

Useful Collocations

Match the collocations in A with the definitions in B.

A	B
(1) to become widespread	(a) to change a great deal
(2) environmental degradation	(b) to have a bad effect on something
(3) to adversely affect	(c) the destruction of the environment
(4) to vary considerably	(d) to become common over a wide area

A	B
(1) preferential treatment	(a) a situation where everyone has the same opportunities to do something
(2) equal opportunities	(b) when a subject causes disagreements and arguments
(3) highly controversial	(c) a big problem
(4) a major challenge	(d) when a person is given special treatment and privileges

A	B
(1) markedly different	(a) to be treated worse than other people are for no good reason
(2) a rapid expansion	(b) a sudden increase
(3) to seem plausible	(c) very different
(4) to face discrimination	(d) to appear to be possible

A	B
(1) foreign investment	(a) to know new things
(2) unintended consequences	(b) almost everyone or everything
(3) the vast majority	(c) the effects of doing something that you didn't expect to happen
(4) to acquire knowledge	(d) the money invested in a country by other countries

A	B
(1) pioneering work	(a) when someone is given money to help them pay for something
(2) financial assistance	(b) quite new
(3) relatively recent	(c) much better than before
(4) a significant improvement	(d) groundbreaking work that paves the way for future developments

A	B
(1) a causal link	(a) to continue learning throughout your life
(2) lifelong learning	(b) believed to be true by everyone everywhere
(3) universally accepted	(c) just coming into existence now
(4) newly emerging	(d) when one thing causes something else to happen

Complete the gaps in the sentences below using the collocations above. You might have to change the form of the words so that they fit into the sentence grammatically.

1. The government is trying to promote_____. They believe that people should continue studying when they leave school.
2. Mastering a foreign language can be a_____. It requires hard work and dedication.

3. Staying up late the night before an exam can_____you performance in it.
It is a much better idea to get a good night's sleep so that you are fresh in the morning and can perform well in the exam.
4. It has been shown that there is a_____between smoking and lung cancer.
5. It is widely accepted that men and women should have_____and that there should be no discrimination in the employment market.
6. Income distribution throughout the world _____. In some countries there is a wide gap between the rich and the poor.
7. It is hard to believe that the internet is a_____development. It was not widespread until the turn of the last century.
8. The_____of people these days own a mobile phone. There are not many people who don't have one.
9. The landscape in the Netherlands, where it is very flat, is_____from the landscape in Switzerland, where it is very mountainous.
10. Some things have _____. In the past, people did not realise how pollution would affect the environment.
11. The purpose of education should not just be to _____, but also to enable people to think critically.
12. _____have been made to mobile phones in recent years. The phones of today are almost unrecognisable from those of forty years ago, which were very simple.