

## Common Expressions (Collocations)

On this document you can find a few short lists of common collocations to give you more of an idea about them. Many good learner's dictionaries show collocations associated with specific words. There are also dictionaries of collocations, though these are more difficult to find.

### Verb expressions (collocations)

#### have

have a bath  
have a drink  
have a good time  
have a haircut  
have a holiday  
have a problem  
have a relationship  
have a rest  
have lunch  
have sympathy

#### take

take a break  
take a chance  
take a look  
take a rest  
take a seat  
take a taxi  
take an exam  
take notes  
take someone's place  
take someone's temperature

#### pay

pay a fine  
pay attention  
pay by credit card  
pay cash  
pay interest  
pay someone a compliment  
pay someone a visit  
pay the bill  
pay the price  
pay your respects

#### do

do business  
do nothing  
do someone a favour  
do the cooking  
do the housework  
do the shopping  
do the washing up  
do your best  
do your hair  
do your homework

#### break

break a habit  
break a leg  
break a promise  
break a record  
break a window  
break someone's heart  
break the ice  
break the law  
break the news to someone  
break the rules

#### save

save electricity  
save energy  
save money  
save one's strength  
save someone a seat  
save someone's life  
save something to a disk  
save space  
save time  
save yourself the trouble

#### make

make a difference  
make a mess  
make a mistake  
make a noise  
make an effort  
make furniture  
make money  
make progress  
make room  
make trouble

#### catch

catch a ball  
catch a bus  
catch a chill  
catch a cold  
catch a thief  
catch fire  
catch sight of  
catch someone's attention  
catch someone's eye  
catch the flu

#### keep

keep a diary  
keep a promise  
keep a secret  
keep an appointment  
keep calm  
keep control  
keep in touch  
keep quiet  
keep someone's place  
keep the change

**come**

come close  
 come complete with  
 come direct  
 come early  
 come first  
 come into view  
 come last  
 come late  
 come on time  
 come prepared  
 come right back  
 come second  
 come to a compromise  
 come to a decision  
 come to an agreement  
 come to an end  
 come to a standstill  
 come to terms with  
 come to a total of  
 come under attack

**go**

go abroad  
 go astray  
 go bad  
 go bald  
 go bankrupt  
 go blind  
 go crazy  
 go dark  
 go deaf  
 go fishing  
 go mad  
 go missing  
 go on foot  
 go online  
 go out of business  
 go overseas  
 go quiet  
 go sailing  
 go to war  
 go yellow

**get**

get a job  
 get a shock  
 get angry  
 get divorced  
 get drunk  
 get frightened  
 get home  
 get lost  
 get married  
 get nowhere  
 get permission  
 get pregnant  
 get ready  
 get started  
 get the impression  
 get the message  
 get the sack  
 get upset  
 get wet  
 get worried

**Miscellaneous expressions (collocations)**

**Time**

bang on time  
 dead on time  
 early 12th century  
 free time  
 from dawn till dusk  
 great deal of time  
 late 20th century  
 make time for  
 next few days  
 past few weeks  
 right on time  
 run out of time  
 save time  
 spare time  
 spend some time  
 take your time  
 tell someone the time  
 time goes by  
 time passes  
 waste time

**Business English**

annual turnover  
 bear in mind  
 break off negotiations  
 cease trading  
 chair a meeting  
 close a deal  
 close a meeting  
 come to the point  
 dismiss an offer  
 draw a conclusion  
 draw your attention to  
 launch a new product  
 lay off staff  
 go bankrupt  
 go into partnership  
 make a loss  
 make a profit  
 market forces  
 sales figures  
 take on staff

**Classifiers**

a ball of string  
 a bar of chocolate  
 a bottle of water  
 a bunch of carrots  
 a cube of sugar  
 a pack of cards  
 a pad of paper