

1000 Expressions in English

Expressions (collocations)/A

Expressions (collocations) beginning with A.

[above average](#)

more than average, esp. in amount, age, height, weight etc.

[absolutely necessary](#)

totally or completely necessary

[abuse drugs](#)

to use drugs in a way that's harmful to yourself or others

[abuse of power](#)

the harmful or unethical use of power

[accept \(a\) defeat](#)

to accept the fact that you didn't win a game, match, contest, election, etc.

[accept a challenge](#)

to agree to do something difficult or dangerous

[accept an apology](#)

to forgive someone who says they're sorry

[accept an invitation](#)

to say "yes" after getting an invitation

[accept responsibility](#)

to take the blame when something goes wrong

[aches and pains](#)

mild pains that come and go, esp. from physical work or old age

[achieve a goal](#)

to do what you'd planned or hoped to do

[act suspiciously](#)

to behave in a way that makes people suspicious

[action movie](#)

a movie with lots of action and violence

[active ingredient](#)

the chemical in a drug, medicine or pesticide that makes it work

[active volcano](#)

a volcano that could erupt at any time

[actively involved](#)

playing an active role

[admit defeat](#)

to accept that you can't win a competition or achieve a goal

[against the law](#)

illegal

[all alone](#)

completely alone, or without friends or people you know

[all along](#)

continuously from when something begins

[all over](#)

completely finished

[almost certainly](#)

almost definitely

[alphabetical order](#)

an order based on the letters of an alphabet, with "a" being the first and "z" being the last in English

[alternative energy](#)

power or electricity produced by using energy from the sun, wind, water, etc.

[alternative medicine](#)

medical treatments using natural substances and traditional knowledge instead of pharmaceutical drugs and modern surgery

[answer a letter](#)

to write back to someone who sent you a letter

[answer a prayer](#)

to respond to a prayer

[answer a question](#)

to reply with information or an opinion after being asked a question

[answer an advertisement](#)

to contact a person or company after seeing their advertisement

[answer the door](#)

to go to the door and open it after someone knocks or rings the doorbell

[answer the phone](#)

to pick up a phone that's ringing and talk to whoever's calling

[any more \(1\)](#)

more of something you've already had or got

[any more \(2\)](#)

any longer, or as in the past or previously

[apply for a job](#)

to ask to be considered for a job you'd like to get

[arrive on time](#)

to arrive exactly when expected or scheduled to

[artificial limb](#)

a prosthetic arm or leg that replaces one that's been lost

[ask a favour](#)

to ask someone to do something for you because you need their help

[ask a question](#)

to ask somebody to tell you something

[ask for advice](#)

to ask someone what they think you should do

[ask for directions](#)

to ask someone to tell you the way to a place

[ask permission](#)

to ask your boss, teacher, parent, etc. if you can do something

[attract attention](#)

to create interest

[attract sb's attention](#)

to do something to make someone notice you

[awful lot](#)

more than expected, usual, normal, etc.

Expressions (collocations)/B

Expressions (collocations) beginning with B.

[back pay](#)

money a worker earned in the past but hasn't been paid yet

[back road](#)

a small country road

[back street](#)

a street in a town or city that's away from major roads or central areas

[back taxes](#)

taxes that weren't paid when they were due

[bad breath](#)

breath that doesn't smell nice

[bad diet](#)

an unhealthy diet

[bad habit](#)

a habit that badly affects you or other people, or that others think is wrong or bad

[bad loser](#)

someone who gets upset or angry when they lose

[bad mood](#)

a mood in which you're easily annoyed or angered

[bad temper](#)

a tendency to become angry quickly and easily

[badly damage](#)

to do a lot of damage to something

[badly hurt](#)

seriously injured

[balance a budget](#)

to make income and expenditure equal in a budget

[balanced diet](#)

a diet with the proper amounts of all necessary nutrients

[bare essentials](#)

things that are needed the most

[barely able \(to do sth\)](#)

only just able to do something

[basic right](#)

a fundamental right that we all share, or that all animals share

[bear a resemblance \(to sb/sth\)](#)

to look like, or be similar to, somebody or something

[beat a record](#)

to do something better, faster, longer, etc. than somebody else

[beat to death](#)

to beat a person or animal so badly that it causes death

[become increasingly](#)

become more and more

[best ever](#)

best until now

[best friends](#)

closest friends

[best possible](#)

the best that can be found or achieved

[big brother | big sister](#)

older brother, older sister

[big deal](#)

something that's very important or very special

[big decision](#)

very important decision

[big money](#)

a lot of money

[bitterly cold](#)

extremely cold, of weather, wind, rain, etc.

[bitterly disappointed](#)

extremely disappointed

[blind faith](#)

unquestioning belief in something, even when it's unreasonable or wrong

[blind loyalty](#)

unquestioning support under any circumstances

[blind obedience](#)

unquestioning obedience, even when you're told to do something you know is wrong

[blissfully ignorant](#)

unaware of something that might sadden or disturb you if you knew about it

[block of flats](#)

a building with flats or apartments on several levels or floors

[blow your nose](#)

to clear your nose of mucus by forcing air through it

[book a flight](#)

to buy a ticket for a flight on a plane

[boost morale](#)

to increase morale or enthusiasm within a group of people

[break a law](#)

to do something illegal

[break a promise](#)

to fail to do what you promised to do

[break a record](#)

to beat a previous record in sport, speed, sales, etc.

[break news](#)

to tell someone bad news

[breaking news](#)

current news that a media organization gives special or live coverage to

[bright future](#)

successful or happy future

[bright idea](#)

a brilliant, clever or original idea

[bring about change](#)

to cause or create change in something or someone

[bring attention to](#)

to make people aware of something

[bring to an end](#)

to conclude an event, a process, a sequence, etc.

[bring to justice](#)

to make somebody face trial or punishment for their crime

[broken home](#)

a family in which the parents have separated or divorced

[budget deficit](#)

a negative balance between revenues and spending

Expressions (collocations)/C

Expressions (collocations) beginning with C.

[call a meeting](#)

to order or invite people to hold a meeting

[call a name](#)

to say somebody's name loudly

[call a strike](#)

to decide that workers will protest by not going to work

[call an election](#)

to decide that an election will be held

[call attention to](#)

to make someone notice or consider someone or something

[call in sick](#)

to telephone your place of work and say you're not coming because you're sick

[call sb names](#)

to tease or bully somebody by calling them nasty or offensive names

[call the police](#)

to telephone the police, esp. in an emergency

[can't afford](#)

unable to buy or do something because it's too expensive or problematic

[can't help](#)

unable to stop yourself doing something you shouldn't do

[can't stand](#)

dislike someone or something very much

[carry weight](#)

to have authority or influence

[cast a spell](#)

to use magic to make something happen

[cast a vote](#)

to vote in an election or a poll

[cast doubt](#)

to make something seem less believable or less reliable

[casual clothes](#)

comfortable clothes you wear in your free time

[casual relationship](#)

a relationship that isn't serious or long-term

[catch a cold](#)

to become sick after being infected with a cold virus

[catch a glimpse](#)

to see something or someone for a moment only

[catch a whiff](#)

to smell something for a moment only

[catch sight of](#)

to suddenly see something or someone

[cause trouble \(1\)](#)

to create problems or difficulties for somebody or something

[cause trouble \(2\)](#)

to start fights or incite violence

[centre of attention](#)

the main focus of interest or attention

[certain amount](#)

some, or not very much but more than very little

[change course](#)

to go in a different direction

[change the subject](#)

to start talking about a different topic

[change your mind](#)

to change your opinion or decision

[claim responsibility](#)

to say that you're responsible for something

[clean energy](#)

energy or power supply that doesn't pollute or damage environments in its production or use

[clear message](#)

a message that's easy to understand

[clear understanding](#)

an understanding that's free of confusion or doubt

[close the gap](#)

to reduce the difference between people or things

[close together](#)

very near to each other, or separated by a short distance or time

[come alive](#)

become lively, active or exciting

[come close \(to\)](#)

almost do something, achieve something, complete something, etc.

[come to a conclusion](#)

to conclude, decide or believe something after thinking about it

[come to a realization](#)

to become aware of something

[come to a stop](#)

to stop moving or happening

[come to an end](#)

to finish, of an event, a performance, a meeting, etc.

[come to expect](#)

learn to expect that something is likely to happen

[come to sb's rescue](#)

to save someone or something from danger or failure

[come true](#)

to become real, or what you'd hoped for

[comfort food](#)

food you eat to make yourself feel better, esp. food you liked as a child

[commit suicide](#)

to deliberately kill oneself

[common knowledge](#)

something that nearly everyone knows

[common language](#)

a language that both you and the person you're talking to can speak

[completely different](#)

totally different

[conduct research](#)

to organize and carry out research into something

[consider a possibility](#)

to think about a possible choice, solution, outcome, etc.

[contact details](#)

details you need to contact someone, like a telephone number, email address, etc.

[cost a fortune](#)

cost a lot of money

[cover costs](#)

to make enough money to pay for costs like production, materials, labour, etc.

[cross sb's mind](#)

to briefly think of something

[crystal clear \(1\)](#)

completely clear or transparent

[crystal clear \(2\)](#)

easy to understand or very obvious

[cut and paste](#)

to select and copy text or a graphic from one part of a file or computer to another

[cut costs](#)

to reduce costs

Expressions (collocations)/D

Expressions (collocations) beginning with D.

[daily life](#)

life as experienced from day to day

[dead ahead](#)

straight ahead

[dead body](#)

corpse, or the body of someone who's died

[dead end \(1\)](#)

a point at which no further progress seems possible

[dead end \(2\)](#)

a street or road that traffic enters and leaves at one end only

[dead tired](#)

very tired

[dead-end job](#)

a job with no prospects for advancement

[deadly weapon](#)

any object that's used for killing

[deafening silence](#)

a silence that everyone notices

[declare war](#)

to officially announce that a country is going to war against another country

[deep sleep](#)

If you're in a deep sleep, you can't be easily woken.

[deeply divided](#)

seriously split by disputes or different opinions

[deeply held](#)

strongly held, esp. of beliefs, views, convictions, etc.

[deeply rooted \(in\)](#)

strongly connected to the past, esp. of beliefs, culture, prejudice, conflict, etc.

[deliver a baby](#)

to manage or assist in the birth of a baby

[departure time](#)

the exact time at which a plane, train, etc. is scheduled to leave

[desk job](#)

a job at a desk or in an office

[detailed description](#)

a description that includes many details

[diametrically opposed](#)

completely different

[direct flight](#)

a flight that doesn't stop on its way to a destination

[direct quote](#)

the exact words that a quoted person said or wrote

[directly opposite](#)

straight across from

[dirty joke](#)

a joke that's related to sex

[dirty laundry](#)

unwashed clothes, sheets, towels, etc.

[dirty player](#)

a player who breaks the rules or tries to hurt other players

[distant relative](#)

a relative you share distant family ties with

[do a deal](#)

to make an arrangement, esp. in business

[do a favour](#)

do something to help somebody

[do better](#)

to improve in performance or condition

[do business \(with\)](#)

to engage in business activity

[do damage](#)

to cause harm or damage

[do good](#)

to have a good effect on somebody or something

[do harm](#)

to have a bad effect on somebody or something

[do likewise](#)

do the same thing

[do the dishes](#)

to wash plates, cups, pots, pans, knives, forks, etc. used to cook and eat a meal

[do the ironing](#)

to iron clothes, sheets, etc.

[do the shopping](#)

to buy food and groceries

[do the washing](#)

to wash clothes, sheets, towels, etc.

[do well](#)

to perform well in a job, a game, an exam, etc.

[do work](#)

to put effort into a task or a job

[do your best](#)

do all you can to succeed

[do your duty](#)

do what you should do at work, at home, or for your community

[doesn't matter](#)

doesn't have any effect

[don't care](#)

to not be upset or concerned about something

[don't mind \(1\)](#)

don't care, or not be upset about something

[don't mind \(2\)](#)

to not dislike, or to not have an aversion to something

[drive \(sb\) crazy](#)

to make somebody feel very annoyed or upset

[drop the subject](#)

to stop talking about something

[dual nationality](#)

having citizenship in two different countries

Expressions (collocations)/E

Expressions (collocations) beginning with E.

[early days](#)

soon after something begins

[early night](#)

earlier bedtime than usual

[early riser](#)

someone who usually gets up early in the morning

[early start](#)

a beginning or departure early in the morning

[earn a living](#)

to work and earn money for yourself or your family

[easy answer](#)

a solution that's easy to find and adopt

[easy money](#)

money that's made without working hard

[easy question](#)

a question that most people can answer correctly

[easy target](#)

someone or something that's easy to attack or criticize

[eat properly](#)

to eat proper amounts of healthy food

[eat well](#)

to eat plenty of food

[eating habits](#)

what you usually eat and the way you eat it

[economic growth](#)

an increase in the size of an economy, or the rate of this

[educational game](#)

a game that helps students to learn

[eke out a living](#)

to earn just enough money to survive

[empty promises](#)

promises that probably won't be kept

[empty words](#)

words that aren't really meant, or that won't lead to action

[enter a plea](#)

to plead guilty or not guilty in a court of law

[enter politics](#)

to begin a career in politics

[entry-level job](#)

a job at the lowest level of pay or responsibility

[equal rights](#)

rights that are the same for all races, genders, classes, etc.

[equally important](#)

of the same importance

[essential services](#)

basic services like water, electricity, postal services, medical care, free education, etc.

[ethical investment](#)

investment in a company that's ethical, not harmful or exploitative

[ethical standards](#)

ethically acceptable levels of behaviour

[ethnic minority](#)

a group of people living in a country in which most other people are from another culture or race

[ethnic tensions](#)

bad feelings between people from different races or ethnic groups

[even number](#)

any whole number that can be exactly divided by two, such as 2, 4, 6, 8, etc.

[evenly matched](#)

If two opponents are evenly matched, they are equally likely to win.

[every single](#)

all of them

[exactly the same](#)

identical

[exceed expectations](#)

be more or better than expected

[express concern](#)

to say or show that you're worried about something

[express interest \(in\)](#)

to show that you're interested in something

[extend a deadline](#)

to give someone more time in which to do something

Expressions (collocations)/F

Expressions (collocations) beginning with F.

[face a challenge](#)

to have to deal with a challenging situation

[face down](#)

with the front or face towards the ground

[face the fact\(s\)](#)

to accept that something is real or true, esp. if it's difficult to accept

[fail miserably](#)

to fail very badly

[fair deal](#)

a reasonable deal in business or a morally correct arrangement

[fall asleep](#)

to go to sleep

[fall dramatically](#)

to fall quickly, esp. of prices, sales, rates, temperatures, etc.

[fall in love](#)

to suddenly feel love for someone you're attracted to

[false impression](#)

a misleading or incorrect image

[false teeth](#)

teeth that aren't natural

[familiar face](#)

someone you know personally

[far away](#)

a long way from somewhere

[far better \(1\)](#)

be much better

[far better \(2\)](#)

do much better

[far more](#)

much more, or to a much greater degree

[fast asleep](#)

sleeping deeply, or in a deep sleep

[fast becoming](#)

quickly becoming

[fatal accident](#)

an accident in which someone dies

[fatal mistake](#)

a bad mistake that has terrible consequences

[feel guilty](#)

to feel bad about what you have or haven't done

[feel strongly \(about\)](#)

to have a very strong, or passionate, opinion about something

[fight a fire](#)

to try to put out a fire

[fight a war](#)

to engage in, or resort to, war

[fight corruption](#)

to try to prevent corruption in government and business

[fight hard](#)

to try very hard to get or achieve something

[figure prominently](#)

to be an important part of a process, an event, a story, etc.

[fill a gap](#)

to fill a space or an opening

[fill in a form](#)

to complete a form by writing in the spaces

[find difficult](#)

to feel that something's difficult, esp. while trying to do it

[find time](#)

to make time available, or find room in your schedule

[fire a shot](#)

to make a gun shoot a bullet

[firmly established](#)

well established and unlikely to change

[flat battery](#)

a battery that no longer works, or needs recharging

[flat tyre](#)

a tyre that doesn't have enough air in it

[follow a pattern](#)

happen in a regular way, or according to a pattern

[follow advice](#)

to do what someone advises you to do

[follow directions](#)

to go the way you've been told to go, or do something as directed

[follow instructions](#)

to do what instructions or instructors tell you to do

[foreign policy](#)

policy relating to international or foreign issues

[free speech](#)

speech that isn't restricted by law, religion, censorship, etc.

[free spirit](#)

a person who doesn't behave in a conventional way

[front door](#)

the door at the front of a house

[front page](#)

the first page of a newspaper

[front row](#)

a row of seats at or near the front

[front seat](#)

any seat in the front of a vehicle, or the seat next to a car's driver

[fully understand](#)

to understand the full meaning or importance of something

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[front row](#)

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[front seat](#)

any seat in the front of a vehicle, or the seat next to a car's driver

[fully understand](#)

to understand the full meaning or importance of something

Expressions (collocations)/G

Expressions (collocations) beginning with G.

[gain access](#)

to get into a place, or be given access to something or someone

[generally accepted](#)

accepted by most people

[get \(sb\) ready](#)

prepare yourself, or somebody else, for something

[get \(sth\) ready](#)

prepare something

[get a call](#)

to receive a telephone call from somebody

[get a chance](#)

to have an opportunity, or the time, to do something

[get a joke](#)

to understand a joke

[get a shock](#)

to be very surprised by something

[get a ticket](#)

to get a fine for parking illegally, speeding, etc.

[get angry](#)

to become angry about something

[get back together](#)

to become a couple or a group again after being apart

[get better](#)

to improve

[get better \(at\)](#)

to improve in skill or ability

[get changed \(1\)](#)

to be changed by someone or something

[get changed \(2\)](#)

to put on different clothes

[get dark](#)

to become dark, esp. when the sun goes down

[get dressed](#)

to put on clothes

[get into trouble](#)

to become involved in a bad, difficult or dangerous situation

[get lost](#)

to become lost, or be misplaced

[get married](#)

to marry somebody, or marry each other

[get old](#)

to become an old or elderly person

[get rid of \(1\)](#)

to throw away, give away or sell something you don't want anymore

[get rid of \(2\)](#)

to stop, or remove, something or someone that's annoying or upsetting you

[get sleep](#)

to spend time asleep

[get tired](#)

to become tired and feel like resting or sleeping

[get tired of](#)

to become bored or annoyed with something or somebody

[get to know](#)

to get familiar with somebody after spending time with them

[get to sleep](#)

to start sleeping

[get upset](#)

to become unhappy, disappointed or annoyed because of something

[get used to](#)

to become accustomed to something

[give a hand](#)

to give help, support or assistance

[give advice](#)

to tell somebody what you think they should do

[give birth](#)

If a mother gives birth, her unborn baby passes into the outside world.

[give evidence](#)

to say what you witnessed or know in a court of law or at an inquiry

[give notice](#)

to tell somebody that a job, or the occupation of a property, will end at a certain time

[give permission](#)

to allow or permit somebody to do something

[give rise to](#)

to cause or result in something

[give sb a call](#)

to telephone somebody

[give sb a chance](#)

to give somebody the opportunity to do something

[give sb a lift](#)

to take somebody somewhere in a car or other vehicle

[give sth a go](#)

to attempt something, esp. something you've never tried to do before

[give thought \(to\)](#)

to think about or consider something

[give up hope](#)

to stop hoping for something because you think it's no longer possible

[give way \(1\)](#)

to collapse due to weight or pressure

[give way \(2\)](#)

to yield, or let another vehicle go first, when driving in traffic

[go bald](#)

to become bald, or have hair fall out

[go bankrupt](#)

to be unable to pay debts and go out of business or into receivership

[go crazy \(1\)](#)

to become mentally ill

[go crazy \(2\)](#)

to get very excited

[go on a date](#)

to go out with someone you're dating

[go out of fashion](#)

to become unfashionable

[go smoothly](#)

happen without problems, difficulties or delays

[go unchallenged](#)

to not be challenged or corrected

[go unnoticed](#)

to not be seen or noticed

[go wrong](#)

to not go well, or to have bad results

[good cause](#)

an organization, activity or charity that helps people or animals in need

[good chance](#)

quite a high probability or likelihood

[good company](#)

If someone says you're good company, they enjoy spending time with you.

[good deal](#)

a fair deal or fair price

[good enough](#)

as good as necessary

[good luck](#)

good fortune

[good time](#)

an enjoyable or fun experience

[great deal of](#)

a very large amount of

[greatly appreciate](#)

to appreciate very much

[growing number \(of\)](#)

more and more, or an increasing number

[guilty conscience](#)

a feeling of shame or remorse after doing something wrong or bad

[guilty party](#)

person or organization guilty of doing something wrong or bad

Expressions (collocations)/H

Expressions (collocations) beginning with H.

[happy ending](#)

The last part of a story is a "happy ending" if all ends well for the main characters.

[happy hour](#)

a scheduled time when alcoholic drinks cost less than usual

[hard job](#)

a difficult job or task

[hard to believe](#)

difficult to believe

[hard to see \(1\)](#)

difficult to see

[hard to see \(2\)](#)

difficult to imagine

[hard to tell](#)

difficult to know or deduce something

[hard work](#)

any activity that requires a lot of energy or concentration

[hardly any](#)

almost none

[hardly ever](#)

almost never

[hardly likely](#)

very unlikely or very improbable

[hate to think](#)

to be afraid to, or not want to, imagine something

[have a baby](#)

to give birth to a baby

[have a chat](#)

to have a friendly talk with someone

[have a go \(1\)](#)

to have a turn at doing something

[have a go \(2\)](#)

to attempt to do something

[have a look](#)

to look at something

[have a right](#)

have a moral or legal claim or ability

[have a word](#)

to talk about something with somebody

[have access \(to\)](#)

to be able to get or use something

[have an effect \(on\)](#)

to cause a change

[have an idea](#)

to think of something

[have got](#)

to own, possess or have

[have got to](#)

must

[have room](#)

to have enough space for something

[have sex](#)

to have sexual contact with someone

[have the chance \(to\)](#)

to have the opportunity or the time

[have time](#)

to have enough time to do something

[have trouble](#)

to find it difficult to do something

[healthy diet](#)

a diet that's good for body's health

[heavily armed](#)

having or carrying many weapons

[heavily guarded](#)

guarded by many people

[heavy drinker](#)

someone who drinks a lot of alcohol

[heavy losses](#)

large or high losses, esp. of money or lives

[heavy schedule](#)

a schedule with many meetings, appointments, dates, etc.

[heavy smoker](#)

someone who smokes a lot of cigarettes

[heavy traffic](#)

traffics that's congested and moving slowly

[heavy workload](#)

If you have a heavy workload, you have a lot of work to do.

[hidden extras](#)

extra costs that companies or sellers try to hide from buyers

[high level](#)

a level that's above the normal or expected level

[high quality](#)

very good quality

[high standard](#)

very good standard

[highly regarded](#)

thought to be very good by many people

[highly unlikely](#)

very unlikely

[hold a referendum](#)

If a country holds a referendum, citizens can vote for or against introducing a new law or piece of legislation.

[hold an election](#)

to have or conduct an election

[hold an inquiry](#)

to have or conduct an official inquiry

[hold hands](#)

If two or more people hold hands, each person holds another person's hand.

[hold office](#)

to occupy a powerful position or role, esp. in government

[hold sb hostage](#)

to imprison somebody and demand something in exchange for their release

[hold sb prisoner](#)

to force somebody to stay somewhere

[hold talks](#)

to have formal or official discussions about an issue or a situation

[honest mistake](#)

a mistake that wasn't made deliberately, or had no bad intent

[hope so](#)

used to express hope that something's true

[human cost](#)

damage or loss caused to people or societies, incl. material loss, social costs, psychological damage, etc.

[human error](#)

a mistake caused by a person, and not by mechanical failure or natural forces

[human life](#)

human existence or human experience

[hurt sb's feelings](#)

to upset somebody by being insensitive to their feelings

Expressions (collocations)/I

Expressions (collocations) beginning with I.

[icy cold](#)

extremely cold

[icy wind](#)

very cold wind

[ill effects](#)

bad effects caused by something

[ill health](#)

poor health

[immediate action](#)

action taken right away, or without waiting

[immediate family](#)

your closest relatives by birth, meaning only your parents, brothers, sisters and children

[immediate future](#)

the period of time directly following the present

[impose conditions](#)

to set conditions or requirements that must be met or satisfied

[impose restrictions](#)

to place limits or bans on particular actions or activities

[impose sanctions](#)

to ban or limit trade or contact with a country in order to bring about a change of government or policy

[inextricably linked](#)

If two or more things are inextricably linked, the connections between them are essential or extremely close.

[innocent victim](#)

a person who wasn't involved in the events or actions that harmed them

[insect bite](#)

a bite or sting from an insect

[inside information](#)

information only known by people inside a particular organization

[intense pressure](#)

very strong or extreme pressure

[interest rate](#)

the percentage of a loan that borrowers must pay back in addition to the amount they borrowed

[internal injury](#)

an injury inside the body

[internal organ](#)

an organ inside the body

[invest heavily](#)

to spend a lot of money on something to improve or develop it

[irreparable damage](#)

damage that's too serious to repair

[issue a permit](#)

to give somebody an official document that permits them to do something

Expressions (collocations)/J

Expressions (collocations) beginning with J.

[jet fighter](#)

armed jet plane used in war

[job interview](#)

an interview you attend if you're trying to get a job

[job losses](#)

reductions in the number of jobs available

[job opportunity](#)

prospect or chance of finding a job

[join a club](#)

to become a member of a club

[join forces](#)

If two or more people or groups join forces, they work together to achieve a common goal.

[join the army](#)

to enlist and serve in the army

[joint account](#)

a bank account held jointly by two or more people

[joint effort](#)

something achieved or created by two or more people working together

[joint owners](#)

two or more people or parties who share ownership of something

[jump to a conclusion](#)

to decide, or make up your mind, before knowing all the facts

[junk food](#)

unhealthy food, esp. processed food with lots of fat, salt, sugar, etc.

[junk mail](#)

advertising material that's sent to people who haven't asked for it

[just about](#)

almost or very nearly

[just cause](#)

a cause that it is morally right or just

[just now \(1\)](#)

at this moment

[just now \(2\)](#)

a moment ago, or a very short time ago

Expressions (collocations)/K

Expressions (collocations) beginning with K.

[keep a diary](#)

to own and write in a diary

[keep a promise](#)

to do what you promised to do

[keep a secret](#)

to not tell anyone a secret

[keep an appointment](#)

to meet somebody at the time you agreed to

[keep busy](#)

to have or find many things to do

[keep fit](#)

to stay in good physical condition by exercising

[keep going \(1\)](#)

to continue in the same direction

[keep going \(2\)](#)

to continue driving, riding, running, walking, etc.

[keep going \(3\)](#)

to continue doing whatever you're doing

[keep in touch](#)

to have regular contact with somebody by phone, mail, email, etc.

[keep quiet](#)

to make very little noise

[keep records](#)

to store detailed information, e.g. in business, legal cases, health care, education, etc.

[keep safe](#)

to prevent loss or damage

[keep sb waiting](#)

to make somebody wait

[keep sb/sth quiet](#)

to stop somebody or something from making too much noise

[keep score](#)

to keep a record of the score in a game or a match

[keep still](#)

to not move

[keep the change](#)

to not return the change after someone has paid for something

[keep your balance](#)

to remain steady on your feet and not stumble or fall

[key issue](#)

the most, or one of the most, important issues

[key role](#)

the most, or one of the most, important roles

[keynote address](#)

the main speech or lecture at a conference, seminar, meeting, etc.

[keynote speaker](#)

the main speaker at a conference, seminar, meeting, etc.

[kick a goal](#)

to score a goal by kicking a ball

[kill time](#)

to do something to fill in spare time

[know best](#)

to know what the best thing to do is

[know better](#)

to be sensible enough to know that it's better not to do something

[know the score](#)

to know the truth or the facts about something

Expressions (collocations)/L

Expressions (collocations) beginning with L.

[language skills](#)

skills related to using a language

[last long](#)

continue for a long time

[late night](#)

a night when you go to bed later than usual

[laugh out loud](#)

to laugh audibly, or laugh aloud so people can hear you

law and order

public order that police or military forces maintain

lay the groundwork

to do preliminary work in preparation for future work

lead the field

to be winning in a race

lead the way (1)

to go first to show others the way

lead the way (2)

to do something first or best

lead the world

to be the most successful or advanced in the world

lead to believe

to encourage somebody to believe something, or to hint that something might happen

leading role

the most important role in a film, play or TV show

leave a message

to leave information for someone you haven't been able to meet or talk to

leave home

to move out from the home you grew up in

leave sb alone

to stop annoying, bothering or criticizing somebody

leave school

to stop going to school

leave sth alone

to not touch, change or use something

legal advice

advice from a lawyer, a solicitor, or any other a legal expert

let go (1)

to allow somebody or something to go free

let go (2)

to stop holding on to something

let sb know

to tell or inform somebody

level playing-field

a situation that's fair for everyone, or in which everyone has the same opportunities

level teaspoon

a teaspoon filled to the level of the sides of the spoon

lie ahead

If something lies ahead, it's going to happen in the future.

light a fire

to start a fire

[liquid refreshments](#)

alcoholic or non-alcoholic drinks

[little bit](#)

slightly, or a little

[little brother | little sister](#)

younger brother, younger sister

[little known](#)

not known by many people

[live at home](#)

to live in the home you grew up in, or with the people who raised you

[live music](#)

music played on instruments in front of an audience

[living conditions](#)

physical conditions in which people live

[living things](#)

all things that are alive, incl. microorganisms, plants, animals, etc.

[long ago](#)

in the distant past

[long overdue](#)

should have been done, or should have happened, a long time ago

[long time](#)

a great amount of time

[long way](#)

a great distance

[look nice](#)

appear attractive, pleasant, enjoyable, delicious, etc.

[lose a game](#)

to be defeated in a game

[lose a job](#)

to be told you no longer have your job

[lose control](#)

to no longer be in control of something

[lose faith](#)

to no longer have faith in something you once believed in or trusted

[lose hope](#)

to no longer have hope

[lose interest](#)

to no longer be interested in something

[lose money](#)

to have less money after gambling, investing, starting a business, etc.

[lose weight](#)

to become lighter in weight

[lose your life](#)

to die because of an accident, war, illness, crime, etc.

[lose your temper](#)

to suddenly become angry

[love dearly](#)

to love very much, esp. of family members and friends

[loved one](#)

someone you love, esp. a family member or partner

[lucky escape](#)

If you had a lucky escape, you came close to being killed or badly injured.

Expressions (collocations)/M

Expressions (collocations) beginning with M.

[main course](#)

the largest course in a meal

[main road](#)

a wide road with lots of traffic

[main thing](#)

the most important thing

[make a bed](#)

to neatly arrange the sheets, blankets and pillows on a bed

[make a decision](#)

to decide what to do

[make a difference](#)

to cause a situation or condition to change

[make a fortune](#)

to make a huge amount of money

[make a fuss](#)

to create unnecessary excitement or concern about something

[make a living](#)

to earn money for the things you need in life

[make a mess](#)

to create an untidy or disorganized state or situation

[make a mistake](#)

to do something that's wrong or has bad results

[make a note \(of\)](#)

to write down something so that you don't forget it

[make a profit](#)

to make money from business or investments

[make a reservation](#)

to book or reserve a seat on a train, a table in a restaurant, a room in a hotel, etc.

[make amends](#)

to do something to show you're sorry for your bad behaviour in the past

[make an appointment](#)

to arrange a date and time to visit an office, clinic, dentist, doctor, etc.

[make an effort](#)

to put time and energy into doing something

[make an excuse](#)

to give a reason for doing something you shouldn't do, or for not doing something you should do

[make an offer](#)

to state a price you're willing to pay for something

[make arrangements](#)

to arrange all aspects of an event such as a wedding, funeral, meeting, conference, etc.

[make believe](#)

to pretend that something is real or true

[make changes](#)

to change something in specific ways

[make clear](#)

to make something easy to understand, or to express yourself clearly

[make contact](#)

to contact a person or an organisation

[make friends](#)

to form new friendships

[make love](#)

to have sex with someone, esp. someone you love

[make progress](#)

to get closer to a goal, or to improve in ability

[make room](#)

to create space by moving something

[make sb feel sth](#)

to cause somebody to feel a certain way

[make sense \(1\)](#)

If an idea, plan or action "makes sense", it's sensible and rational and not stupid or likely to fail.

[make sense \(2\)](#)

If a sentence or statement "makes sense", it can be understood by the people who read it or hear it.

[make sth easy](#)

to cause something to be less difficult

[make sure](#)

to check so that you're sure about something

[married couple](#)

two people who are married to one another

[mass market](#)

the great majority of people who buy goods in a society

[may \(very\) well](#)

could or might

[medical care](#)

help given to someone who's sick or injured

[medical history](#)

all the illnesses, injuries and treatments that someone has had in the past

[meet a need](#)

to provide what is needed

[meet a standard](#)

to reach a certain standard or level of quality, safety, etc.

[meet a target](#)

to reach the number or amount set as a target, e.g. in sales, profits, savings, website traffic, etc.

[meet opposition](#)

to receive a negative response or reaction

[meet with approval](#)

to receive a positive response or reaction

[mental illness](#)

illness causing thoughts or feelings that seriously disrupt a person's normal state of mind

[miles away](#)

far away, or a long way from a particular place

[miss a flight](#)

to arrive too late to board a flight on a plane

[miss a goal](#)

to try to score a goal, but fail

[miss an opportunity](#)

to have an opportunity to do something, but fail to do it

[missing in action](#)

If someone is "missing in action", they haven't been seen or contacted since being involved in military action.

[mixed feelings](#)

different emotions, or conflicting impulses, felt at the same time

[moral obligation](#)

moral requirement to do something because you know it's the right thing to do

[more or less \(1\)](#)

somewhat, fairly or almost

[more or less \(2\)](#)

approximately

[murder mystery](#)

a book, play or film about the investigation of a murder

[mysterious circumstances](#)

circumstances that aren't understood, or haven't been revealed or explained

Expressions (collocations)/N

Expressions (collocations) beginning with N.

[nasty habit](#)

a bad or unpleasant tendency

[nasty shock](#)

an unpleasant surprise

[native country](#)

the country in which you were born

[native speaker](#)

someone for whom a particular language is their first or native language

[natural causes](#)

If you die of natural causes, your life ends naturally and not because of an accident, murder or suicide.

[natural disaster](#)

a natural event that causes great harm, e.g. an earthquake, cyclone, tornado, etc.

[natural resources](#)

things from nature that we can use, e.g. oil, coal, rivers, lakes, trees, forests, etc.

[neat and tidy](#)

not messy

[need badly](#)

to need very much

[negative attitude](#)

an attitude that shows a critical viewpoint or a negative bias

[nervous wreck](#)

a person who's very stressed or nervous

[net profit](#)

profit remaining after taxes and costs have been deducted

[net result](#)

the final or overall effect or result of something

[net worth](#)

the total value of everything you own, including property and money, minus any debts you owe

[never knew](#)

to not know something

[new generation](#)

a new group of people or products that appeared around the same time

[new job](#)

a different job or a job you've found recently

[next time](#)

the time after this time

[next-door neighbours](#)

people living in a house next to yours

[nice time](#)

a pleasant or enjoyable experience

[non-stop flight](#)

flight that doesn't stop over on its way to a destination

[not necessarily \(so\)](#)

not always or not definitely

[nothing else](#)

no other thing or things

[nothing much](#)

nothing that's important

[nothing wrong with](#)

nothing that's causing a problem

[nowhere near \(1\)](#)

far away from

[nowhere near \(2\)](#)

not almost, or not similar to

[null and void](#)

having no legal effect or force

Expressions (collocations)/O

Expressions (collocations) beginning with O.

[obey an order](#)

to do what someone orders or commands you to do

[occupational hazard](#)

a danger that people doing a particular job face

[odd number](#)

any whole number that can't be exactly divided by two, such as 1, 3, 5, 7, etc.

[odd socks](#)

socks that don't match

[offer a job](#)

to tell someone they can have a job if they want it

[offer an explanation](#)

to explain why something was done

[offer condolences](#)

to convey sympathy to the family or friends of someone who's died

[offer your services](#)

to offer your time and skills to help a person or an organization

[office block](#)

a large building that houses many offices

[office hours](#)

hours when an office is open for business

[office job](#)

a job that's done at a desk in an office

[old age](#)

the time in life after middle age

[old friend](#)

a friend you've known for a very long time

[only just \(1\)](#)

a very short time ago

[only just \(2\)](#)

by a very small amount

[open an account](#)

to start an account with a bank, credit union, building society, supplier of goods, etc.

[open an investigation](#)

to begin an investigation into something

[open fire](#)

to start shooting with a weapon

[opening hours](#)

the time during which a club, park, library, shop, gallery, etc. is open

[openly gay](#)

If you're openly gay, you don't hide your homosexuality.

[opposition party](#)

a political party that's in opposition to the party or parties in power

[optional extras](#)

special features a product can have if you pay extra for them

[organic farming](#)

farming without using artificial chemicals

[overall effect](#)

the general effect, or overall result, of something

[owe an apology](#)

If you think you owe somebody an apology, you think you should say sorry to them.

[owe an explanation](#)

If you think someone owes you an explanation, you think they should explain why they did something that badly affected you.

Expressions (collocations)/P

Expressions (collocations) beginning with P.

[pack a suitcase](#)

to put clothes and other possessions into a suitcase

[pack of cards](#)

a full set of playing cards

[painful memory](#)

a memory that's upsetting or disturbing

[painful reminder](#)

If something's a painful reminder, it reminds you of something you find upsetting or disturbing.

[painfully shy](#)

extremely shy, or so shy that other people find it disturbing

[painfully slow](#)

extremely slow, or so slow that people become impatient

[painfully thin](#)

extremely thin, of a person or animal

[pair work](#)

a type of learning activity in which two students work together

[part company \(1\)](#)

to end a relationship or partnership

[part company \(2\)](#)

to stop travelling or spending time together and go different ways

[pass \(the\) time](#)

to do something to fill in time when you're bored or have nothing to do

[pass a law](#)

to bring in a new law by voting in parliament or by decree

[pass a test](#)

to not fail a test

[pay a bill](#)

to pay the amount stated on a bill

[pay a visit](#)

to visit someone or something

[pay attention](#)

to watch closely or listen carefully to someone or something

[pay increase](#)

an increase in the amount of money paid as a wage or salary

[peace and quiet](#)

no noise or disturbance

[perfectly normal](#)

not unusual at all

[personal belongings](#)

personal possessions that belong to you

[phone rings](#)

If your phone rings, it makes a noise to let you know someone's calling you.

[pick your nose](#)

to use a finger to remove dried mucus from inside your nose

[piece of advice](#)

a particular suggestion given as advice

[piece of equipment](#)

one particular item used as equipment

[piece of information](#)

a particular fact or item of information

[piece of music](#)

any musical work, including musical compositions, traditional works, improvised music, pop songs, etc.

[piece of paper](#)

one sheet or scrap of paper

[place an order](#)

put in an order to buy something

[play a part](#)

perform a particular role, or be involved in a particular way

[play music](#)

to make music with an instrument, or to broadcast recorded music

[point of view](#)

a particular perspective or way of seeing things

[political prisoner](#)

someone who's imprisoned because of their political beliefs

[poor eyesight](#)

not very good eyesight

[poor health](#)

not very good health

[popular belief](#)

an idea that most people believe is true

[pose a risk](#)

to create risk of danger or harm

[pose a threat](#)

create the threat of danger or harm

[press a key](#)

to put a finger on a key on a keyboard and press down

[pretty good](#)

quite good or fairly good

[pretty well](#)

fairly well or reasonably well

[private life](#)

aspects of someone's life that aren't related to work or other public roles

[public opinion](#)

the opinions of the majority of people in a society

[pull a muscle](#)

to injure a muscle by lifting something heavy or moving too quickly

[push a button](#)

to press a button on a machine or an appliance

[put on weight](#)

to become heavier or fatter, of a person or an animal

[put out a cigarette](#)

to stop a cigarette from burning

[put out a fire](#)

to stop a fire from burning

[put up prices](#)

to increase prices

[put up wages](#)

to increase wages

[put up your hand](#)

to raise your arm if you want to say something, ask or answer a question, show you're present, etc.

Expressions (collocations)/Q

Expressions (collocations) beginning with Q.

[quality of life](#)

the level of personal satisfaction, happiness and health in somebody's life

[quick fix](#)

a solution to a problem that can be quickly or cheaply implemented, but may not be a good or long-lasting solution

[quick reply](#)

a prompt or almost immediate reply to a letter or email

[quiet life](#)

a simple and peaceful way of living

[quiet night](#)

a night when you stay at home instead of going out

[quietly confident](#)

feeling confident, but not saying much about it

[quit a job](#)

to tell an employer you no longer want your job

[quit drinking](#)

to stop drinking alcohol

[quit smoking](#)

to stop smoking cigarettes

[quite a lot](#)

quite often, or quite a large amount

[quite agree](#)

agree completely

[quite enough](#)

as much as necessary

[quite good](#)

fairly good

[quite often](#)

fairly often

[quite right](#)

completely correct

[quite sure](#)

completely sure

Expressions (collocations)/R

Expressions (collocations) beginning with R.

[racial discrimination](#)

unfair treatment of someone because of their race

[radical reform](#)

major and fundamental reform

[rain hard](#)

rain heavily, as during a storm or a downpour

[rainy day](#)

a day during which it rains quite a lot

[raise a family](#)

to raise one or more children in a family setting

[raise doubts](#)

to express doubts or concerns about something

[raise hopes](#)

to make somebody feel more hopeful

[raise money](#)

to collect money for a special purpose

[raise questions](#)

to bring issues or questions to somebody's attention

[raise taxes](#)

to increase the rate of taxation

[raise your voice](#)

to show anger by speaking louder than usual

[rapid growth](#)

fast growth, or growth in a short period of time

[rate of return](#)

the percentage of an original investment that is returned as profit

[rave review](#)

a very good review of a book, movie, play, concert, etc.

[reach a verdict](#)

to decide if the accused is guilty or not

[reach an agreement](#)

to finally agree after discussing or negotiating something

[read aloud](#)

to say words out loud as you read them

[readily available](#)

easy to obtain or easy to find

[real life](#)

life as it's really experienced, or life in the real world

[real live](#)

present in reality, and not in a film, on TV, etc.

[real wages](#)

the true value of wages, in terms of what you can buy with the money

[reasonable explanation](#)

an explanation that most people can accept or believe

[reasonably happy](#)

fairly pleased or reasonably satisfied

[reasonably priced](#)

for sale or rent at a fair price

[reasonably well](#)

fairly well or satisfactorily

[recommend highly](#)

to strongly recommend someone or something

[regain control](#)

to get control of something again after losing control

[repair damage](#)

to fix the damage to something

[resort to violence](#)

to use violence when other methods have failed

[restore confidence](#)

to bring back confidence, trust or belief in something

[restore order](#)

to bring back order after a period of revolt or disorder

[retain control](#)

to maintain control of, or keep control over, something

[return a call](#)

to call someone back after not answering their call

[return address](#)

a sender's address, for replying to or returning a letter or parcel

[return fire](#)

to fire back when someone's firing a weapon at you

[return flight](#)

the flight back from where your first flight took you

[return home](#)

to come back home, or to go back home

[return ticket](#)

a ticket for travelling to a place, and then back again

[rhetorical question](#)

a question that's asked to make a point, not get an answer

[right away](#)

immediately, or without delay

[right now \(1\)](#)

at this moment

[right now \(2\)](#)

immediately, or without delay

[road safety](#)

safety on roads for drivers, passengers and pedestrians

[room for improvement](#)

the possibility or need for something to improve

[root cause](#)

the main or fundamental cause of something

[root crop](#)

a plant with roots or other underground parts that can be eaten, like carrots, potatoes, ginger, etc.

[rough draft](#)

an unedited or unpolished version of an essay, book, speech, screenplay, etc.

[rough estimate](#)

an approximate estimate

[rough idea](#)

a vague or approximate idea, concept, memory, etc.

[round number](#)

any whole number that ends in 0, such as 10, 150, and 1250

[run a business](#)

to be in charge of a business

[run the risk of](#)

to do something risky, or that could have a bad result

[running late](#)

behind schedule

[running low](#)

almost used up or almost exhausted, esp. of fuel, supplies, foods, drinks, etc.

[runny nose](#)

If you've got a runny nose, liquid mucus is running from your nose.

Expressions (collocations)/S

Expressions (collocations) beginning with S.

[safe and sound](#)

not harmed, hurt or damaged in any way

[safe distance](#)

far enough away from danger to be safe

[safety hazard](#)

something that isn't safe or creates danger

[safety net](#)

government programs that help people in trouble, esp. the poor, sick, unemployed, old, homeless, etc.

[safety record](#)

a record showing how effective safety measures have been

[sales figures](#)

figures showing the number of products sold

[sales force](#)

all the people employed to sell a company's products

[satisfy a need](#)

to give or provide what somebody needs

[satisfy a requirement](#)

to have what a requirement states or specifies

[satisfy demand](#)

to sell products in the quantities demanded by the market

[save lives](#)

to prevent deaths, or stop people from dying

[save money \(1\)](#)

to keep money for the future

[save money \(2\)](#)

to pay less money

[save time](#)

to use less time

[say goodbye](#)

to say a parting word as you leave, or as somebody else leaves

[say sorry](#)

to apologize to someone

[scare tactic](#)

a tactic that uses fear to make people behave a certain way

[score a goal](#)

to get a goal in sport

[security forces](#)

military and police forces

[see reason](#)

to see that your view is unreasonable or wrong, and reconsider

[see what sb means](#)

to understand somebody's viewpoint or observation

[sense of direction](#)

a natural ability to know which direction you're going in

[sense of humour](#)

an ability to see and express humour, or the funny side of things

[serious accident](#)

an accident in which someone is badly injured or killed

[serious illness](#)

a very harmful or dangerous illness

[serious injury](#)

a very bad injury

[serious mistake](#)

a very bad mistake

[serious relationship](#)

a romantic relationship that you take seriously

[seriously damage \(1\)](#)

badly damage (of material objects)

[seriously damage \(2\)](#)

badly affect (of non-material or abstract things)

[seriously ill](#)

very sick

[seriously injured](#)

badly hurt or injured

[seriously wounded](#)

badly hurt by a weapon

[serve a purpose](#)

to be useful, esp. in achieving an aim or performing a function

[serve interests](#)

to benefit or support the interests of someone or something

[set a date](#)

to decide the date on which something in the future will happen

[set a goal](#)

to decide what it is you'll try to achieve

[set a record](#)

to achieve a new record in sport, sales, profits, losses, etc.

[set a standard](#)

to set or establish a certain level of quality

[set a table](#)

to put forks, knives, spoons, plates, place mats, etc. onto a table before a meal is served

[set an alarm](#)

to set the time at which the alarm in a phone or alarm clock will ring

[set fire to | set on fire](#)

to make something start burning

[set free](#)

to let someone or something go free

[set menu](#)

a complete meal with several courses for a fixed price

[short memory](#)

If you have a short memory, you can forget things soon after they've happened.

[social justice](#)

fair distribution of wealth, opportunities and privileges in society

[social life](#)

the part of life involving friends and social activities

[solve a crime](#)

to find out who committed a crime

[solve a problem](#)

to find the solution to a problem

[spare time](#)

time when you're free to do whatever you want to do

[speedy recovery](#)

a quicker recovery from illness or injury than usual

[spend time](#)

to do something or be somewhere for a certain time

[spend your life](#)

to use the time you have in life

[stand trial](#)

to be judged for a crime in a court of law

[stay awake](#)

to remain awake, or not go to sleep

stay put

to stay in the same place or situation

stay tuned

keep watching a television broadcast or keep listening to a radio broadcast

steady job

a job that offers constant work and a reliable income

steady relationship

a serious and stable romantic relationship

steady stream

constant sequence, or many things one after another

stiff competition

strong competition from rivals or opponents

still (be) alive

not yet dead

straight after

immediately after something happens or finishes

straight ahead

directly in front

straight answer

an honest and direct answer to a question

straight away

immediately

strictly speaking

according to a strict definition of a meaning or a regulation

strike a balance (btw)

to find a balanced position that's reasonable and fair for all or both sides

strongly support

to support or believe in somebody or something very much

sure sign

a sign or evidence that something is happening or definitely true

Expressions (collocations)/T

Expressions (collocations) beginning with T.

take (sb's) temperature

to measure somebody's body temperature

take (sb) to court

to begin a legal case against someone

take a break

to stop doing something for a short time, e.g. to eat, rest, go to the toilet, etc.

[take a call](#)

to answer or accept an incoming telephone call

[take a look](#)

to examine, inspect or look at something

[take a message](#)

to write down or memorize a message for somebody

[take a risk](#)

to do something you know is dangerous

[take a seat](#)

to sit down on a chair, bench, sofa, etc.

[take a step \(1\)](#)

to put one foot in front of the other, as when walking

[take a step \(2\)](#)

to do something that helps to achieve a goal

[take a test](#)

to sit an examination or do a test

[take action](#)

to do something to achieve a goal or solve a problem

[take advice](#)

to do what somebody advises you to do

[take ages](#)

to take a long time

[take care](#)

be careful

[take care of](#)

to care for or look after somebody or something

[take charge](#)

to take control or assume responsibility

[take drugs](#)

to use mind-altering or mood-altering drugs

[take exercise](#)

to exercise your body for health or fitness

[take hostage](#)

to capture and threaten somebody in order to get something

[take long](#)

to take a long time to do or finish

[take medicine](#)

to swallow a tablet or syrup to cure an illness

[take notes](#)

to write notes in a lecture or when reading

[take notice](#)

to pay attention to something

take part

to be involved, or to participate in something

take place

to happen or occur

take pride in

to be proud of your talent, skills, work, achievements, etc.

take prisoner

to capture and imprison somebody, esp. in a war or battle

take sb's place

to replace somebody, or to do something instead of somebody else

take seriously

to think that somebody or something is important or deserves your full attention

take time

to take a long time

take turns

If people take turns, they do something one after the other, or alternately.

take up space

to occupy or fill up space

take your time

to take as long as you like, without rushing

tax cut

a reduction in the rate of taxation

tell a lie

to say something you know isn't true

tell a story

to share a story by reading it, recalling it, or making it up

tell sb the time

to tell somebody what time it is

tell the difference

to notice differences and be able to distinguish between similar things

tell the time

to be able to look at a clock, a sundial, stars, etc. and know what time it is

tell the truth

to say what's true or what really happened

tight budget

a budget that severely limits the amount of money that can be spent

tight grip

a firm hold

tight schedule

a schedule with very little time between appointments, meetings, etc.

time off

time away from work

[top floor](#)

the highest level or storey in a building

[top priority](#)

the most important of several issues, goals, tasks, etc.

[top speed](#)

the fastest speed that something can travel at

[travel light](#)

to travel without much luggage

[try hard](#)

to put a lot of effort into doing something

[turn a corner](#)

to go around a corner

[turn around](#)

to turn your body or head so that you're facing the opposite way

Expressions (collocations)/U

Expressions (collocations) beginning with U.

[ulterior motive](#)

the hidden reason or purpose behind an action

[ultimate goal](#)

final objective or goal

[uncertain future](#)

a future that's likely to be worse than the present

[unconditional love](#)

love that isn't based on conditions or requirements

[undergo surgery](#)

to have a surgical procedure or operation

[undergo treatment](#)

to have treatment for a medical condition

[unemployment benefit](#)

a regular payment from the government to help someone who can't find a job

[unfair advantage](#)

an advantage that isn't fair or hasn't been earned

[unfair dismissal](#)

unjust or unfair firing of a worker

[unrequited love](#)

love you feel for someone who doesn't love you

[unusually wealthy](#)

much wealthier than other people in the same position or with the same job

[upper deck](#)

deck of a ship that's above lower decks and open to the sky

[upper echelons](#)

the highest ranks in a society or organization

[upper limit](#)

the highest level or amount allowed

[upset sb's stomach](#)

If something upsets your stomach, it causes a stomach problem that makes you feel sick.

[upset stomach](#)

If you've got an upset stomach, you feel sick in the stomach.

[urban development](#)

the building or development of towns and cities

[urban renewal](#)

the renewal of poor parts of a city by improving services and attracting investment

[urban sprawl](#)

the poorly-regulated spread of urban development into the countryside near a city

[use sb's phone](#)

to make a call on somebody else's phone

[used car](#)

a car that's already been owned by someone

[utterly ridiculous](#)

completely ridiculous or unreasonable

Expressions (collocations)/V

Expressions (collocations) beginning with V.

[vague idea](#)

an approximate or imprecise idea

[vague memory](#)

unclear or incomplete memory

[valid point](#)

a point that most people would find reasonable and logical

[valid reason](#)

a reason that most people would find acceptable or believable

[valuable contribution](#)

an important contribution to something's development or success

[valuable information](#)

important or useful information

[valuable lesson](#)

If an experience becomes a valuable lesson, it teaches you something important.

vary widely

to vary a lot, or include very different types, amounts, degrees, etc.

vast majority

great majority, or the most by far

victory lap

a lap around a field or track to celebrate a victory

victory parade

a parade held to celebrate a victory, esp. in sports, war, politics, etc.

violent crime

a crime that causes injury or death

violent movie

a movie with many violent scenes

visiting hours

hours of the day when you can visit a hospital, prison, museum, zoo, government office, etc.

vital organs

organs that are essential for life, incl. the brain, heart, kidneys, liver and lungs

vital role

a very important role

vocal critic

a person who often criticizes something or someone in public

vocal minority

a group that voices an opinion that the majority of people don't agree with

vocal music

music that includes parts for one or more singers, with or without instruments

vocal organs

organs used when speaking or making sounds

vote against

to not support someone or something with your vote

vote for

to give someone or something your vote

Expressions (collocations)/W

Expressions (collocations) beginning with W.

wage increase

an increase in the amount of money a wage-earner is paid

wage war

to begin a struggle or campaign to fight something

wait your turn

to wait until your turn comes

[warm welcome](#)

a friendly or positive reception

[warning sign](#)

a sign or indication that something's wrong

[waste an opportunity](#)

to not make use of an opportunity or chance

[waste money](#)

to spend money on something you don't really need or want

[waste of time](#)

something that's not worth spending time on

[waste time](#)

to spend time doing something that brings no results

[waste water](#)

used water that's discharged from factories, farms, homes, etc.

[watch your weight](#)

to be careful about what you eat so you don't put on weight

[wave goodbye](#)

to wave your hand when leaving, or when someone else is leaving

[way ahead](#)

far ahead, or a long way in front

[weak point](#)

part of something that's easy to attack or criticize

[wear and tear](#)

damage caused by normal use over time

[welcome change](#)

a pleasant or long-awaited change

[well after](#)

a long time after

[well ahead](#)

a long way ahead

[well aware of](#)

fully or completely aware or informed

[well before](#)

a long time before

[well behind](#)

a long way behind

[well worth](#)

definitely worth doing, getting, seeing, etc.

[whole thing](#)

the entire thing, or all of something

[wide awake](#)

completely awake or fully alert

[wide open](#)

fully open, of a door, window, eyes, mouth, etc.

[wide range \(1\)](#)

a large number of similar products, services, styles, options, etc.

[wide range \(2\)](#)

many different types, esp. of people, opinions, choices, results, etc.

[widely used](#)

used by many people or in many places

[wild animal](#)

an animal that's living free in its natural habitat

[win a game](#)

to beat your opponent in a game

[win a war](#)

to defeat the enemy in a war

[win an award](#)

to receive an award

[win an election](#)

to be awarded victory by those running an election

[work hard](#)

to put a lot of effort into what you're doing

[work well](#)

operate or function properly, efficiently, smoothly, etc.

[working conditions](#)

environment and conditions in which you work

[worth a fortune](#)

worth a lot of money

[wrong number](#)

an incorrect telephone number

[wrong way \(1\)](#)

wrong direction

[wrong way \(2\)](#)

incorrect method, technique, strategy, etc.

Expressions (collocations)/XYZ

Expressions (collocations) beginning with X-Z.

[x-ray vision](#)

the ability to see into or through objects made of non-transparent materials

[yawning gap](#)

a very wide gap

[yet again](#)

one more time, after many other times

[yield results](#)

to produce or provide results

[young child](#)

a person who's very young, but not a baby

[young couple](#)

two young people in a romantic relationship

[young person](#)

a person who's still young, but no longer a child

[youthful enthusiasm](#)

great enthusiasm that a young person feels

[zero tolerance \(1\)](#)

legal policy that allows politicians to set mandatory punishments that judges must apply

[zero tolerance \(2\)](#)

absolutely no tolerance for something

[zero visibility](#)

absolutely no visibility due to darkness, poor weather, etc.