

CAMBRIDGE

# ENGLISH COLLOCATIONS IN USE

How words work  
together for fluent  
and natural English

Self-study and  
classroom use

Second Edition

---

## Advanced

Felicity O'Dell  
Michael McCarthy

Experience  
Better  
Learning

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University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

4843/24, 2nd Floor, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, Delhi – 110002, India

79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781316629956](http://www.cambridge.org/9781316629956)

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First published 2008

Second edition 2017

20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in Dubai by Oriental Press

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

ISBN 978-1-31-66299-56 Paperback

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*foot the bill, heavy burden, run into trouble*  
*deeply offensive, spotlessly clean, wildly inaccurate*  
*make a contribution, make a habit of, turn a profit*  
*generally speaking, talk business, get a message across*  
*take up office, work up an appetite, see off an intruder*

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*fit the job description, land a new job, menial tasks*  
*bear in mind, widespread belief, jump to conclusions*  
*fierce competition, stimulate growth, hike in prices*  
*consumer demands, product development, market share*  
*fit for purpose, kick up a fuss, grounds for complaint*  
*gifted child, mature student, thirst for knowledge*  
*working hypothesis, confront issues, critical analysis*

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*call for a celebration, social whirl, play host to*  
*juicy gossip, broach the subject, opening gambit*  
*declare independence, reach agreement, bow to pressure*  
*refuse point-blank, decline to comment, gauge reaction*  
*date back to, movable feast, propose a toast*  
*flawless complexion, set the trend, fashion victim*  
*traffic gridlock, rail network, lengthy tailbacks*  
*get itchy feet, off the beaten track, leg of the journey*  
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*minimise danger, grant permission, faceless bureaucrats*

*dump waste, searing heat, offset carbon emissions*

*back of beyond, rural idyll, urban regeneration*

*clear one's debts, agreed credit limit, identity theft*

*curb inflation, safeguard one's interests, plummeting profits*

*antisocial behaviour, dysfunctional family, unfit for human habitation*

*harness technology, cutting-edge design, Wi-Fi hotspots*

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*cramped conditions, waste of space, go down in history*

*husky voice, incessant noise, let out a cry*

*viable options, simplicity itself, take the easy way out*

*severe blow, hinder progress, encounter difficulties*

*finite number, endless supply, unknown quantity*

*sweeping changes, would make a change, sudden shift*

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*bring a halt to, close off a street, dispel rumours*

*root cause, provoke an outcry, dire consequences*

*swarm of bees, flurry of activity, stroke of genius*

*bear little resemblance to, polar opposites, draw a comparison between*

*give it one's best shot, abortive attempt, hard slog*

*not lose any sleep, to be brutally honest, be on the go*

*make a commitment, give a straight answer, miss the point*

*nasty shock, take exception to, suffer at the hands of*

*sense of achievement, state of euphoria, derive pleasure from*

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# Acknowledgements

Joy Goodwin wrote two new units for the Second Edition: Unit 15, *Marketing*, and Unit 25, *Commuting*. The publishers would like to thank Joy for her contribution to this edition.

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## Illustrations

Ludmila (KJA Artists), Katie Mac (NB Illustration) and Miguel Diaz Rivas (Advocate Art).

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# Exercises

## 8.1 Are these sentences correct or incorrect? If they are incorrect, correct them.

- 1 Have you any suggestions to make about how to celebrate the school's anniversary?
- 2 We are planning to have a party next Saturday.
- 3 The company director gave a formal apology for his earlier comments.
- 4 The manager had to make a number of changes to office procedures in order to do all the improvements he had planned for the company.
- 5 My sister did all the arrangements for the party.

## 8.2 Complete each sentence using a word from the box.

acquaintance	attempt	calculations	discovery	enemies
habit	offer	room	stand	success

- 1 Try to make a ..... of noticing good collocations in any text you read.
- 2 A railway official asked us to move our luggage to make ..... for the boy's bike.
- 3 The new CEO has made a lot of ..... by being so autocratic.
- 4 If Pauline makes a ..... of this project, she'll probably get promoted.
- 5 The old gentleman said he was delighted to make my .....
- 6 Do you think you'll make an ..... on the flat you viewed yesterday?
- 7 Every young scientist dreams of making a ..... that will change the world.
- 8 Rachel made no ..... to contact me when she was over here last year.
- 9 We tried to make a ..... against the new housing development but to no avail: the contractors started work this morning.
- 10 The ..... that you made contained a few inaccuracies.

## 8.3 Replace **make** in each sentence with an alternative word. Then say whether you have made the sentence more or less formal.

- 1 The Green Party plans to make a major protest against the government's new farming policy.
- 2 Tessa helped me to make some lovely cushion covers for my new flat.
- 3 I regret to inform you that several clients have made complaints about your conduct.
- 4 You won't make a good first impression if you arrive late for your interview.
- 5 It won't take me long to make a meal for the children.
- 6 Do you expect your business to make a profit this year?

## 8.4 Rewrite each sentence using the word in brackets.


- 1 At the meeting the chairman proposed something rather interesting. (PROPOSAL)
- 2 I hope we can leave soon as I'm terribly tired. (ESCAPE)
- 3 I'm reading a fascinating book about the invention of new words and phrases to express new social and technical needs. (COINED)
- 4 We changed the layout of the hall to make it more relaxed for the yoga class. (ATMOSPHERE)
- 5 I tried to phone the company several times at the weekend. (ATTEMPTS)
- 6 Kim contributed very positively to the discussion. (CONTRIBUTION)
- 7 The service was poor but I wouldn't go so far as to formally complain. (LODGE)
- 8 I first got talking to Roger on a train. (ACQUAINTANCE)

### Over to you

**Make a point of** looking back through any pieces of your writing that a teacher has corrected. Have you ever **made any mistakes** involving collocations with **make**? If so, **make an effort** to use those expressions correctly in your next assignment.

## A

## An exciting trip

CURRENT ARTICLES	ARCHIVE	ABOUT	PHOTOS	CONTACT
	<p>I'd always had <b>a thirst for adventure</b> and often <b>get itchy feet</b> so I could hardly <b>contain my excitement</b> when I set off for South America for a year. It was a very <b>arduous</b><sup>1</sup> <b>journey</b>. I should have <b>broken the journey</b><sup>2</sup> somewhere but I did it all in one go. Next time, I'll <b>have a stopover</b><sup>3</sup> in São Paulo, have a bit of a rest and <b>do the sights</b> there before travelling on.</p> <p>After two fantastic weeks in the Amazon I got a flight on a <b>low-cost airline</b> to Rio de Janeiro. I then tried to get a flight to Peru but they were all full, so they <b>put me on standby</b><sup>4</sup>. Luckily I got a seat.</p> <p>In Peru I <b>went trekking</b> in the Andes. The guide took us <b>off the beaten track</b> and I felt like an <b>intrepid</b><sup>5</sup> <b>explorer</b> from another century in some <b>unexplored wilderness</b>. There was a real <b>sense of adventure</b>. One day we actually got <b>hopelessly lost</b>. We were afraid they'd have to <b>send out a search party</b> to look for us. But then we met some locals who helped us get back on to our path.</p>			

<sup>1</sup> difficult, tiring, needing a lot of effort

<sup>2</sup> stopped for a short time

<sup>3</sup> have a brief (usually) overnight stay in a place when on a long journey to somewhere else, usually by air

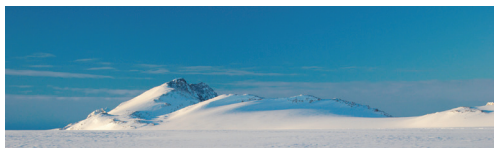
<sup>4</sup> made me wait to see if a seat became available

<sup>5</sup> brave, with no fear of dangerous situations

## B

## Articles about travel adventures

## North Pole Expedition



Some longed-for **sunny spells** have **boosted** the **spirits**<sup>1</sup> of three British women hoping to set a polar trekking record. The women have **faced severe weather conditions** since setting off to walk to the North Pole 18 days ago. However, the team's base camp manager said she had spoken to them yesterday by satellite phone and they had been relieved to report the weather was sunny and **their spirits were high**<sup>2</sup>.

## London to Tangier by train

Whilst this journey may not compare in terms of **sheer epic grandeur** to some of the great American train journeys, it does **have a special charm** all of its own. It may not be cheap but if you **keep your eyes peeled**, you can find some surprisingly good deals. If **your budget doesn't quite stretch to**<sup>3</sup> a sleeping compartment, you can always just curl up in your seat for the night. Let the rhythmic motion and the dull rumbles of the train **lull you to sleep**. The first **leg of the journey** gives you very little indication of what lies ahead ...

<sup>1</sup> made feel more cheerful    <sup>2</sup> they were in a positive mood    <sup>3</sup> you can't afford

## Tip

Look at [www.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.nationalgeographic.com) or an adventure travel company such as [www.keadventure.com](http://www.keadventure.com).



## A

## Technology in business



Scientists and technologists are **pushing back the frontiers**<sup>1</sup> of knowledge every day. Scientists **publish** their **findings**<sup>2</sup> and they are developed into commercial applications. We have become very skilled at **harnessing**<sup>3</sup> **technology** in all sorts of creative ways. New **cutting-edge design**<sup>4</sup> is transforming our daily lives and our businesses. But things do not always **run smoothly**<sup>5</sup>. There can be difficulties **installing equipment** and hardware can suffer from **wear and tear**<sup>6</sup>. Viruses can cause **systems** to **crash** and lead to the loss of important data.

A **power cut** may cause machinery to lose power and **production may be halted** until **power is restored**. If **computers** have to be **shut down**<sup>7</sup> for even a short time, it can cause a variety of problems.

<sup>1</sup> extending the limits

<sup>2</sup> results

<sup>3</sup> making use of

<sup>4</sup> the most innovative design

<sup>5</sup> work without problems

<sup>6</sup> damage caused by ordinary use

<sup>7</sup> switched off completely

## Common mistakes

- *Findings* is almost always used in the plural. Scientists **publish** their **findings**, NOT *finding*.
- *Research* is uncountable. They **published** some **interesting research**, NOT *researches*.

## B

## Innovations

We asked you to tell us which technical innovation has most improved your life.

- I never carry much 'real money'. I just put a card in a slot and **enter my PIN**.
- It's so much easier to **swipe a card** than use a traditional key.
- Remember when you had to rush out to the bank in your lunch hour? **Online banking** is fantastic.
- My music collection used to take up a whole wall of my room. Now I've got far more **music stored** on my phone.
- How did people manage without mobile phones? I love **downloading** new **apps**!
- **Wi-Fi hotspots**<sup>1</sup> are fantastic – I can easily get online using my own laptop.
- I travel a lot and it's great to be able to get **remote access** to my **email**.
- Remember when you had to get off the sofa to **switch channels** on your black and white TV? Now you turn your huge **flat-screen TV** on and off **by remote control**!
- **High-definition TV** – the picture is fantastic compared with before.
- I **use satnav**<sup>2</sup> in the car all the time – much easier than looking at a paper map.

<sup>1</sup> public places where people can access the internet via a wireless signal    <sup>2</sup> short for satellite navigation

## Tip

Go to [www.newscientist.com](http://www.newscientist.com) and click on a link that appeals to you.

- 34.4**
- |                   |                               |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 public; private | 5 raising; pushed up; plummet |
| 2 undeclared      | 6 extend; stimulate           |
| 3 long; short     | 7 stunt                       |
| 4 Falling         | 8 introduce                   |

### Unit 35

- 35.1** 1 address 2 provide 3 broke down 4 break 5 made 6 incite

- 35.2**
- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 for human habitation | 4 antisocial behaviour  |
| 2 sanitary conditions  | 5 public disorder       |
| 3 underage drinking    | 6 for good / for change |

- 35.3**
- Poor people often have to claim benefits in order to survive financially.
  - The city council introduced a neighbourhood watch scheme.
  - The government took some draconian measures to prevent public disorder.
  - All governments need to address the issues of global poverty and disease.
  - The authorities had to provide shelter and food to the earthquake victims.
  - As the discontent grew, riots erupted in all the major cities.

- 35.4**
- The violence threatened **the social fabric**.
  - The minister said it was time for a **fresh drive** to cut crime.
  - Customs officials found some **illegal substances** in the passenger's luggage.
  - The **run-down areas** of the city are often dangerous at night.
  - We hope our new organisation will be a **force for political change**.
  - He proposed a **novel solution** to address the issue of social inequality.
  - Dysfunctional families** are a difficult problem for social workers.
  - The union representative **made a plea** for the workers to stand firm.
  - There were scenes of **public disorder** on the streets last night.
  - It is very difficult for young people to find **affordable housing**.

### Unit 36

- 36.1**
- If you switch off your computer without shutting it **down** properly, you may lose data.
  - I didn't expect everything to run **smoothly** in my new job but I didn't imagine it would be quite so difficult as it was.
  - Alex had some technical problems **installing** his new computer equipment.
  - The company is famous for its **cutting-edge** design.
  - If they'd serviced their machines regularly, they wouldn't have had to halt **production**.
  - Vic dreams of making a discovery that would help to push **back** the frontiers of science.
  - Scientists usually **publish** their findings in academic journals.
  - There was a power **cut** this morning. The power went off at ten and it wasn't **restored** till midday.
  - Noah loves pure research but his brother is more interested in the application of research to practical projects and in **harnessing** new technology for commercial ends.
  - They carried out **research** over a ten-year period and finally published their **findings** this month.

- 36.2**
- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1 She's swiping a card.  | 3 He's using satnav.                             |
| 2 He's entering his PIN. | 4 She's switching TV channels by remote control. |

- 36.3**
- high-definition TV (HD TV), flat screen TV and remote controls
  - The systems might crash.
  - No, online banking is now available at most banks.
  - a Wi-Fi hotspot
  - switch channels
  - download a new app
  - They suffer from wear and tear.

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