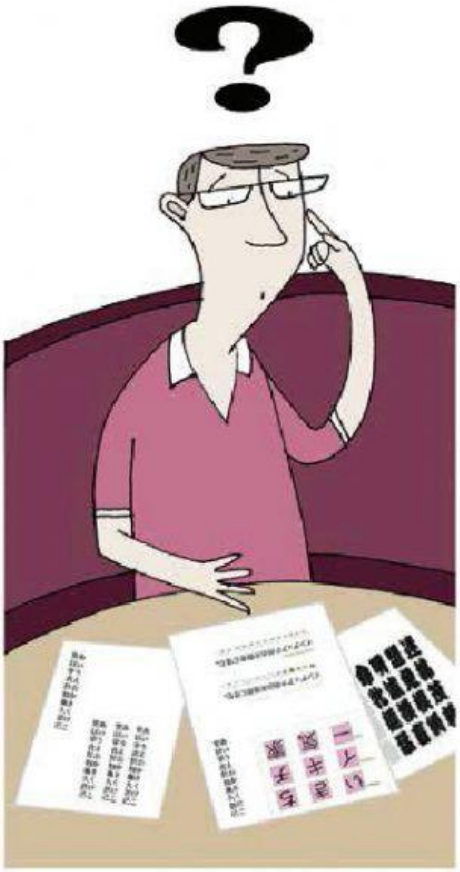
Vocabulary: Collocations



1 Complete each of the gaps with one of the nouns from the box.

challenge	success	motivation
ambition	failure	

a The film *Star Wars* **was an overnight** _____ .
b I **have a burning** _____ **to** travel to Australia.
c When pupils tire of studying, a system of rewards can help **increase student** _____ .
d Sadly, my attempts to learn Japanese **met with complete** _____ .
e The government **faces the formidable** _____ **of** reducing unemployment.

2 In exercise **1**, the words in **bold** are 'collocates' of the nouns you wrote. This means that they are often used together with those nouns. Write a new sentence for each noun, using the collocates in **bold**. The sentences must be true.

3 Compare and discuss your sentences with another student.

4 In sentence **e** in exercise **1**, the verb *face* collocates with *challenge*. Which of the five nouns do each of the following pairs of verbs collocate with?

fulfil / realize — a/an _____
achieve / enjoy — _____
take up / rise to — a/an _____
end in / result in — _____
improve / lack — _____

5 The adjective *formidable* also collocates with *challenge*. All three words in each of the groups below can be used in combination with one of the nouns from exercise **1**. Write an appropriate noun in each of the spaces.

a major/new/daunting _____
b secret/lifelong/main _____
c total/continued/dismal _____
d huge/great/resounding _____
e high/strong/poor _____

6 Study the collocations in this section for two minutes, then close your book and write down as many as you can remember. Compare your results with your partner's.

LIVEWORKSHEETS