

COLLOCATIONS: BEHAVIOUR (PART 1)

1 COLLOCATIONS: THEORY

Read the sentences below and match the phrases in bold to their meaning.

What is a Collocation?

In English, we have the habit of using certain words together more often than others. These words that appear together are called collocations.

Why are Collocations Important?

It is important to master collocations, as they will make your speech sound more natural. When you use collocations, your speech will be idiomatic; meaning you will sound more like a native speaker.

Examples of Common Collocations

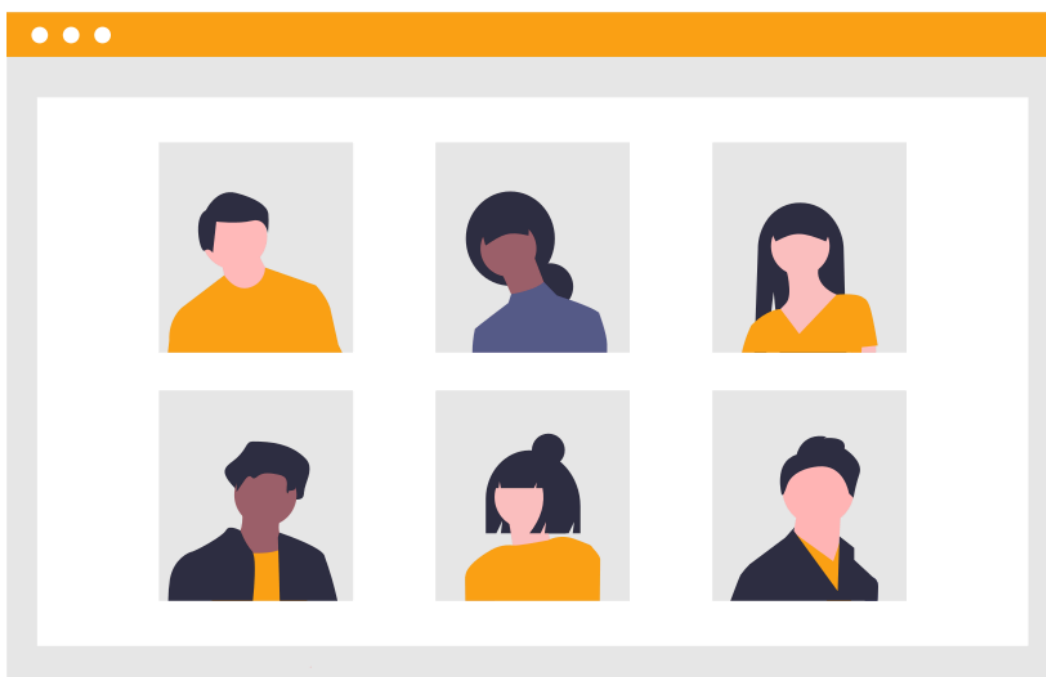
I love knitting in my **free time**.

I **make the bed** every morning.

I am going to **take a risk** and quit my job.

If I didn't exercise, I would **go crazy**.

Many companies will **go bust** because of the pandemic.



2 GUESS THE MEANING

Study the collocations. Work in pairs and try to figure out each collocation's meaning. You are not expected to know them all, but give it a go and have fun!

1. painfully shy.

2. outgoing personality.

3. vivid imagination.

4. sense of humour.

5. mean streak.

6. brutally honest.

7. to hurt one's feelings.



3 DEFINITIONS

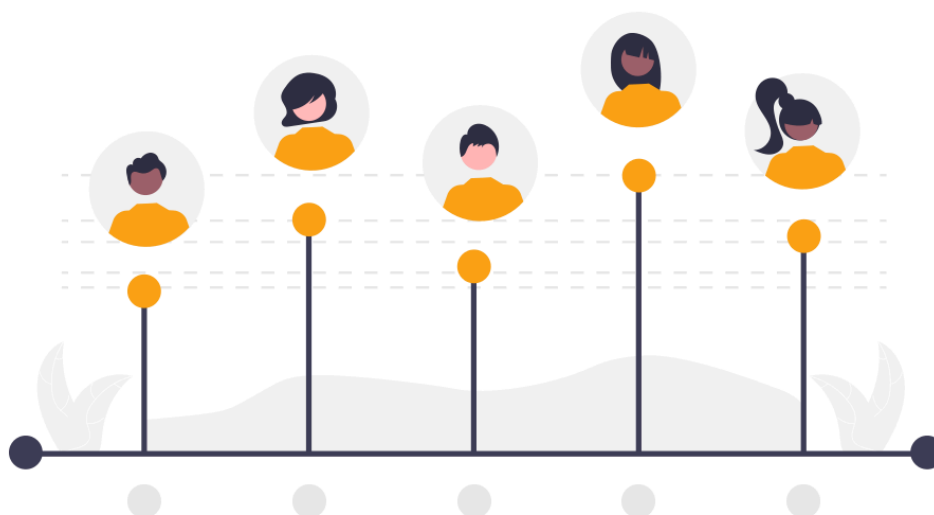
Read the sentences below and match the phrases in bold to their meaning.

1. I used to be **painfully shy**. But now I enjoy meeting new people.
2. She isn't shy at all - she has an **outgoing personality**!
3. The little boy is pretending to be a pilot. He has a **vivid imagination**.
4. Although his brother seems serious, he actually has a great **sense of humour**.
5. I am not so sure if I like him. He has a bit of a **mean streak**.
6. If I'm being **brutally honest**, I don't want to go to their wedding.
7. We're not friends anymore. He made a lot of comments that **hurt my feelings**.

Meanings:

- a. A creative and imaginative mind.
- b. Extremely honest.
- c. to have an unpleasant or unfriendly aspect to one's personality.
- d. to have an extreme level of shyness.
- e. someone who is sociable, and enthusiastic in their interactions with others.
- f. a person's ability to perceive humour or appreciate a joke.
- g. to cause emotional pain to someone through words, actions, or behaviour.

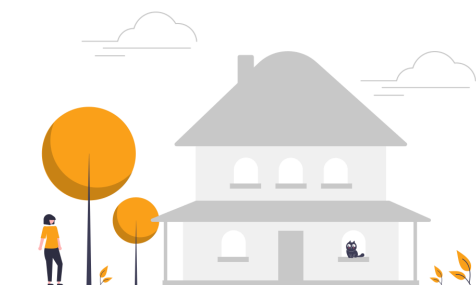
Task: Work in pairs and create example sentences for each collocation, then share them with the class.



4 COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

Complete the sentences by completing the collocations with the correct word.

1. Despite her talent, she struggled to perform in public due to her painfully _____ nature.
2. John's outgoing _____ always made him the life of the party.
3. Emily's vivid _____ allowed her to create new worlds in her stories.
4. Sarah has a great sense of _____, she always makes people laugh.
5. Despite his friendly reputation, Mark has a mean _____ when he is under pressure.
6. Although her comments were brutally _____, they were necessary for the team's improvement.
7. I didn't mean to hurt his _____ with my words; I was just expressing my frustration.
8. My colleague is _____ shy. She finds it difficult to even introduce herself to strangers.
9. With his _____ personality, Jake easily struck up conversations with strangers and made them feel at ease.
10. The child's _____ imagination transformed a simple cardboard box into a spaceship ready for an intergalactic adventure.
11. Thomas had a great _____ of humour and could always lighten the mood with his jokes.
12. Although my boss appears friendly, he has a _____ streak that makes everybody motivated to work hard and get results.
13. Emma's _____ honest feedback was difficult to hear, but it ultimately helped us realise our weaknesses and improve.
14. I didn't realise my words would _____ his feelings, I now regret saying them without thinking.



DIALOGUES USING COLLOCATIONS

Complete the dialogues by completing each collocation.

Dialogue 1:



John

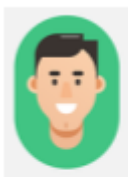
Why is your brother not performing at the concert on Friday? I heard his new song on YouTube it's amazing!



Lisa

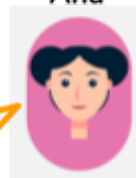
I agree, his songs are great! Unfortunately, he's _____ shy so he doesn't want to perform live.

Dialogue 2:



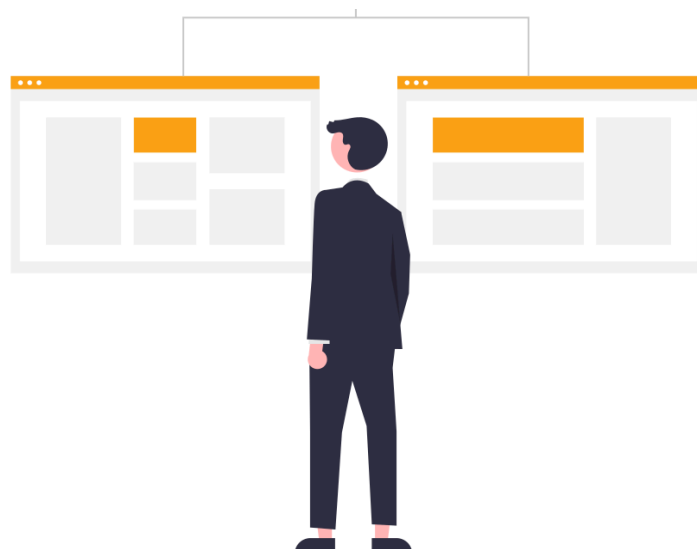
Oli

What do you think Jack will do when he graduates?



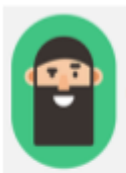
Ana

I think he should work in sales. His _____ personality suits the job perfectly!



Dialogue 3:

Duke



Did you like the new novel?

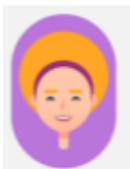
Laura



Yes, the author has such a _____ imagination and is able to translate that into the story.

Dialogue 4:

Beth



What do you look for in a partner?

Joe



Most importantly, they've got to have a great _____ of humour!

Dialogue 5:

Nathan



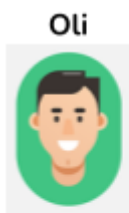
Did you see how she treated her employees during the meeting?

Jess



Yes, she definitely has a _____ streak. But maybe that is why she is such a successful businesswoman.

Dialogue 6:



Oli

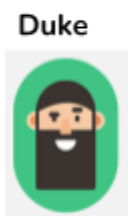
How was the presentation? Did you get any feedback from your manager?



Ana

It didn't go well. My manager was _____ honest with her feedback, which was difficult to hear, but now I know what I need to do in order to improve.

Dialogue 7:



Duke

I can't believe you said that to her. You really _____ her feelings.



Laura

I didn't mean to, it was just an unfortunate misunderstanding. I'll apologise and make it right.



Read the story below, then complete the exercises.

Lily grew up in a small town in the countryside. Lily was painfully shy, often finding it difficult to speak up or make friends. However, deep within her, she possessed a vivid imagination that transported her to magical worlds and fascinating adventures.

One day, a new family moved into the neighbourhood, and their daughter, Emily, had an outgoing personality that could light up any room. Emily quickly noticed Lily's quiet nature and reached out to befriend her. Emily's warmth and sense of humour gradually made Lily feel more confident and outgoing.

As they spent more time together, Lily discovered that Emily had a mean streak. Emily would become angry over the smallest things, which made it difficult for Lily to be friends with her. One day, Lily decided to be brutally honest with Emily. She told her that she needed to express her emotions more maturely. Lily explained how Emily's anger and actions can hurt her feelings. Emily never meant any harm, and she apologised sincerely.

Together, Lily's imagination and Emily's outgoing personality created an inseparable bond. Lily's imaginative tales and Emily's lively nature brought joy to their lives and the lives of others in the town. They became a dynamic duo, balancing each other's strengths and weaknesses.

In the end, Lily learned that true friendship comes in all forms, even with flaws. Emily's honesty, though sometimes painful, taught Lily valuable lessons about herself and the world around her. And through their unique friendship, they showed everyone the power of acceptance, understanding, and the beauty of embracing differences.

Questions:

1. Identify the collocations in the text.
2. Who is painfully shy?
3. How does Emily's mean streak affect the relationship?
4. How did being brutally honest help the relationship?
5. How did Emily hurt Lily's feelings?
6. Retell the story to a classmate.
7. Predict what will happen next.

7 COLLOCATION QUESTIONS

Practice using the collocations in a natural way by :





1. How can we create an environment for individuals who are **painfully shy** to participate in group discussions and express their ideas comfortably?
2. Can being **painfully shy** be considered a strength in certain contexts? How can we leverage the unique qualities of shy individuals to their advantage?
3. What are the advantages and challenges that come with having an **outgoing personality**?
4. What types of jobs suit a person with an **outgoing personality**? Are there any jobs that would be difficult for a person with this personality type?
5. How can having a **vivid imagination** enhance problem-solving skills?
6. Do you think teachers and parents should encourage children to use their **vivid imaginations** or could this lead to problems?
7. What role does having a strong **sense of humour** play in building connections?
8. Can a **sense of humour** be learned or developed? How would you describe your own sense of humour?
9. Do you know anyone who has a **mean streak**? Give an example of why you believe they have a mean streak.
10. How does the presence of a **mean streak** impact relationships, both personal and professional?
11. Speak about a time when you received **brutally honest** feedback. How did you feel?
12. What are the potential benefits and drawbacks of being **brutally honest** in personal and professional relationships?
13. How does the impact of **hurt feelings** differ from person to person?
14. Are there instances where it is necessary to prioritise honesty over the potential for **hurting someone's feelings**?

HOMEWORK

1 COLLOCATIONS



You are going to write responses using the collocations presented and studied in today's lesson. Follow the guidelines below.

Guidelines

Read each situation below (1-6) and write a response to each. You must use one or more collocations from the list (a-g) in your answer:

- a. painfully shy.
- b. outgoing personality.
- c. vivid imagination.
- d. sense of humour.
- e. mean streak.
- f. brutally honest.
- g. hurt one's feelings.

Situations:

1. You have been invited to a social gathering but feel nervous about attending.
2. You love going to parties, and a colleague has asked you to go for drinks on Friday; however, your partner suggests you both spend a quiet night at home instead.
3. You have been asked to recommend a friend who would be able to write a play for the local concert next week.
4. There is a job opening within your team. You have been asked to describe the ideal personality traits that the new candidate must have to ensure the right person is hired.
5. The CEO of your company has asked you to give feedback about your manager, whom you dislike.
6. A team member is upset after you gave them feedback. Describe what happened.

