

1

WHAT ARE COLLOCATIONS?

Collocations in the news

Collocations are words that go together, often in ways that we do not expect. Collocations go together more than they would by chance: they **belong** together. In the following exercises, we look at the way we choose word partners to help us make natural sounding sentences.

Study tip

The collocations in this part of the unit are often used in news reports. Try to look out for other collocations when you read the newspaper or watch the news on TV.

- 1 Find two words in each box that form collocations with the words 1–10 in bold. Use a dictionary to help you if necessary.

heavy • ~~sustain~~ • serious • obtain • establish • soft

- 1 sustain
2 _____ **injuries**

heavy • change • move • easy • level • divert

- 3 _____
4 _____ **traffic**

heavy • major • exist • pose • large • challenge

- 5 a _____
6 _____ a **threat**

heavy • strong • start • brutal • launch • operate

- 7 _____ an
8 a _____ **attack**

heed • see • find • listen • notify • ignore

- 9 _____
10 _____ **warnings**

- 2 Match the collocations in Exercise 1 to the definitions 1–10.

- 1 to be something that may cause danger or difficulty *pose a threat*
2 to start to criticise or harm someone
3 bad damage to someone's body
4 to listen when someone tells you that something bad might happen
5 to make cars, lorries, etc., take a different route
6 a very serious danger or difficulty
7 a very violent act which hurts someone
8 to be physically harmed
9 a lot of cars, lorries, etc.
10 not to listen when someone tells you something bad might happen

CLASSROOM EXTRA

Divide your students into groups and ask them to come up with collocations they already know. If necessary, prompt them with simple collocations e.g. *drive a car, clean your teeth, a sunny day*. You could turn this into a competition by giving the class a set time to do this. The group with the most collocations wins.

- 3 Find the collocations you have learned above in newspaper articles 1–4 and underline them.

1

Girl attacked

Police are hunting for two youths they believe may be responsible for a brutal attack on a teenage girl last week. Amy Whitehead was repeatedly punched in the face and sustained injuries that needed hospital treatment. A police spokesperson said, 'It is astonishing that an attack like this can happen in daylight, in a busy street. These people pose a threat to the public and must be caught.'

2

GREEN CAMPAIGNERS SAY NO TO CHEAP FLIGHTS

Environmental campaigners yesterday launched an attack on airline companies for offering cut-price flights to popular holiday destinations. One of them told us, 'We have seen how fast the ice caps are melting. If we ignore these warnings for the sake of a cheap holiday, our children and grandchildren will suffer.' Holiday makers disagreed. 'The weather here is so miserable, we need to get away!' said one.

3

Flood drama in local village

Residents in the village of Little Brook who failed to heed warnings of flooding found themselves trapped yesterday when more than six inches of rain fell in just three hours. Police had to divert traffic after roads were closed by the floods, and many home owners battled to keep the water out of their houses. A woman was taken to hospital with serious injuries when a tree fell on the car she was driving.

4

TRAFFIC THREAT TO SHOPPING STREET

Shopkeepers say that heavy traffic is putting off visitors to the picturesque village of East Chipping. Three hundred people have signed a petition asking for a bypass. 'We want people to enjoy shopping in a pleasant and peaceful environment,' said Glyn Evans, owner of a shop selling fishing equipment. 'The current levels of traffic are a major threat to our businesses.'

- 4 Complete the sentences using the collocations you have learned above. Make sure you use the correct form of the verbs.

- Two youths carried out a _____ on Amy Whitehouse.
- She had to go to hospital because of the _____, she _____.
- While the youths who attacked Amy are free, they _____ a _____ to all of us.
- Green campaigners have _____ an _____ on companies who encourage people to fly more.
- There may be terrible consequences if we _____ about global warming.
- Some people in Little Brook were trapped in their homes because they did not _____ about the floods.
- Police _____ around Little Brook because some of the roads were flooded.
- When a tree fell on a car in Little Brook, the driver sustained _____.
- People do not want to shop in streets where there is _____.
- Heavy traffic is a _____ to shops in East Chipping.