

TRAVEL AND TOURISM

40 COLLOCATIONS

Meanings, Examples and Practice

B2-C1 FREE WORKSHEET



PLAN | TRAVEL | EXPLORE | SPEAK

Learn natural word combinations for planning journeys, flying, accommodation, sightseeing and common travel problems.

Includes lesson tables, exam-style practice, speaking prompts, a writing task and a complete answer key.

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What Is a Collocation?



Natural word partnerships make your English sound more fluent and accurate.

A collocation is a combination of words that English speakers commonly use together. We **make a reservation**, **catch a flight** and **face a delay**. Learning the whole expression is more useful than memorising each word separately.

Exam tip

In B2 First and C1 Advanced speaking and writing, accurate collocations help you describe experiences precisely and demonstrate a wider range of vocabulary.

Planning and Booking a Trip

Collocation	Meaning	Example sentence
book a flight	reserve a place on a flight	We booked a flight to Lisbon as soon as the dates were confirmed.
reserve accommodation	arrange somewhere to stay	It is advisable to reserve accommodation early if you are travelling in August.
make a reservation	arrange for a room, table or ticket to be kept	I made a reservation at a restaurant overlooking the harbour.
confirm a booking	check that a reservation has been accepted	The hotel emailed us to confirm our booking.
cancel a booking	withdraw a reservation	We had to cancel our booking because of illness.
draw up an itinerary	prepare a detailed travel plan	We drew up an itinerary covering five European cities.
take out travel insurance	buy protection for a journey	You should take out travel insurance before going skiing.
book well in advance	reserve a long time before travelling	During peak season, it is best to book well in advance.

Common mistake

Say make a reservation, not do a reservation.

Quick Check

Complete each sentence with one word.

1. We should _____ a flight before prices rise.
2. Please _____ the booking by email.
3. They took _____ travel insurance before skiing.

Quick Check: Choose the Best Fit

Write the full collocation that best fits each situation.

1. You need a day-by-day route for five cities:

2. You want proof that the hotel accepted your reservation:

3. You want protection if your plans go wrong:

4. You are travelling in peak season:

Make It Yours

Write two plans for a future trip. Use at least two planning and booking collocations.

Flights and Transport



Useful collocations for airports, journeys and delays.

Collocation	Meaning	Example sentence
catch a flight	arrive in time to travel on a flight	We left home at five to catch our flight.
miss a connection	fail to catch the next flight, train or bus	Our first flight was delayed, so we missed our connection.
board a plane	get onto a plane before departure	Passengers began boarding the plane shortly after nine.
take a direct flight	fly without changing planes	We took a direct flight rather than changing in Paris.
catch a connecting flight	take another flight to continue a journey	We had forty minutes to catch our connecting flight.
take a long-haul flight	fly a long distance	We took a long-haul flight from London to Singapore.
face delays	experience interruptions that make travel late	Travellers faced delays because of thick fog.
get stuck in heavy traffic	be unable to move quickly because of traffic	We got stuck in heavy traffic on the way to the airport.

Common mistake

You miss a flight or connection - you do not lose it.

Travel, Trip or Journey?

TRAVEL

The general activity of going from place to place.
Usually uncountable.
Air travel is expensive.

TRIP

A visit somewhere, usually including the return.
We took a weekend trip.

JOURNEY

The movement from one place to another.
The train journey took four hours.

Quick Check

Replace the incorrect phrase with a natural collocation.

- lose a connection
- do a long-haul flight
- strong traffic
- make a direct flight

Quick Check: Airport Language

Complete each sentence with one word.

- Due to fog, passengers may _____ delays.
- Leave early so you do not get stuck in _____ traffic.
- A nonstop service is a _____ flight.
- If the first plane is late, you may miss your _____.

Route Builder

Describe a journey with a connection or delay. Use at least two flight collocations.

Accommodation



Natural expressions for choosing and describing places to stay.

Collocation	Meaning	Example sentence
book a room	reserve a room before arriving	We booked a room in a family-run hotel.
stay in budget accommodation	stay somewhere inexpensive	Students often stay in budget accommodation.
choose self-catering accommodation	stay somewhere with cooking facilities	We chose self-catering accommodation for more flexibility.
stay at a luxury resort	spend a holiday at an expensive complex	They stayed at a luxury resort with a private beach.
request a sea view	ask for a room overlooking the sea	We requested a sea view when we booked.
stay on a full-board basis	have breakfast, lunch and dinner included	The family stayed on a full-board basis for seven nights.
check hotel availability	find out whether rooms are free	We checked hotel availability before buying the flights.

Accommodation guide

Full board usually includes breakfast, lunch and dinner. Half board usually includes breakfast and one main meal. Self-catering accommodation allows guests to prepare their own food.

Sightseeing and Local Culture

Collocation	Meaning	Example sentence
go sightseeing	visit interesting or famous places	We spent our first afternoon sightseeing in the city centre.
take a guided tour	visit a place with a guide	We took a guided tour of the castle and gardens.
visit tourist attractions	go to places popular with visitors	We visited the main tourist attractions on our first day.
explore historic landmarks	visit important places from the past	The walk allowed us to explore historic landmarks.

Quick Check

Complete the accommodation and sightseeing phrases.

1. You prepare your own meals: _____
2. Breakfast and one main meal are included: _____
3. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included: _____
4. go _____
5. take a guided _____
6. explore historic _____

Quick Check: Make the Request

Write the collocation that matches each traveller's need.

1. You want to cook your own meals: _____
2. You want a room overlooking the sea: _____
3. You want a local expert to show you a place: _____
4. You need to find out whether rooms are free: _____

Plan a One-day Stay

Choose accommodation, a meal basis and one sightseeing activity. Use three collocations.

Experiences and Travel Problems



Collocations for memorable moments - and the occasions when travel goes wrong.

Collocation	Meaning	Example sentence
admire breathtaking views	look at extremely beautiful scenery	We admired breathtaking views of the coastline.
enjoy stunning scenery	appreciate beautiful natural surroundings	We enjoyed stunning mountain scenery during the train journey.
try the local cuisine	eat food typical of the area	One pleasure of travelling is trying the local cuisine.
soak up the atmosphere	enjoy the mood and character of a place	We sat outside a cafe and soaked up the atmosphere.

Holidays and Common Problems

Collocation	Meaning	Example sentence
take a day trip	visit somewhere and return the same day	We took a day trip to a nearby fishing village.
go on a package holiday	take a holiday sold for one price, usually including transport and accommodation.	They went on a package holiday to Greece.
go on a cruise	take a holiday on a passenger ship	My grandparents went on a Mediterranean cruise.
go backpacking	travel independently with few belongings	She went backpacking around South America.
travel light	take very little luggage	I travel light and take only hand luggage.
experience culture shock	feel unsettled by an unfamiliar culture	He experienced culture shock during his first weeks abroad.
suffer from jet lag	feel tired after crossing time zones	I suffer from jet lag after long flights.
get travel sickness	feel ill in a moving vehicle	She gets travel sickness on winding roads.
report lost luggage	tell an airline officially that bags are missing	We went to the desk to report our lost luggage.

Quick Check

Underline the natural option.

1. admire / watch breathtaking views
2. try / do the local cuisine
3. go / do backpacking
4. suffer / make from jet lag
5. report / tell lost luggage

Quick Check: Complete the Travel Story

Complete each sentence with one word.

1. We sat outside a cafe to soak _____ the atmosphere.
2. We took a _____ trip to a nearby village.
3. After the long flight, she suffered _____ jet lag.
4. My suitcase is missing, so I need to report _____ luggage.

Mini Travel Story

Write three sentences: one highlight, one travel problem and one response to the problem.

Practice Worksheet



Complete the exercises without looking back at the lesson if you can.

Exercise 1: Match the Collocations

Match 1-10 with a-j.

Beginnings	Endings
1. catch	a. the atmosphere
2. reserve	b. lost luggage
3. miss	c. a connection
4. draw up	d. accommodation
5. take out	e. breathtaking views
6. soak up	f. an itinerary
7. admire	g. in advance
8. suffer from	h. jet lag
9. report	i. a flight
10. book well	j. travel insurance

Exercise 2: Choose the Correct Verb

Circle the verb that forms the natural collocation.

1. make / do / take a reservation
2. catch / hold / reach a flight
3. draw up / build up / put up an itinerary
4. take out / take away / take over travel insurance
5. admire / watch / look breathtaking views
6. suffer / feel / experience from jet lag
7. face / meet / see delays
8. reserve / save / keep accommodation
9. report / announce / explain lost luggage
10. soak up / pick up / bring up the atmosphere

Exercise 2B: Complete the Collocation

Write one word in each gap.

Extra practice

Complete the six collocations.

1. take a _____ flight
2. go on a package _____
3. request a sea _____
4. get stuck in heavy _____
5. soak up the _____
6. draw up an _____

Fast Finisher

Write three true sentences about how you plan or experience holidays. Use three collocations from Exercises 1-2B.

Practice Worksheet



Use the collocations accurately in context.

Exercise 3: Complete the Sentences

Use the expressions in the box. Change the verb form where necessary.

Word box

book a room | catch a connecting flight | experience culture shock | get stuck in heavy traffic | go sightseeing | request a sea view | stay in budget accommodation | take a day trip | take a direct flight | travel light

1. We decided to _____ rather than change planes twice.
2. Students often _____ because hotels can be expensive.
3. We spent the whole morning _____ around the old town.
4. During our stay in Madrid, we _____ to Toledo.
5. Many people _____ when they first move abroad.
6. We only had 45 minutes to _____ in Amsterdam.
7. We arrived late because we _____ on the motorway.
8. I always _____, so I take only a small suitcase.
9. When we booked the hotel, we decided to _____.
10. We need to _____ before every hotel becomes full.

Exercise 4: Find and Correct the Mistake

Each sentence contains one incorrect collocation.

1. We did a reservation at a restaurant near the harbour.
2. Paul lost his flight because he arrived at the airport too late.
3. We made sightseeing in the city centre on Saturday.
4. You should take travel insurance before going skiing.
5. There was strong traffic on the motorway.
6. We took a hotel room for three nights.

Exercise 4B: Complete the Travel Plan

Use each expression once.

Word box

book well in advance | check hotel availability | confirm a booking | draw up an itinerary | request a sea view | take out travel insurance

1. Before choosing dates, we should _____.
2. During peak season, it is best to _____.
3. Once the hotel replies, we can _____.
4. Before we leave, let's _____ for each day.
5. We should also _____ before the trip.
6. When booking the room, we can _____.

Fast Finisher

Turn three answers from this page into a mini itinerary. Link your ideas with first, then and finally.

Answer Key

Lesson Quick Checks and Exercises 1-4B

Lesson Quick Check - Page 2

1. book
2. confirm
3. out

Lesson Quick Check - Page 3

1. miss a connection
2. take a long-haul flight
3. heavy traffic
4. take a direct flight

Lesson Quick Check - Page 4

1. self-catering
2. half board
3. full board
4. sightseeing
5. tour
6. landmarks

Lesson Quick Check - Page 5

1. admire
2. try
3. go
4. suffer
5. report

Exercise 1: Match the Collocations

1-i, 2-d, 3-c, 4-f, 5-j, 6-a, 7-e, 8-h, 9-b, 10-g.

Exercise 2: Choose the Correct Verb

1. make a reservation
2. catch a flight
3. draw up an itinerary
4. take out travel insurance
5. admire breathtaking views
6. suffer from jet lag
7. face delays
8. reserve accommodation
9. report lost luggage
10. soak up the atmosphere

Exercise 2B: Complete the Collocation

1. direct
2. holiday
3. view
4. traffic
5. atmosphere
6. itinerary

Exercise 3: Complete the Sentences

1. take a direct flight
2. stay in budget accommodation
3. going sightseeing
4. took a day trip
5. experience culture shock
6. catch a connecting flight
7. got stuck in heavy traffic
8. travel light
9. request a sea view
10. book a room

Exercise 4: Find and Correct the Mistake

1. We made a reservation at a restaurant near the harbour.
2. Paul missed his flight because he arrived at the airport too late.
3. We went sightseeing in the city centre on Saturday.
4. You should take out travel insurance before going skiing.
5. There was heavy traffic on the motorway.
6. We booked a hotel room for three nights.

Exercise 4B: Complete the Travel Plan

1. check hotel availability
2. book well in advance
3. confirm a booking
4. draw up an itinerary
5. take out travel insurance
6. request a sea view

Answer Key

Exercises 5-8

Exercise 5: Travel, Trip or Journey?

1. travel
2. trip
3. journey
4. travel
5. trips
6. journey

Exercise 6: Key Word Transformations

1. well in advance of
2. missed our connection
3. took out travel insurance
4. got stuck in heavy traffic

Lesson Extension Checks

Page 2: draw up an itinerary; confirm a booking; take out travel insurance; book well in advance

Page 3: face; heavy; direct; connection

Page 4: choose self-catering accommodation; request a sea view; take a guided tour; check hotel availability

Page 5: up; day; from; lost

Exercise 7: Speaking

Students' own answers. Encourage learners to use complete collocations rather than isolated travel words.

Exercise 8: Writing Challenge

Students' own answers. Suggested checklist:

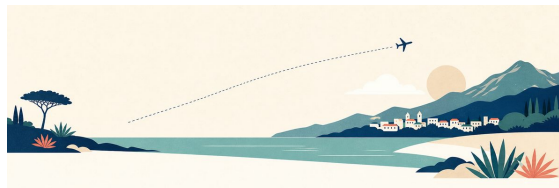
- [] 140-190 words
- [] at least eight travel collocations
- [] clear paragraphing and linking words
- [] accurate past tenses
- [] a clear description of the problem and final opinion

Make It Yours / Fast Finisher

Students' own answers. Check that each response uses the required number of complete collocations and that the collocations fit the context.

Keep learning

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