expectation

1 Common expressions

Divide the sentences below into three groups:

A = better than expected
B = as expected
C = worse than expected

1. The concert was fantastic – it lived up to all our expectations.
2. The film has been a surprise success. Box-office receipts have exceeded all expectations.
3. It is a fact that the reality of a holiday often falls short of expectations.
4. The increase in interest rates is broadly in line with expectations.
5. Unfortunately sales of the new product have failed to meet expectations.
6. The English course fulfilled all our expectations.
7. The restaurant was quiet and relaxing, but the food didn't come up to our expectations.
8. The book's success has surpassed everyone's expectations.
9. The standard of service on the cruise liner was well below expectation.
10. The apartment they were thinking of buying didn't measure up to their expectations.
11. The campaign has produced results way beyond expectations.
12. Profits are way below expectations.

2 Collocation check

Complete these sentences using words from exercise 1 above:

1. The firework display was far better than we had expected. It really ..... all our expectations.
2. When Rod told us he had booked a table at the Manor Restaurant, we were so excited, but it really didn't live ..... our expectations. Everybody was so disappointed.
3. My parents' world cruise was meant to be the trip of a lifetime, but it ..... far short of their expectations. Nearly everyone got food poisoning at some point in the trip!
4. All the indications so far are that this year's figures are going to be a huge improvement and ..... with the finance director's expectations and predictions.

3 Common adjective collocations

Complete the sentences with these adjectives:

clear *different* *general*
high *unrealistic* *wildest*

1. Our daughter passed all her exams with flying colours so we have ..... expectations for her future.
2. The amazing success of our team this year has exceeded our ..... expectations.
3. Although society is changing, there is still a ..... expectation that couples will have children soon after they marry.
4. The article was obviously written before the election results in the ..... expectation of a Nixon victory.
5. Some parents have ..... expectations of their children and put too much pressure on them.
6. Sue and Steve went into marriage with very ..... expectations, so their divorce comes as no surprise to me.

4 Prepositional expressions

Complete each expression with one preposition:

1. She went ..... the expectation of meeting him.
2. Contrary ..... expectation, they got on well.
3. It didn't live ..... to our expectations.
4. It fell well ..... our expectations.
5. It was in line ..... our expectations.
6. It fell short ..... our expectations.
7. It didn't measure ..... to our expectations.
8. We all had great expectations ..... her future.

Notes

1. Note the following:
   I knew I didn't have the necessary experience, so I applied for the job more in hope than expectation of actually getting it.
   Against all expectations, the building of the new school was completed on time.
2. Note the verb collocation 'raise expectations':
   Meetings between the two countries have raised expectations that a peace agreement is likely.

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