

WHAT ARE LEXICAL CHUNKS?

A lexical chunk is a group of words that are commonly found together. ✨

Lexical chunks include **collocations and idioms** but these usually just involve content words, not grammar.

Example:

In this dialogue there are five possible chunks:

A: Did you **stay long at the party**?

B: No, I **got out of there as soon as** they **ran out of** food.

Learning chunks, rather than just individual words, helps us enhance fluency and produce more natural-sounding language.



MORE EXAMPLES

Collocations

I bought **a bunch of flowers** for you

Please **feel free** to take a seat and enjoy the show.

Idioms

No pain, no gain:
You have to work for what you want.

It's raining cats and dogs: It's raining hard

Match the idioms

- ___ a piece of cake
- ___ break a leg
- ___ call it a day
- ___ break the ice
- ___ once in a blue moon

- a. rarely
- b. stop working on something
- c. something easy to do
- d. good luck
- e. make people feel more comfortable



Quiz time!



1. A collocation is two or more words that
a) often go together b) have similar meanings c) must be used together
2. Collocations sound "right" to native English speakers because they
a) sound unnatural b) are rarely used c) are often used
3. If you learn and use many collocations, your English will sound
a) more unusual b) more grammatical c) more natural
4. Which is a very common collocation?
a) quick food b) fast food c) rapid food
5. Complete the collocation: "I was running late so I only had time for a _____ shower."
a) short b) quick c) fast
6. It's best for learners to think of collocations as being single
a) parts of speech b) blocks of language c) rules of grammar

A green cartoon frog with large eyes and a wide, open mouth, appearing to be shouting or singing. It has pink cheeks and is positioned on the left side of the page, partially overlapping the text area.

COMMON IDIOMS IN ENGLISH

1. **'The best of both worlds'** – means you can enjoy two different opportunities at the same time.

"By working part-time and looking after her kids two days a week she managed to get the best of both worlds."

2. **'Speak of the devil'** – this means that the person you're just talking about actually appears at that moment.

"Hi Tom, speak of the devil, I was just telling Sara about your new car."

3. **'See eye to eye'** – this means agreeing with someone.

"They finally saw eye to eye on the business deal."

4. **'Once in a blue moon'** – an event that happens infrequently.

COMMON IDIOMS IN ENGLISH

5. **'When pigs fly'** – something that will never happen.

"When pigs fly she'll tidy up her room."

6. **'To cost an arm and a leg'** – something is very expensive.

"Fuel these days costs an arm and a leg."

7. **'A piece of cake'** – something is very easy.

"The English test was a piece of cake."

8. **'Let the cat out of the bag'** – to accidentally reveal a secret.

"I let the cat out of the bag about their wedding plans."

9. **'To feel under the weather'** – to not feel well.

"I'm really feeling under the weather today; I have a terrible cold."



COMMON IDIOMS IN ENGLISH

10. **'To kill two birds with one stone'** – to solve two problems at once.

"By taking my dad on holiday, I killed two birds with one stone. I got to go away but also spend time with him."

11. **'To cut corners'** – to do something badly or cheaply.

"They really cut corners when they built this bathroom; the shower is leaking."

12. **'To add insult to injury'** – to make a situation worse.

"To add insult to injury the car drove off without stopping after knocking me off my bike."

13. **'You can't judge a book by its cover'** – to not judge someone or something based solely on appearance.

"I thought this no-brand bread would be horrible; turns out you can't judge a book by its cover."

14. **'Break a leg'** – means 'good luck' (often said to actors before they go on stage).

"Break a leg Sam, I'm sure your performance will be great."



COMMON IDIOMS IN ENGLISH

15. **'To hit the nail on the head'** – to describe exactly what is causing a situation or problem.

"He hit the nail on the head when he said this company needs more HR support."

16. **'A blessing in disguise'** – An misfortune that eventually results in something good happening later on.

17. **'Call it a day'** – Stop working on something

18. **'Let someone off the hook'** – To allow someone, who have been caught, to not be punished.

19. **'No pain no gain'** – You have to work hard for something you want.

20. **'Bite the bullet'** – Decide to do something unpleasant that you have avoiding doing.



COMMON IDIOMS IN ENGLISH

21. **'Getting a taste of your own medicine'** – Being treated the same unpleasant way you have treated others.
22. **'Giving someone the cold shoulder'** – To ignore someone.
23. **'The last straw'** – The final source of irritation for someone to finally lose patience.
24. **'The elephant in the room'** – A matter or problem that is obvious of great importance but that is not discussed openly.
25. **'Stealing someones thunder'** – Taking credit for someone else achievements.





Write the number of the idiom that best completes the following sentences

- 
- A) I can't afford this purse! It _____. I won't be able to pay my rent!
- B) His birthday was supposed to be a surprise! I can't believe you _____. Now he knows!
- C) Ha! John has been promising to paint the house for five years.... Maybe when _____.
- D) Yeah, it'll _____. I need to sign some papers at Jenny's school anyway so I'll pick her up for you too.
- E) I don't really like going out to bars anymore. I only go _____.
- F) I'm sorry I can't come into work today. I'm _____. I have a sore throat and runny nose.
- G) They tried _____ when installing the pipes for the house and now we have leaks only one month after purchasing it!