FCE Unit 2

Vocabulary development—beyond topic sets—is essential for the B2 level. Word formation, phrasal verbs and collocations are all important areas, so practice with these skills will be present in each lesson. (A FCE wordlist sent will be sent with this lesson.)

What follows is an exercise on collocations, which are words that commonly go together—for example *bitterly disappointed*. The habit among English-speakers is to describe disappointment with "bitterly". Because collocations are words that are habitually put together—that is, not linked because of a grammatical need—you must memorize these collocations. Strong collocations like the following are tested in the exam.

Form common collocations by matching the verb with the correct nouns from the box.

advantage	conclusion	crime	fortune
goal	interest	money	problem

a) solve _____ _____
b) spend _____ _____
c) reach _____ _____
d) take _____ _____

Ok, now let's **review the present tenses**. Identify the tense of the underlined verb in the following sentences by selecting it from the drop-down list, and then complete the sentences that summarize the rules by writing the tense name and the letter of the pertinent example in the blanks.

a) The little guy <u>jogs along</u> endlessly at a slow rate.
b) While <u>you're gathering</u> your thoughts, you can enjoy the background music.
c) It's a shame that the gun <u>resets</u> to weak with each new level.
d) Games of this type <u>are becoming</u> more and more complex.

The present _____ tense is used for permanent situations [example: _____] or to talk about actions which are habitual or repeated [example: _____].

The present _____ tense is used for temporary situations [example: _____] or for situations that are changing or developing [example: _____] .

Choose the correct present tense for each of these sentences, using the verbs in brackets.

a My new game is sensational – as soon as you ..... a level, you ..... something completely different to do. (finish, get)

b Generally, online customer support ....., though some computer manuals are still not accessible enough for users. (improve)

c The developers ..... a number of bugs in their latest app. (deal with)

d In the latest version, a dragon ..... overhead and ..... when you ..... it. (fly, explode, hit)

e The company ..... an interface to allow users to personalise their documents. (develop)

f Back-up copies ..... time to prepare, but they are essential. (take)

g Whenever you ....., the system ..... you to enter your password and then it ..... a random security question. (log on, require, generate)

h If a computer ....., you ..... the file you ..... on unless you ..... it regularly. (crash, lose, work, save)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Back to vocabulary, specifically **word formation**... Learn to recognize words that are formed from a common base word and record them together to help you remember them. For example, at B2 you should know the noun *truth*, the adjective *true* and the adverb *truly*. Word formation using prefixes and suffixes is tested in the exam. You will also need to know some words with negative prefixes, as in this word family: *happiness, unhappiness; happy, unhappy; happily, unhappily*. Many nouns have a related adjective formed with the suffix *-y*, as shown at the end of the dictionary example for *nerd*.

nerd /nɜːd/ *noun* [C] *informal* someone, especially a man, who is not fashionable and who is interested in boring things • **nerdy** *adjective informal* boring and not fashionable

The FC exam contains an exercise on word formation similar to the one below. There are two key skills in this exercise: (1) identifying the type of word—noun, verb, adjective, adverb—needed in each blank and (2) knowing how to change the base word to create the required word. Remember from PET: suffixes change the word type; prefixes change meaning—usually from affirmative to negative, as in the examples with *happy* above. [Review the chart of affixes and their functions that I sent last year.]

Use the word given in CAPITALS to form a word that fits in the blank. There is one example. Use the context to determine which word type is needed. (Tips are below the exercise.)

Tablet computers are growing in **(0)** *POPULARITY* . They generally weigh far less than laptops and are much more **(1)** ..... for people on the move. Many **(2)** ..... that are developed for tablets incorporate a pen-friendly user interface and/or the **(3)** ..... to handwrite directly into a document. They are very **(4)** ..... when it comes to viewing photo slideshows or movies, though reading books **(5)** ..... on a tablet can be **(6)** ..... , depending on the screen display.

0 POPULAR

1 ACCESS

2 APPLY

3 ABLE

4 IMPRESS

5 ELECTRONIC

6 TRICK

Remember:

- Nouns are often signaled by articles (*a, an, the*) and adjectives.
- Typical sentence order in English is S—V—O, so if the blank follows the subject, a verb is probably needed.
- Adjectives come before nouns, and they may be signaled by adverbs of degree (e.g., *very* or *more*).
- Adverbs typically describe actions—answering the question "how?"—but they can also modify/amplify other word types.
- Nouns always follow a preposition (as in the example).
- English and Spanish have many cognates. The fact can often guide you.

LIVEWORKSHEETS