

# 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.

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 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.                    |