

Words that are used together (collocations)

Collocations are words that go together in a natural way. When you learn a word, you need to learn the words that go with it to make a sentence.

Many collocations are formed with a verb and a noun. It is very important to use the right verb, and a good dictionary will help you with this. For example, you say **watch TV**, NOT ~~see TV~~ or ~~look at the TV~~.

Here are some other useful collocations formed with a verb and a noun:

*I **have** a shower before breakfast.*

*We usually **have** dinner at eight o'clock.*

*I **left** school when I was 16.*

*I love **playing** football.*

There are also other kinds of collocations. Here are some more useful ones:

*What do you do in your **free time**? (adjective + noun)*

*I'll give you my **phone number**. (noun + noun)*

*When did you **get married**? (verb + adjective)*

*It's time to go **home**. (verb + adverb)*

Look at the different collocations:

What gets you up in the mornings?

Do you enjoy your job?

I love it! The only thing I don't love is that I **start work** at six o'clock in the morning, so I have to get up very early.

How did you become a radio journalist?


I'm very lucky! I **got a job** as an assistant at my local radio station after I **left school**. One day, one of journalists asked me to present a show with him, as a one-off. That's how it all started!

What do you do in your free time?

I enjoy **playing the piano**, and I **read** a lot of **books**, but often I'm so tired, that I just **watch TV**.



Words that are used together

Word Finder		capital letter	NOUN A capital letter is the form of a letter that is written at the beginning of a sentence.
		email address	NOUN An email address is the letters and symbols you need to send an email to someone.
		fast food	NOUN Fast food is hot food that is served quickly in a restaurant.
		free time	NOUN Free time is the time you have when you are not working or studying and can do what you like.
		full stop	NOUN A full stop is the mark (.) used in writing at the end of a sentence when it is not a question or an exclamation.
		get married	VERB If you get married , you become someone's husband or wife.
		go to work	VERB If you go to work , you go somewhere to do your job.
		phone number	NOUN Your phone number is the number that people use to call you on the phone.
		question mark	NOUN A question mark is the mark (?) that is used in writing at the end of a question.

Exercise 1

Rearrange the letters to find words. Use the clues to help you.

- 1 traugi _____ (You can play the _____.)
- 2 bestfraak _____ (You can have _____ at 8am.)
- 3 wherso _____ (You can have a _____ in the morning.)
- 4 boatflol _____ (You can play _____.)
- 5 dreamir _____ (You can get _____.)
- 6 colosh _____ (You can leave _____ when you are 16 years old.)

Exercise 2

Match the two parts.

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| 1 play | a the piano |
| 2 question | b mark |
| 3 full | c letter |
| 4 free | d time |
| 5 capital | e stop |

Exercise 3

Put the correct word in each gap.

piano | breakfast | football | shower | school | job | time

I left ¹_____ a few months ago, and I can't get a ²_____, so I have plenty of free ³_____. I have ⁴_____ quite late, then I have a ⁵_____ and get dressed. I usually play the ⁶_____ in the afternoon, and see my friends in the evening.

Exercise 4

Complete the sentences by writing one word in each gap.

mark | new | got | capital | free | have | be | start

- 1 My best friend _____ married last Saturday, and I went to her wedding.
- 2 When you write something, every sentence begins with a _____ letter.
- 3 I'm going to _____ work next week.
- 4 Would you like to _____ a drink before you go home?
- 5 Do you play much sport in your _____ time?
- 6 A question _____ at the end of a sentence shows that you want an answer.

Exercise 5

Which sentences are correct?

- 1 I'm going to go home and read a book. ☐
- 2 You need to start every sentence with a capital letter and end with a full mark. ☐
- 3 Judy goes to the work by bus, but she wants to start cycling. ☐
- 4 I don't often eat fast food because it isn't very good for you. ☐
- 5 My whole family had a dinner in a Chinese restaurant yesterday evening. ☐
- 6 I learned to play the piano when I was a child, but I stopped after two years because I preferred watching TV. ☐

Exercise 6

Complete the sentences by writing a phrase in each gap.

go home | play football | fast food | phone number
get a job | leave school | email address

- 1 I'd like to send you some information, but I haven't got your _____.
- 2 How often do you and your friends _____ in the park?
- 3 People who are very good at something can usually _____ quite easily.
- 4 I'll give you my _____ so you can call me if there are any problems.
- 5 This is a great party, so I don't want to _____.
- 6 Do many people in your country go to university when they _____?