry that is old and valuable.*)

My mom is interested in collecting antique jewelry.

My uncle became rich from selling antique jewelry.

**Aisle seat** [*Noun + Noun*] (*a seat in a train, plane which is next to an aisle.*)

Would you like an aisle seat or a window seat?

I'd like an aisle seat in the smoking section, please.

**Attend classes** [*Verb + Noun*] (*to go regularly to classes.*)

Many students attend classes all day and work all night.

If you attend classes regularly, you will be making good progress.

**Aches and pains** [*Noun + Noun*] (*minor pains that are continuous and unpleasant due to physical work or old age, but usually not very serious.*)

His grandma complains about all her aches and pains in her back and shoulders usually.

Tom is tired of hearing about all her grandma's aches and pains.

You might have all sorts of aches and pains when you get older.

**Action movie** [*Noun + Noun*] (*a film/movie that contains lots of action and violence*)

Jack has loved action movies since he was a teenager.

Action movies and horror films are my favourite genres.

**Apartment block** [*Noun + Noun*] (*a large building that's divided into many apartments/flats.*)

They live in an apartment block just down the street.

There was a fire in that apartment block but luckily no one got hurt.

**A slave to fashion** [*Noun + Noun*] (*someone who is influenced too much by fashion.*)

Unlike most young people, I'm not a slave to fashion.

Are you a slave to fashion?

**Adoring fans** [*Adjective + Noun*] (*fans who show much love to a particular band or singer.*)

The band used to be worshiped by adoring fans all over the world.

The movie star is mobbed by adoring fans wherever he goes.

**Air quality** [*Noun + Noun*] (*a measurement of the cleanliness of the air in a particular place.*)

The air quality in our area has become worse in the last few months.

The local authority must take measures to improve the city's air quality.

**Advertising agency** [*Noun + Noun*] (*a company that creates, plans, and handles advertisements for its clients.*)

Peter works for an advertising agency in London.

His advertising agency was established in 2005 in New York.

**Advertising budget** [*Noun + Noun*] (*the amount of money a company is willing to pay for advertising.*)

Our company's advertising budget has increased dramatically recently.

His company spent most of the advertising budget on YouTube and Facebook.

**Arms dealer** [*Noun + Noun*] (*a person or an organization that sells military weapons.*)

He wishes to become a leading international arms dealer.

The suspected arms dealers were arrested in Florida.

**Acute illness** [*Adjective + Noun*] (any illness that develops quickly. It may be severe and last a relatively short period of time.)

She died of an acute illness.

Her father dropped dead of an acute illness.

**Air/sea/rail/bus/coach/car travel** [*Noun + Noun*] (the activity of travelling by air/sea/rail/bus/coach/car.)

Air travel is fast, but sea travel is restful.

Car travel is worse than train travel.

**Act within the law** [*Verb + Noun*] (not do illegal things)

The police officers must act within the law.

Doctors and lawyers must act within the law.

**Appear in court** [*Verb + Noun*] (to go to a court of law.)

Mr. Johnson will appear in court on Tuesday next week.

She was summoned to appear in court to give testimony.

**Ask a favor** [*Verb + Noun*] (to ask somebody to do something for you because you need their help, support or approval of something.)

Can/could/may I ask you a favor?

I would like to ask a favor of you.

**A tough choice** [*Adjective + Noun*] (a difficult choice.)

It was a tough choice for him between two firms he really enjoyed.

This was a tough choice for her to make on her own, even if she was already twenty-five.

It was a tough choice for her to choose between the two universities, and at last, she chose Harvard.