



VOCABULARY: COLLOCATION(WORD PAIRS)



Word pairs

Some pairs of words in English that go together always come in a certain order, for example we always say "Ladies and Gentlemen" at the beginning of a speech, but never the other way around, and we always say "black and white" not "white and black." This order may sometimes be different in your language.

a How do you say "Ladies and Gentlemen" and "black and white" in your language? Are the words in the same order?

c Look at some common word pairs joined with *or*. What is the second word?

wrong / later / twice / nothing / less / never /
alive

Right or _____

sooner or _____

dead or _____

Now or _____

all or _____

More or _____

once or _____

e Match the word pair idioms with their meanings.

- I'm **sick and tired** of hearing you complain. _____
- I didn't buy much, just a few **odds and ends**. _____
- I've been having headaches **now and then**. _____
- A. what are you making for lunch? B. **Wait and see**. _____
- Every relationship needs some **give and take**. _____
- We've had our **ups and downs**, but now we get along really well. _____

7. The National Guard was called in to restore **law and order**. _____

8. Despite flying through a storm, we arrived **safe and sound**. _____

A good times and bad times

E compromise

B a situation in which the law is obeyed

F occasionally

C fed up with

G small things

D without problem on injury

H you'll find out soon

b Check (✓) A, B, or C to complete the sentences.

Example: There were some odds and _____ in the garage that I didn't want to throw out.

A ends ☒ B bits C pieces

1 Sooner or _____ you'll realize you've made the wrong decision.

A never B later C less

2 I'm looking for a good _____ for a couple of nights.

A breakfast and bed B room and breakfast C bed and breakfast

3 I'm really sick and _____ of never having enough money.

A fed up B bored C tired

4 We have plenty of ups and _____ in our relationship, but we're still together.

A lows B downs C highs

5 The park near my house is a lovely place to get some _____.

A peace and quiet B quiet or peace C quiet and peace

6 I like my job on the whole, but _____ I wonder if I should look for a new one.

A now or again B now and again C again and now

7 I have to ask her out today – it's now or _____.

A later B never C nothing

8 I found some interesting _____ in the attic that belonged to my grandparents.

A pieces and bits B pieces or bits C bits and pieces

9 The children were missing for six hours but turned up safe and _____.

A sound B well C alive

10 You can't have everything your way. Life is all about give and _____.

A allow B let C take

AWESOME!

