

attention

1 Verb collocations

Use the correct form of these verbs:

need pay get have hold

1. Children often misbehave in order to attention.
2. The play was disappointing. It didn't my attention for very long.
3. Can I your attention, please? I have an important announcement to make.
4. Babies a lot of care and attention.
5. As a caring society I think we need to more attention to the elderly.

First underline the verb collocations in the following. Then divide them into two groups: those meaning 'give attention to something' and those meaning 'something gets your attention'.

1. Don't pay any attention to what Lyn is saying. She doesn't know what she's talking about.
2. There's no point trying to attract the waiter's attention. He's not interested!
3. There are a number of important issues that we need to direct our attention to.
4. Something bright caught the baby's attention and she reached out and tried to touch it.
5. When I've finished studying the European market, I intend turning my attention to South East Asia.

2 Common adjective collocations

Complete the sentences below with the following:

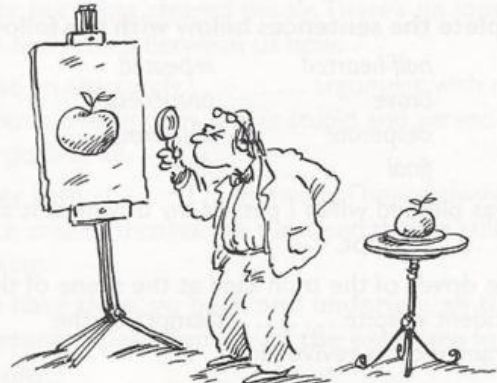
close	immediate
insufficient	meticulous
undivided	unwelcome

1. If you just wait till I've finished writing this letter, I'll give you my full and attention.
2. Pay attention to everything I say. It's important that you follow the instructions.
3. 80 people drowned when the ferry sank. The owners had paid attention to safety.
4. Let's sit in that corner – away from everyone else. We don't want to attract attention.
5. His paintings are so realistic. He pays attention to detail.
6. Sorry, I've got to rush. I've just had a telephone call which requires my attention.

3 Verb phrases with prepositions

Complete the expression in colour with a suitable preposition:

1. The fire inspector called our attention the fact that some members of staff were not following the correct procedures.
2. If we don't bring this the attention of the police, nothing will be done.
3. The war diverted people's attention away the country's economic problems.
4. We're organising a campaign to draw people's attention the harmful effects of food additives.
5. The election is in four months. This tax cut is obviously designed to distract public attention from the government's failures.
6. Last night's documentary helped to focus world attention the plight of the Somali refugees.



"Some people think I pay too much attention to detail!"

Notes

1. In 2-5 we can also say *painstaking* attention.
2. Someone is the 'centre of attention' when everybody wants to see or talk to them.
For example:
He's a rock star so he's the centre of attention everywhere he goes.
3. Note the preposition in the following phrase:
My attention wasn't on my work. My mind was elsewhere.
4. If something escapes your attention, you do not notice it:
The fact that the company was operating without a licence had not escaped the attention of the authorities.