

# Useful Collocations

Match the collocations in A with the definitions in B.

| A                             | B                                      |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| (1) to become widespread      | (a) to change a great deal             |
| (2) environmental degradation | (b) to have a bad effect on something  |
| (3) to adversely affect       | (c) the destruction of the environment |
| (4) to vary considerably      | (d) to become common over a wide area  |

| A                          | B                                                                         |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (1) preferential treatment | (a) a situation where everyone has the same opportunities to do something |
| (2) equal opportunities    | (b) when a subject causes disagreements and arguments                     |
| (3) highly controversial   | (c) a big problem                                                         |
| (4) a major challenge      | (d) when a person is given special treatment and privileges               |

| A                          | B                                                                |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (1) markedly different     | (a) to be treated worse than other people are for no good reason |
| (2) a rapid expansion      | (b) a sudden increase                                            |
| (3) to seem plausible      | (c) very different                                               |
| (4) to face discrimination | (d) to appear to be possible                                     |

| A                           | B                                                                   |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (1) foreign investment      | (a) to know new things                                              |
| (2) unintended consequences | (b) almost everyone or everything                                   |
| (3) the vast majority       | (c) the effects of doing something that you didn't expect to happen |
| (4) to acquire knowledge    | (d) the money invested in a country by other countries              |

| A                             | B                                                                  |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (1) pioneering work           | (a) when someone is given money to help them pay for something     |
| (2) financial assistance      | (b) quite new                                                      |
| (3) relatively recent         | (c) much better than before                                        |
| (4) a significant improvement | (d) groundbreaking work that paves the way for future developments |

| A                        | B                                                  |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| (1) a causal link        | (a) to continue learning throughout your life      |
| (2) lifelong learning    | (b) believed to be true by everyone everywhere     |
| (3) universally accepted | (c) just coming into existence now                 |
| (4) newly emerging       | (d) when one thing causes something else to happen |

**Complete the gaps in the sentences below using the collocations above. You might have to change the form of the words so that they fit into the sentence grammatically.**

1. The government is trying to promote\_\_\_\_\_. They believe that people should continue studying when they leave school.
2. Mastering a foreign language can be a\_\_\_\_\_. It requires hard work and dedication.

3. Staying up late the night before an exam can\_\_\_\_\_you performance in it.  
It is a much better idea to get a good night's sleep so that you are fresh in the morning and can perform well in the exam.
4. It has been shown that there is a\_\_\_\_\_between smoking and lung cancer.
5. It is widely accepted that men and women should have\_\_\_\_\_and that there should be no discrimination in the employment market.
6. Income distribution throughout the world \_\_\_\_\_. In some countries there is a wide gap between the rich and the poor.
7. It is hard to believe that the internet is a\_\_\_\_\_development. It was not widespread until the turn of the last century.
8. The\_\_\_\_\_of people these days own a mobile phone. There are not many people who don't have one.
9. The landscape in the Netherlands, where it is very flat, is\_\_\_\_\_from the landscape in Switzerland, where it is very mountainous.
10. Some things have \_\_\_\_\_. In the past, people did not realise how pollution would affect the environment.
11. The purpose of education should not just be to \_\_\_\_\_, but also to enable people to think critically.
12. \_\_\_\_\_have been made to mobile phones in recent years. The phones of today are almost unrecognisable from those of forty years ago, which were very simple.