

Common Collocations in English

250 words - 2026-07-06

Word	Meaning	Example
make a mistake	to do something wrong	I made a mistake in my homework.
make a decision	to choose after thinking	She needs to make a decision soon.
make a difference	to have an important effect	Good teachers make a difference in students' lives.
make a mess	to make things untidy	The kids made a mess in the kitchen.
make noise	to produce sound	Please don't make noise during the exam.
make an effort	to try hard	You should make an effort to speak English every day.
make money	to earn money	He makes money by selling products online.
make progress	to improve or advance	She is making progress in her English.
make room	to create space	Can you make room for one more chair?
make trouble	to cause problems	The boys were making trouble at school.
make a plan	to decide what to do	Let's make a plan for the weekend.
make breakfast	to prepare morning meal	I usually make breakfast at 7 a.m.
make lunch	to prepare midday meal	She made lunch for the whole family.
make dinner	to prepare evening meal	Who's going to make dinner tonight?
make friends	to become friends with people	It's easy to make friends in this class.
make a phone call	to call someone by phone	I need to make a phone call.
make a list	to write items in order	Make a list of things you need to buy.
make furniture	to build furniture	My grandfather makes furniture by hand.
make a suggestion	to propose an idea	Can I make a suggestion?
make time for	to find time for something	You should make time for your hobbies.
do homework	to complete schoolwork at home	I do my homework every evening.
do housework	to clean and maintain home	She does the housework on Saturdays.
do business	to engage in commerce	They do business with companies overseas.
do exercise	to perform physical activity	I do exercise to stay healthy.
do the dishes	to wash plates and utensils	He does the dishes after dinner.
do the cooking	to prepare meals	My father does the cooking on weekends.
do the shopping	to buy groceries or goods	We do the shopping at the supermarket.
do the washing up	to wash dishes	Can you do the washing up tonight?
do nothing	to not do anything	I just want to do nothing and relax.
do someone a favour	to help someone	Could you do me a favour?
do your best	to try as hard as you can	Always do your best in exams.
do your hair	to style your hair	She's doing her hair in the bathroom.
do the laundry	to wash clothes	I do the laundry twice a week.
do research	to study or investigate	The students are doing research for the project.
do a job	to perform a task	He did a good job on the presentation.
do the cleaning	to clean the house	We do the cleaning together.
do the gardening	to work in the garden	My grandfather enjoys doing the gardening.
do the ironing	to press clothes with iron	I hate doing the ironing.
do damage	to cause harm	The storm did serious damage to the houses.
do well	to perform successfully	She always does well at school.
have breakfast	to eat morning meal	I have breakfast at 7 a.m.

Word	Meaning	Example
have lunch	to eat midday meal	We have lunch together at work.
have dinner	to eat evening meal	They had dinner late last night.
have a bath	to wash in a bathtub	The baby is having a bath.
have a shower	to wash under running water	I have a shower every morning.
have a drink	to drink something	Let's have a drink after work.
have fun	to enjoy oneself	The kids are having fun at the park.
have a good time	to enjoy an experience	We had a good time at the party.
have a haircut	to get hair cut	I'm going to have a haircut tomorrow.
have a holiday	to take a vacation	They're having a holiday in Spain.
have a problem	to experience a difficulty	I have a problem with my computer.
have a relationship	to be in a romantic connection	They have a good relationship.
have a rest	to relax or sleep briefly	Sit down and have a rest.
have sympathy	to feel pity for someone	I have sympathy for her situation.
have a chat	to talk informally	We had a chat after class.
have a look	to examine or view something	Have a look at this photo.
have a meal	to eat food together	Let's have a meal together.
have a party	to celebrate with a gathering	They had a party for her birthday.
have a meeting	to gather for discussion	We're having a meeting at 10.
have an idea	to think of a suggestion	I have an idea for the project.
take a break	to pause for rest	Let's take a break.
take a chance	to risk doing something	You should take a chance sometimes.
take a look	to examine or view	Take a look at this report.
take a rest	to relax or sleep	Sit down and take a rest.
take a seat	to sit down	Please take a seat.
take a taxi	to travel by taxi	We took a taxi to the airport.
take an exam	to complete a test	Students take an exam next week.
take notes	to write down information	She takes notes during lectures.
take someone's place	to replace someone	John will take my place today.
take someone's temperature	to measure body heat	The nurse took his temperature.
take a risk	to do something dangerous	He took a risk and started a business.
take a photo	to capture an image	I took a photo of the sunset.
take a shower	to wash under water	I usually take a shower at night.
take responsibility	to accept duty for something	You must take responsibility for your actions.
take action	to do something about a problem	The government must take action.
take part	to participate in an activity	She took part in the competition.
take care	to look after someone or something	Take care of yourself.
take time	to require a period	Learning English takes time.
take medicine	to consume medication	Don't forget to take your medicine.
take advice	to follow someone's suggestion	He never takes advice from others.
give advice	to suggest what to do	She gave me useful advice.
give a speech	to talk formally to an audience	He gave a speech at the conference.
give an answer	to respond to a question	Can you give an answer?
give a call	to telephone someone	Give me a call later.
give permission	to allow someone to do something	They gave us permission to leave.

Word	Meaning	Example
give information	to provide facts or details	The teacher gave us information.
give a gift	to present something to someone	I gave her a gift.
give a hug	to embrace someone	She gave her mother a hug.
give support	to help or encourage	Friends give support in difficult times.
give someone a hand	to help someone	Can you give me a hand with this box?
get a job	to find employment	He got a job at a bank.
get married	to become husband and wife	They got married last summer.
get divorced	to legally end a marriage	They decided to get divorced.
get angry	to become mad	Don't get angry over small things.
get drunk	to become intoxicated	He got drunk at the party.
get frightened	to become scared	The child got frightened by the noise.
get home	to arrive at one's house	I get home at 6 p.m.
get lost	to become unable to find the way	We got lost in the city.
get ready	to prepare oneself	Get ready for school.
get started	to begin an activity	Let's get started now.
get permission	obtain authorization to do something	You need to get permission first.
get pregnant	become pregnant	She got pregnant last year.
get upset	become distressed or angry	Don't get upset about it.
get wet	become wet	We got wet in the rain.
get worried	become anxious	Parents get worried easily.
get better	improve in health or condition	I hope you get better soon.
get worse	deteriorate	The weather got worse.
get dressed	put on clothes	He got dressed quickly.
get the message	understand what is communicated	I get the message now.
get the impression	form a belief or feeling	I got the impression she was tired.
break a habit	stop doing a habitual action	I'm trying to break the habit of checking my phone every five minutes.
break a promise	fail to keep a promise	He broke his promise and didn't show up.
break a record	surpass a previous best	She broke the record for the fastest marathon time.
break a window	cause a window to shatter	The ball broke a window during the game.
break someone's heart	cause deep sadness	The movie ending broke my heart.
break the ice	initiate conversation in a tense situation	He told a joke to break the ice at the meeting.
break the law	violate a law	Anyone who breaks the law must face the consequences.
break the rules	violate rules	You can't break the rules during the exam.
break the news	share important or bad news	She broke the news gently to her family.
break a leg	wish good luck (idiom)	"Break a leg!" we said before her performance.
catch a bus	board a bus	We need to hurry to catch the bus.
catch a train	board a train	They left early to catch the train.
catch a cold	become ill with a cold	I caught a cold because of the rain.
catch the flu	become ill with the flu	Many students caught the flu last winter.
catch a chill	become slightly cold and ill	Put on a jacket or you'll catch a chill.
catch a thief	capture a thief	The police caught the thief quickly.
catch fire	start burning	The paper caught fire near the candle.
catch sight of	see briefly	I caught sight of an old friend at the mall.
catch someone's attention	attract someone's notice	The bright sign caught my attention.

Word	Meaning	Example
catch someone's eye	attract someone's interest	That blue dress caught her eye.
pay attention	focus mentally	Please pay attention to the instructions.
pay the bill	settle the invoice	Don't forget to pay the bill before leaving.
pay cash	pay with physical money	I prefer to pay cash.
pay by credit card	pay using a credit card	You can pay by credit card online.
pay interest	pay extra money on a loan	The bank makes you pay interest on the loan.
pay a fine	pay a penalty for an offense	He had to pay a fine for speeding.
pay the price	suffer consequences	If you cheat, you'll pay the price later.
pay respects	show honor, often to the deceased	They visited the cemetery to pay their respects.
pay someone a visit	visit someone	We paid our grandparents a visit last weekend.
pay someone a compliment	praise someone	She paid me a compliment about my work.
save money	keep money for future use	I'm trying to save money for a trip.
save time	use time efficiently	Online shopping saves time.
save energy	conserve energy	Turn off the lights to save energy.
save electricity	use less electricity	These bulbs save electricity.
save space	use space efficiently	This table folds to save space.
save someone's life	prevent someone from dying	The doctor saved his life.
save a seat	reserve a seat for someone	Can you save me a seat?
save one's strength	conserve physical energy	You should save your strength for tomorrow.
save something to a disk	store data on a disk	Don't forget to save the file to a disk.
save yourself the trouble	avoid unnecessary effort	Save yourself the trouble and call first.
keep calm	stay relaxed and not become angry or upset	Keep calm during the interview.
keep quiet	not make noise or speak	Please keep quiet during the movie.
keep a promise	do what you said you would do	Always keep your promises.
keep a secret	not tell others a secret	Can you keep a secret?
keep a diary	write regularly in a diary	She keeps a diary every day.
keep control	maintain power over something	Try to keep control of your emotions.
keep in touch	stay in contact with someone	Let's keep in touch after the course.
keep an appointment	go to a scheduled meeting	He always keeps his appointments.
keep the change	keep extra money as a tip	Here's \$10 — keep the change.
keep an eye on	watch or monitor something	Can you keep an eye on my bag?
heavy rain	a lot of rain falling	We had heavy rain last night.
heavy traffic	many vehicles on the road	There's heavy traffic this morning.
heavy bag	a bag that weighs a lot	This bag is very heavy.
strong coffee	coffee with a strong taste	I prefer strong coffee.
strong wind	wind blowing with force	A strong wind blew all day.
strong accent	noticeable way of pronouncing words	He has a strong accent.
big mistake	a serious error	That was a big mistake.
big problem	a major issue	We have a big problem.
big surprise	something unexpected and shocking	It was a big surprise.
fast food	Food that is prepared and served quickly	We often eat fast food on Fridays.
fast learner	someone who learns quickly	She is a fast learner.
high price	a large amount of money	The car has a high price.
high temperature	a very warm degree	The patient has a high temperature.

Word	Meaning	Example
high speed	very fast movement	He was driving at high speed.
low price	a small amount of money	They sell products at a low price.
low cost	not expensive	This service has low cost.
deep sleep	a very sound sleep	The baby is in deep sleep.
deep breath	a full breath of air	Take a deep breath.
rich history	a long and interesting past	The city has a rich history.
bright future	a successful future ahead	She has a bright future.
hard work	effort and dedication	Success requires hard work.
hard time	a difficult period	I had a hard time understanding.
good idea	a smart suggestion	That's a good idea.
good news	positive information	I have good news for you.
bad luck	unfortunate events	That's bad luck.
bad habit	a negative repeated behavior	Smoking is a bad habit.
quick answer	a fast reply	He gave a quick answer.
quick shower	a short shower	I took a quick shower.
free time	time when not busy	What do you do in your free time?
spare time	time free from work	I read books in my spare time.
on time	at the scheduled time	She arrived on time.
in a hurry	doing something quickly	I'm in a hurry today.
by chance	without planning	We met by chance.
at least	not less than	Try at least once.
from time to time	occasionally	I travel from time to time.
as soon as possible	as quickly as you can	Please reply as soon as possible.
in charge of	responsible for	She is in charge of the team.
run out of time	have no time left	We ran out of time.
waste time	use time poorly	Don't waste time online.
spend time	use time doing something	I spend time with my family.
take your time	do not rush	Take your time, there's no rush.
tell the time	to know what time it is by looking at a clock	My son can tell the time now.
bang on time	exactly on time	The train arrived bang on time.
right on time	exactly at the scheduled time	She showed up right on time.
bear in mind	remember and consider something	Bear in mind the rules.
chair a meeting	to be the person in charge of a meeting	She chaired the meeting.
close a deal	to successfully complete a business agreement	They closed a deal yesterday.
close a meeting	to end a meeting	He closed the meeting early.
draw a conclusion	to decide something after considering facts	We drew a conclusion from the data.
draw your attention to	to make someone notice something	I'd like to draw your attention to this point.
launch a product	to introduce a new product to the market	The company launched a new product.
lay off staff	to dismiss employees due to lack of work	The company laid off staff last year.
make a profit	to earn more money than you spend	The business made a profit.
make a loss	to lose money in a business	The company made a loss.
sales figures	the numbers showing how much was sold	Sales figures increased this year.
annual turnover	total sales in a year	The company has a high annual turnover.
go bankrupt	to be unable to pay debts and close	The company went bankrupt.

Word	Meaning	Example
go abroad	to travel to another country	She plans to go abroad.
come to a decision	to make a decision after thinking	We came to a decision quickly.
come to an agreement	to reach a mutual understanding	They came to an agreement.
grab a coffee	to quickly get a coffee to drink	Let's grab a coffee after class.
grab a bite (to eat)	to eat a small meal quickly	We grabbed a quick bite before work.
take a nap	to sleep for a short time	I took a nap after lunch.
take a walk	to go for a walk for exercise	She takes a walk every evening.
take a day off	to not work for one day	I'm taking a day off tomorrow.
get a ride	to be driven somewhere by someone	Can you get me a ride home?
get gas	to put fuel in a vehicle	I need to get gas for the car.
get groceries	to buy food and household items	She's getting groceries.
make a call	to telephone someone	I need to make a call.
make a reservation	to book a table, room, etc.	We made a reservation at the restaurant.
make a copy	to duplicate a document	Can you make a copy of this document?
do the yard work	to maintain the garden or lawn	He's doing yard work today.
have a seat	to sit down	Please have a seat.
have a snack	to eat a small amount of food	I had a snack between meals.
catch a game	to watch a sports game	Let's catch a game tonight.
catch a flight	to board a plane for travel	We caught an early flight.
fill out a form	to complete a document with information	Please fill out this form.
tell the truth	to say what is true	Always tell the truth.
tell a lie	to say something false	He told a lie to his parents.
lose weight	to become lighter in body weight	She wants to lose weight.
gain weight	to become heavier in body weight	He gained weight over the holidays.
solve a problem	to find a solution to a difficulty	We need to solve this problem today.
change your mind	to alter a decision or opinion	She changed her mind about the trip.
once in a while	occasionally, not often	We eat out once in a while.
all of a sudden	suddenly, unexpectedly	All of a sudden, the lights went out.
in the meantime	during the time before something happens	Wait here; in the meantime, I will call.
keep in mind	remember and consider	Keep in mind that the store closes early.
pay the rent	to give money for using a property	I pay the rent on the first of the month.
meet a deadline	to finish by a specified time	We met the deadline for the project.
run a business	to manage and operate a company	She runs a small business from home.