Common Verb–Noun Collocations

VOCABULARY WORKSHEET | 50 QUESTIONS | ANSWER KEY

Learn natural word partnerships such as **make progress**, **take responsibility** and **meet a deadline**. These everyday combinations are especially useful in speaking and writing.

Quick guide: useful verb–noun combinations

make an effort - try hard

make progress - improve

make a decision - decide

make an appointment - arrange a time

do research - investigate

do homework - complete school tasks

take responsibility - accept duty

take a break - rest briefly

give advice - recommend what to do

give a presentation - speak to a group

keep in touch - stay in contact

keep a promise - do what you said

pay attention - concentrate

meet a deadline - finish on time

reach an agreement - agree with others

break a promise - fail to do what you said

Exercise 1. Match the collocation and its meaning

Write a letter (A-J) beside each expression. Use each letter once.

01. meet a deadline _____

02. make an effort _____

03. give a presentation _____

04. keep in touch _____

05. draw a conclusion _____

06. take responsibility _____

07. break a promise _____

08. reach an agreement _____

09. pay attention _____

10. make a difference _____

A stay in contact

B have a positive effect

C decide based on evidence

D fail to do what you promised

E concentrate carefully

F finish by the required time

G accept responsibility for something

H try very hard

I arrive at a shared decision

J speak formally to a group

Practise the collocations

CHOOSE THE RIGHT VERB AND USE COMPLETE EXPRESSIONS

Exercise 2. Choose the correct verb

Circle the best option in each sentence.

11. Before the interview, I need to **do / make / give** some research on the company.
12. Could we **make / take / do** a short break after this exercise?
13. My grandmother always **gives / makes / takes** me useful advice.
14. We should **make / do / take** an appointment with the dentist.
15. Jack has finally **made / given / done** a decision about his new job.
16. Can you **keep / make / give** in touch after your move?
17. Stop looking at your phone and **pay / spend / make** attention!
18. My classmates **did / made / had** a lot of progress last term.
19. Who is going to **take / make / have** responsibility for the mistake?
20. If we work together, we can **make / do / give** a real difference.

Exercise 3. Complete each sentence

Use each expression from the box once. Keep the form exactly as shown.

set a goal · hold a meeting · take a risk · raise awareness · save time
reach an agreement · keep a promise · make a mistake · catch a cold · have a conversation

21. Before the new term, it is useful to _____ for your English learning.
22. Let us _____ about the new project on Monday morning.
23. I do not want to _____; the road is icy.
24. We need to _____ about plastic waste in our community.
25. If you organise your notes, you can _____ when revising.
26. Both sides worked late to _____ on the new contract.
27. I promised to help her, and I intend to _____.
28. It is perfectly normal to _____ when learning a language.
29. I do not want to _____ before my holiday, so I am getting plenty of rest.
30. Could we _____ about this in private?

Use the expressions in context

CORRECT UNNATURAL VERB–NOUN COMBINATIONS

Exercise 4. Correct the collocation mistake

Each sentence contains one incorrect verb. Write the correct verb or verb phrase on the line.

31. Please **make** your homework before dinner.

32. We **did** a huge effort to finish the report.

33. Sara **took** me some helpful advice.

34. Our teacher asked us to **make** attention to the examples.

35. I **made** a cold last weekend.

36. The two teams finally **did** an agreement.

37. If you want to improve, **do** a clear goal for this month.

38. We need to **do** a short break before the next lesson.

39. Could you **make** me a quick favour?

40. It is important to **make** your promises.

Make these collocations your own

Choose three expressions from this worksheet and use them in sentences about your own life. Try using different tenses.

Rewrite with natural collocations

USE THE WORD IN CAPITALS; KEEP THE MEANING

Exercise 5. Rewrite the sentences

Use a verb–noun collocation in each answer. The final page includes model answers.

41. We should collect money for the animal shelter. **(FUNDS)**

42. Please write down the important points during the talk. **(NOTES)**

43. Her report made everyone notice the problem. **(ATTENTION)**

44. I would like to propose a change. **(SUGGESTION)**

45. Two sisters manage the family business. **(RUN)**

46. He complained formally about the service. **(COMPLAINT)**

47. She told the team the bad news. **(BROKE)**

48. I record every expense in a notebook. **(RECORD)**

49. He impressed everyone at the interview. **(IMPRESSION)**

50. We donated money to the food bank. **(CONTRIBUTION)**

Answer Key

COMMON VERB–NOUN COLLOCATIONS | 50 QUESTIONS

Exercise 1. Matching

01 F	**02 H**	**03 J**	**04 A**	**05 C**
06 G	**07 D**	**08 I**	**09 E**	**10 B**

Exercise 2. Choose the verb

11 do
12 take
13 gives
14 make
15 made
16 keep
17 pay
18 made
19 take
20 make

Exercise 3. Complete the collocation

21 set a goal
22 hold a meeting
23 take a risk
24 raise awareness
25 save time
26 reach an agreement
27 keep a promise
28 make a mistake
29 catch a cold
30 have a conversation

Exercise 4. Correct the collocation

31 do your homework
32 made a huge effort
33 gave me some helpful advice
34 pay attention
35 caught a cold
36 reached an agreement
37 set a clear goal
38 take a short break
39 do me a quick favour
40 keep your promises

Exercise 5. Rewriting (model answers)

41 raise funds for the animal shelter
42 take notes during the talk
43 drew attention to the problem
44 make a suggestion
45 run the family business
46 made a complaint about the service
47 broke the bad news to the team
48 keep a record of every expense
49 made a good impression at the interview
50 made a contribution to the food bank

Other natural answers may be possible in Exercise 5.