

Collocations

Collocations are ‘words that go together’. They are 2 or more words which just “sound right” when they are used. When we try to use other words, they do not sound correct.

Look at these examples:

On the TV (if we say in the TV, it does not sound right)

Fast food (we cannot say ‘quick food’ or ‘speedy food’).

Fish and chips (We cannot say ‘Fish and French fries’)



Collocations also come in verb groups. For example we can place a particular verb in front of multiple words to produce different collocation meanings.

go bald (lose your hair)

go bankrupt (lose your money in business)

go blind (lose your sight)

go crazy (get angry/ become insane)

go dark (skin becomes dark after being in the sun for a long time).



get angry (become aggressive/annoyed)

get divorced (split from your wife/husband)

get drunk (Drink too much alcohol)

get frightened (to become scared)

get home (arrive at your house/apartment).

get lost (To not know where you are).

get married (officially become a husband or wife).



There are 000,s of collocations. These sound “correct” to a native speaker but do not necessarily sound correct to a non-native speaker. Nevertheless, they are a big part of colloquial English, and are good to learn if you want to sound “natural” when speaking.

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