

B2 First Collocations

Extensive Practice Worksheet for Writing and Speaking

Worksheet focus

Practise common collocations for B2 First Writing and Speaking.
Use the exercises to improve accuracy, fluency and range of vocabulary.
The answer key is included at the end.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Exercise 1: Match the Collocations to the Meanings

Match each collocation with the correct meaning. Write the letter in the answer column.

No.	Collocation	Answer	Meaning
1	make a decision		A. mention a topic or problem for discussion
2	meet a deadline		B. become angry
3	gain experience		C. choose what to do
4	express an opinion		D. reduce spending
5	lose your temper		E. learn by doing something
6	raise an issue		F. finish something by the required time
7	pose a threat		G. say what you think
8	take into account		H. be dangerous or harmful
9	cut costs		I. consider before deciding
10	reach your potential		J. become as good as you can be

Exercise 2: Choose the Correct Verb

Circle or underline the correct verb in each sentence.

- I need to make / do / take a decision before Friday.
- Students should make / do / give research before writing a report.
- It is important to meet / catch / take a deadline.
- She made / gave / expressed her opinion clearly.
- Can I make / do / have a suggestion?
- He lost / missed / failed his temper during the discussion.
- The company had to cut / reduce / break costs.
- Parents play / do / make a vital role in a child's development.
- The article raises / lifts / grows an important issue.
- We must take / make / put all the evidence into account.
- I made / did / took a mistake in the exam.
- We went / did / made sightseeing in Paris.
- He signed / wrote / marked the contract yesterday.
- We need to solve / repair / answer this problem quickly.

15. She came / made / did up with a brilliant idea.
16. I always take / make / write notes during lectures.
17. Many students feel / make / have proud after passing an exam.
18. They launched / opened / started a new product last month.
19. You should back / save / copy up your data regularly.
20. Good teaching helps learners broaden / wide / open their knowledge.

Exercise 3: Complete the Collocations

Complete each collocation with the missing word. Use one word only.

A	B
1. make a _____	2. reach a _____
3. weigh the pros and _____	4. do _____
5. meet a _____	6. gain _____
7. take _____	8. attend a _____
9. express an _____	10. give a _____
11. catch a _____	12. book a _____
13. pack your _____	14. feel _____
15. burst into _____	16. do the _____
17. make a phone _____	18. write an _____
19. check your _____	20. finish on _____
21. take a _____	22. challenge an _____
23. achieve a _____	24. overcome a _____
25. run a _____	26. make a _____
27. sign a _____	28. install _____
29. raise an _____	30. pose a _____

Exercise 4: Sort the Collocations by Topic

Write each collocation in the correct category. Some categories will have more than one answer.

Word bank: make a decision | gain experience | catch a flight | express an opinion | lose your temper | write an essay | make a profit | back up data | raise an issue | pack your bags | check your work | take a stand | meet a deadline | do the shopping | launch a product | solve a problem

Topic	Collocations
Thinking and decisions	
Work and study	
Travel and holidays	
Communication and opinions	
Emotions	
Writing and exams	
Business and money	

Topic	Collocations
Technology	
Everyday life	
Formal writing	

Exercise 5: Complete the Sentences

Complete the sentences with suitable collocations from the lesson. Use the correct form where necessary.

- Before choosing a university, you should _____ carefully.
- I joined a volunteer project because I wanted to _____.
- Many students find it difficult to _____ when they have too much homework.
- In my essay, I want to _____ of online learning.
- The company managed to _____ even during a difficult year.
- My teacher told me to _____ before handing in my essay.
- I nearly _____ because I arrived at the station late.
- We should not _____ in an argument, even if we disagree.
- The report _____ of pollution in big cities.
- Good education can help young people _____.
- We need to _____ all the advantages and disadvantages.
- I always _____ during lessons because it helps me remember new vocabulary.
- Climate change may _____ to many communities.
- She had to _____ about whether to accept the job.
- The students were asked to _____ about the environment.
- He wants to _____ to improve his pronunciation.
- Can you _____ with this heavy suitcase?
- I am trying to _____ by learning ten new words a day.
- The speaker _____ that exams are always fair.
- We must _____ the cost before we make a final decision.

Exercise 6: Error Correction

Each sentence contains one collocation mistake. Correct the mistake.

No.	Sentence with mistake	Correct sentence
1	I did a serious mistake in my report.	
2	She made some research before the presentation.	
3	We caught the deadline easily.	
4	He said his opinion very clearly.	
5	The company did a profit last year.	
6	The article gives an important issue about education.	
7	Technology makes a vital role in modern life.	
8	You should put into account the price of transport.	
9	I gave an exam last week.	

No.	Sentence with mistake	Correct sentence
10	She packed her suitcases and went sightseeing a trip.	
11	He opened a new product in May.	
12	I need to make the shopping after work.	
13	Students should write notes during lessons.	
14	We solved a decision after a long discussion.	
15	This problem poses a danger threat to our health.	

Exercise 7: B2 First Key Word Transformations

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Use the word given. Do not change the word given. Use between two and five words.

- I decided what to do after thinking carefully. MADE
I _____ after thinking carefully.
- You should consider the advantages and disadvantages before you choose. PROS
You should _____ before you choose.
- She finished the project before the required time. DEADLINE
She managed _____ for the project.
- Volunteering helped me learn useful practical skills. EXPERIENCE
Volunteering helped me _____.
- The article mentions a serious problem. RAISES
The article _____.
- Teachers are very important in children's development. ROLE
Teachers _____ in children's development.
- We must consider the cost before deciding. ACCOUNT
We must _____ before deciding.
- He became angry during the meeting. TEMPER
He _____ during the meeting.
- The company started selling a new product last week. LAUNCHED
The company _____ last week.
- I need to look at my essay again before I submit it. WORK
I need to _____ before I submit it.

Exercise 8: Choose the Best Collocation for B2 First Writing

Choose the best collocation to complete each exam-style sentence.

- Education _____ a vital role in preparing young people for the future. a) makes b) plays c) does
- The report _____ useful insight into how teenagers use social media. a) provides b) gives up c) plays
- Pollution _____ a serious threat to public health. a) takes b) poses c) does
- Students should learn to _____ their own opinions politely. a) express b) tell c) speak
- Part-time work helps young people _____ valuable experience. a) earn b) win c) gain
- In conclusion, we should _____ into account both cost and quality. a) take b) make c) have
- Schools should help children _____ their full potential. a) arrive b) reach c) meet
- The committee decided to _____ the issue of student stress. a) raise b) grow c) lift
- I strongly _____ with the view that exercise should be part of every school day. a) agree b) share c) hold
- Young people sometimes need to _____ a stand against unfair behaviour. a) do b) make c) take

Exercise 9: Collocation Gap-Fill Paragraphs

Complete each paragraph with the collocations from the box. Use the correct form if necessary.

Paragraph A: Education

play a vital role | gain experience | reach their potential | make progress | take into account

Education can _____ in helping young people _____. However, teachers need to _____ students' different learning styles. When learners receive enough support, they usually _____ more quickly. Work experience can also help students _____ outside the classroom.

Paragraph B: Technology

solve problems | back up data | come up with ideas | install software | surf the internet

Technology helps people _____ more quickly, but it also requires care. For example, you should always _____ so you do not lose important files. Some people _____ for hours without a clear purpose, while others use the internet to _____ and learn new skills. If your computer is slow, you may need to _____ or update your system.

Paragraph C: Work and Business

run a business | make a profit | cut costs | sign a contract | meet deadlines

It is not easy to _____, especially when prices are rising. Companies often have to _____, but they still need to _____ and provide good service. Before starting a new project, both sides usually _____. A successful company must also _____ if it wants to survive.

Exercise 10: Writing Practice

Choose one task. Use at least eight collocations from the lesson. Underline the collocations you use.

Task 1: Write a B2 First essay paragraph about whether homework helps students make progress.

Task 2: Write a short report paragraph about how your school or company could cut costs and improve organisation.

Task 3: Write an article paragraph about why travelling can help people broaden their knowledge and gain experience.

Task 4: Write a review paragraph of a course you attended. Mention what helped you reach your potential.

Exercise 11: Speaking Practice

Answer the questions aloud. Try to use at least two collocations in each answer.

1. When was the last time you had to make an important decision?
2. Do you find it easy to meet deadlines? Why / Why not?
3. What kind of experience would you like to gain in the future?
4. What issue would you like to raise at your school or workplace?
5. Do you think technology plays a vital role in education?
6. How can young people reach their full potential?
7. When do people usually lose their temper?
8. What are the pros and cons of studying online?
9. What skills can people pick up from travelling?
10. What advice would you give to someone who wants to make progress in English?

Exercise 12: Personal Collocation Bank

Choose twelve collocations from the lesson. Write your own example sentence for each one.

No.	Collocation	My example sentence
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		

Answer Key

Exercise 1

1 C, 2 F, 3 E, 4 G, 5 B, 6 A, 7 H, 8 I, 9 D, 10 J

Exercise 2

1 make, 2 do, 3 meet, 4 expressed, 5 make, 6 lost, 7 cut, 8 play, 9 raises, 10 take, 11 made, 12 went, 13 signed, 14 solve, 15 came, 16 take, 17 feel, 18 launched, 19 back, 20 broaden

Exercise 3

1 decision, 2 conclusion, 3 cons, 4 research, 5 deadline, 6 experience, 7 notes, 8 course, 9 opinion, 10 presentation, 11 flight, 12 hotel, 13 bags, 14 proud, 15 tears, 16 shopping / washing-up / cleaning, 17 call, 18 essay, 19 work, 20 time, 21 stand / trip / shower, 22 idea, 23 goal, 24 difficulty, 25 business, 26 profit, 27 contract, 28 software, 29 issue, 30 threat

Exercise 4

Topic	Possible answers
Thinking and decisions	make a decision
Work and study	gain experience; meet a deadline
Travel and holidays	catch a flight; pack your bags
Communication and opinions	express an opinion; take a stand
Emotions	lose your temper
Writing and exams	write an essay; check your work
Business and money	make a profit; launch a product
Technology	back up data; solve a problem
Everyday life	do the shopping
Formal writing	raise an issue

Exercise 5

- 1 weigh the pros and cons
- 2 gain experience
- 3 meet deadlines
- 4 express an opinion / raise the issue
- 5 make a profit
- 6 check your work
- 7 missed the bus
- 8 lose our temper
- 9 raises the issue
- 10 reach their full potential
- 11 weigh the pros and cons
- 12 take notes
- 13 pose a threat
- 14 make a decision
- 15 give a presentation / write an essay
- 16 make progress
- 17 give me a hand

- 18 set a target / make progress
- 19 challenged the idea
- 20 take into account

Exercise 6

- 1 I made a serious mistake in my report.
- 2 She did some research before the presentation.
- 3 We met the deadline easily.
- 4 He expressed his opinion very clearly.
- 5 The company made a profit last year.
- 6 The article raises an important issue about education.
- 7 Technology plays a vital role in modern life.
- 8 You should take into account the price of transport.
- 9 I took an exam last week.
- 10 She packed her bags and went sightseeing / took a trip.
- 11 He launched a new product in May.
- 12 I need to do the shopping after work.
- 13 Students should take notes during lessons.
- 14 We made a decision / reached a conclusion after a long discussion.
- 15 This problem poses a serious threat to our health.

Exercise 7

- 1 made a decision
- 2 weigh the pros and cons
- 3 to meet the deadline
- 4 gain valuable / practical experience
- 5 raises a serious issue
- 6 play a vital role
- 7 take the cost into account / take into account the cost
- 8 lost his temper
- 9 launched a new product
- 10 check my work

Exercise 8

1 b, 2 a, 3 b, 4 a, 5 c, 6 a, 7 b, 8 a, 9 a, 10 c

Exercise 9

Paragraph A: play a vital role; reach their potential; take into account; make progress; gain experience

Paragraph B: solve problems; back up data; surf the internet; come up with ideas; install software

Paragraph C: run a business; cut costs; meet deadlines; sign a contract; make a profit

Exercises 10–12

Students' own answers. Encourage learners to underline the collocations they use and check that the verb-noun combinations are natural.