

Collocations

Collocations are common word combinations that sound 'right' to native English speakers. Examples are: *chain smoker* and *burning desire*.

There are numerous collocations in English. Some collocations are made by putting an adjective and adverb together. Some are made by putting two nouns together. Collocations can also be made using several other methods. Here is a list of some common collocations.

Adverb + adjective

Utterly stupid (NOT fully stupid)

It was an utterly stupid thing to do.

Richly decorated

We walked into the richly decorated auditorium.

Fully aware

I am fully aware of the implications of my action.

2. Adjective + noun

Burning desire

He has a burning desire to make it big in the showbiz.

Indulgent mother

She is an indulgent mother.

Maiden voyage

The Titanic sank on its maiden voyage.

Excruciating pain

She was suffering from excruciating pain.

Verb + noun

Commit murder / Commit suicide

Collocations

She committed suicide by hanging herself.

Make bed

Can you make the bed after washing those plates?

Give a presentation, give a speech

She will give a presentation about her work tomorrow.

Verb + expression with preposition

Run out of

We cancelled the trip because we had run out of money.

Burst into tears

She burst into tears when she heard the news.

Verb + adverb

Remember vividly / Remember vaguely

I vaguely remember that she was working with my neighbor at that time.