

collocation

Adjective Collocations

B1 – B2

Module 3

Here's What
We Will Be
Learning:



Summary

- ❑ What Is A Collocation?
- ❑ Types Of Adjective Collocations.
- ❑ Exercises.

What Is A Collocation?

A collocation refers to two or more words that tend to be used together by native speakers of a language. Today, we are going to learn about some common collocations used with adjectives.

NOTE: There are no specific rules for these collocations. However, it is important to learn some common ones.

collocations

Word partnerships or words that are commonly used together by native speakers.

Word + **Word** = Collocation

Types Of Adjective Collocations

In this topic, we are going to learn about three types of collocations with adjectives:

- 1) Adverb + Adjective
- 2) Adjective + Noun
- 3) Adjective + Preposition

1] Adverb + Adjective:

There are some words that can be used with adjectives, instead of “very” or “extremely”.

For example:

Highly controversial (=very/extremely controversial)

Deeply offended (=very/extremely offended)

Bitterly disappointed (=very/extremely disappointed)

COLLOCATIONS

adverbs + adjectives

a pair or group of words that are often used together

collocation



These collocations use adverbs to make the adjective stronger.



ridiculously easy

This test is ridiculously easy! I didn't even study, but I will get a high score.



utterly ridiculous

That's utterly ridiculous. Ben didn't steal your favorite pen from work yesterday. He wasn't even in the office yesterday.



highly successful

Janet is a highly successful businesswoman. She owns several restaurants and hotels around the country.



deeply concerned

Are you okay? I am deeply concerned about you. You have been depressed since you lost your job.

strongly opposed

Roger is strongly opposed to anything bad for his health. He doesn't eat junk food and doesn't drink or smoke.

It is often not easy for a non-native speaker to figure out which adverb will be used with which adjective. Some adverbs occur quite often before some adjectives.

For example:

Perfectly normal (=very normal)

Bitterly ashamed / cold (NOT bitterly successful)

Highly successful / motivated (NOT highly divided/grateful/cold)

Deeply divided / grateful (NOT deeply developed)

Richly decorated (The house was **richly decorated**.)

Fully aware (I am **fully aware** of the consequences of my actions.)

2] Adjective + Noun:

There are many adjectives that are used to describe a noun.

For example:

a) **Strong / real / distinct possibility** (=very possible)

b) **Chilly day / chilly reception** (=very cold day/very cold reception)

c) **Rich culture / vocabulary / history** (=very interesting and full of variety)

Rich sauce / cake / food (=containing a lot of fat, butter, eggs, etc. and making you feel full quickly)

d) **Heavy book / suitcase / load** (=weighing a lot)

Heavy traffic / rain / snow (=worse than usual)

A heavy coat / sweater (=made of a thick material or substance)

e) **Strong coffee / cheese** (=having a lot of flavour)

Strong smell / taste / colour / accent (=easy to see, hear, feel or smell)

3] Adjective + Prepositions:

As with all the collocations, there is no general rule about which preposition is used after which adjective. We simply need to learn them.

Here we have some common adjective + preposition examples:

Nice / kind / good / stupid / silly / intelligent / clever / sensible of (=It was **nice/kind/good of** you to help her.)

Nice / kind / good / (im)polite / rude / (un)pleasant / (un)friendly / cruel to (=She was always very **rude/unfriendly to** Anne.)

Pleased / disappointed / satisfied with (=I was **pleased with** the present you gave me.)

Married to someone (=Linda is **married to** an American.)

Sorry about something (=I'm **sorry about** the noise last night.)

Keen on something (=We stayed at home because Mary wasn't very **keen on** going out in the rain.)

Exercise 1

Choose the word that collocates with the word in **colour** and write down the complete sentences.

1) I was tired, so I drank some coffee. Now I'm _____ **awake**.

- a) Wide b) Highly

2) I was not expecting a raise, so I was _____ **surprised** when I got one.

- a) Joyfully b) Pleasantly

3) Some people will undoubtedly be a few minutes late. There is really _____ **traffic** today.

- a) Strong b) Heavy

4) Last year, it was bitterly cold, but this year we are having a _____ **winter**.

- a) Soft b) Weak

5) I had a _____ **lunch** and now I'm getting hungry.

- a) Light b) Weak

6) There was a _____ **smell** all around the old house.

- a) Harsh b) Strong

7) You need to be able to keep a _____ **head**. You mustn't lose your temper.

- a) Cool b) Cold

8) Everyone was **surprised** _____ the news.

- a) At b) By

Collocate



Strong tea/coffee

Tall tree

Heavy rain

Rich taste

Big mistake

Great fun

Sweet dreams

Don't Collocate



Powerful tea/coffee

High tree

Weighty rain

Deep taste

Large mistake

Big fun

Nice dreams

9) The letter was **full** _____ mistakes.

- a) On b) Of

10) Who is **responsible** _____ this mess?

- a) To b) For

Exercise 2

1) Which of the following Adverb + Adjective collocations is not possible? Write down which is the correct collocation.

I) a) Happily married

b) Strongly married

II) a) Fully stupid

b) Utterly stupid

III) a) Bitterly warm

b) Bitterly cold

2) Add an adverb that means “very” in front of each of the words, then write complete sentences using the collocations you have made.

For example: **Very** qualified = **highly** qualified. (She’s **highly qualified** for the job.)

a) Exhausted

b) Unexpected

c) Prepared

d) Greedy

e) Grateful

Exercise 3

1) Identify the **adjective collocations** from the following sentences and **write another sentence (having an adjective collocation)** using each **adjective**:

- 1) Take your jacket with you, it is a very chilly night.
- 2) She has a rich vocabulary.
- 3) The doctor ordered him to take regular exercise.
- 4) A strong wind was blowing.
- 5) John was tall with heavy features.