

99 Words that go together

1 Verb + noun

Here are some common examples of verbs and nouns that go together:

VERB	NOUN
do	the housework the dishes the cleaning your homework an exercise
make	dinner a mistake a noise the beds friends
take	an exam a test a photo
pass/fail	an exam a test
play	a sport a game
drive	a car
ride	a bike a horse

*I often listen to the radio while I **do the dishes**.*

*Can you **ride a bike**?*

*I haven't **taken my driving test** yet.*

A few verbs and nouns that go together usually have a preposition after them (e.g. *take care of*, *take part in*, *make friends with*):

*Have you **made friends with** anyone in your new class?*

*Can you **take care of** the baby while I go to the shops?*



Carla was **good at** cleaning.
The hotel manager was always
pleased with her work.

2 Adjective + noun

Some adjectives and nouns go together:

*a **strong** swimmer* = a person who can swim very well

*a **good** driver* = a person who can drive very well (~~X a strong driver~~)

Here are some common examples:

*smart clothes, a smart suit, a tall building, a high wall, a heavy smoker, heavy rain,
a light meal/lunch/dinner, a strong smell, a hard worker*

*I usually have a **light meal** at lunchtime.*

*You should wear a **smart suit** for that job interview.*

These are often different in other languages, so it is best to check in a good dictionary.

3 Adjective + preposition

We often use a preposition after an adjective and before the noun that follows it:

FEELINGS	ABILITIES	BEHAVIOUR	OTHERS
afraid of angry with excited about interested in pleased with worried about	good at bad at	kind to nice to	different from famous for

*Carla was **good at** cleaning. The hotel manager was always **pleased with** her work.*

*Paris is **famous for** its beautiful buildings.*

When we put a verb after the preposition we use the -ing form:

*I'm really **bad at** cooking. Are you **excited about** going on holiday?*

Practice

1 Match the two parts of the sentences.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 0 1 I recently learnt how to ride | → A a car. |
| 2 I don't know how to drive | → B a bike. |
| 1 1 Have you taken | A the exam? |
| 2 Did you do | B your homework? |
| 2 1 She's very good | A for delicious food. |
| 2 France is famous | B at cooking. |
| 3 1 Kristof is a hard | A swimmer. |
| 2 Lizzie is a strong | B worker. |
| 4 1 I'm very excited | A in the news. |
| 2 I'm not very interested | B about the news. |
| 5 1 Sue's worried | A of the dark. |
| 2 Sally's afraid | B about her job. |

2 GRAMMAR IN USE Complete the conversation with words from the box. There are three extra words.

about at done for from hard in made of pass smart strong taken with

- SOPHIE How are the children, Anna?
- ANNA Oh, fine. Steven's just (0) *taken* a science exam.
- SOPHIE Did he (1) it?
- ANNA Yes, he got 88 percent. He's always been good (2) science.
- SOPHIE And how's Carrie? How's she getting on at her new school?
- ANNA Very well. Of course, it's very different (3) her old school, but she seems very interested (4) the lessons and she's (5) friends with lots of the other children.
- SOPHIE That's good.
- ANNA What about you? Are you still working with children?
- SOPHIE Yes. I'm taking care (6) three young children at the moment. By the way, that's a very (7) suit you're wearing. Are you going somewhere special?
- ANNA Yes, I'm going for a job interview. I'm really excited (8) it.
- SOPHIE I'm sure you'll get it. Everyone knows you're a (9) worker.
- Well, I must hurry. I haven't even (10) the dishes yet!

3 Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first. Use one, two or three words.

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| 0 That building has many floors. | It's <i>a tall</i> building. |
| 1 Jim can swim very well. | Jim is swimmer. |
| 2 Mandy doesn't eat much for lunch. | Mandy prefers lunch. |
| 3 John didn't pass the exam. | John |
| 4 Uncle Leroy smokes a lot. | Uncle Leroy is |
| 5 Sara's boss made her angry. | Sara was her boss. |
| 6 Your book isn't the same as mine. | Your book mine. |