

03 Using collocations

Collocations are often formed of two words, but can contain more. Using them will make you a more fluent English speaker.

 **New language** Collocations
 **Aa Vocabulary** Beliefs and opinions
 **New skill** Talking about your life

3.1 KEY LANGUAGE COLLOCATIONS

Collocations are pairs or groups of words that naturally go together and sound "right" to experienced users of a language.



He has a **low opinion of the film.** 
He has a **light opinion of the film.** 

"Light" can have a similar meaning to "low" ("not much"), but does not sound natural next to "opinion."

There was **light rain forecast today.** 
There was **low rain forecast today.** 

"Low" can have a similar meaning to "light," but does not collocate with "rain."



Aa 3.2 FILL IN THE GAPS USING THE WORDS IN THE PANEL TO CREATE MORE COLLOCATIONS

It is **extremely unlikely** that there will be a happy ending.

- 1 She doesn't have any **family** left, only an uncle.
- 2 Sometimes the only solution is to **your best** and hope.
- 3 All their lives they appeared to be **married**.
- 4 Unfortunately, the financial crisis **ruined his**.
- 5 He first **into business** when he was only 17.
- 6 Looking at old photographs can **stir up**.
- 7 I can **distinctly** **meeting him 20 years ago.**
- 8 Looking at them, the difference in age is **visible**.

close
career
went
do
happily
unlikely
memories
clearly
remember



3.3 READ THE ARTICLE AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

Lara Estelle has recently died.

True False

1 Lara was a famous fashion designer.

True False

2 The author's mother does not like Lara Estelle's music.

True False

3 The author's father was a soccer fan.

True False

4 Lara became famous in the 1980s.

True False

5 Steven was Lara's second husband.

True False

6 Lara and Steven are no longer married.

True False

7 The author's father has forgiven Lara now.

True False

LIFE, LOVE, AND LARA

Lara Estelle celebrates her 70th birthday today

It's difficult to imagine now, but in her younger days Lara "The Shades" Estelle was always in the news. How did she create such a sensation? Opinions are divided. Some people say that she was a brilliant musician with an iconic fashion sense. Others believe she was the cause of one of the country's most dramatic sporting upsets.

My parents' views on Lara Estelle are poles apart and, therefore, typical of many of their generation. My mother still loves Lara's music and used to have the same platinum white hair and dark sunglasses as her idol. My father, however, remembers 1980 and his favorite soccer team losing in the final game of the season. He still firmly believes that Lara caused Dun City to lose. But how could a singer cause such drama?

The quality of her music is a matter of opinion, but in 1979 Lara was a top-selling artist. She met her first husband Steven Jones,

Dun City's star player, backstage at one of her concerts. Within weeks they were engaged. Lara told Steven that, to prove his love for her, their wedding must be on the same day as the league final that season. He agreed, and there is still a popular belief among City fans that their team lost because Jones did not play. The couple divorced a year later and City never won any trophies again. To this day, my father dislikes Lara's music.



Steven and Lara were married in a glamorous ceremony in 1979.

Aa 3.4 MATCH THE DEFINITIONS TO THE COLLOCATIONS

a subject on which people hold different views

opinions are divided

1 completely opposed

a popular belief

2 an opinion held by a lot of people

a matter of opinion

3 people hold differing points of view

firmly believe

4 to hold a strong opinion that something is true

poles apart





3.5 READ MARIAM'S BLOG AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS USING FULL SENTENCES

Mariam Davies
• WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER •

ABOUT ME



I was born in a small town in northern France and went to college in Scotland to study architecture. While at college, I joined the photography club. We used to go on field trips to amazing places and I met my husband, the landscape photographer Julian Davies, while photographing dolphins from a boat. During my last year in college, a wildlife magazine published a number of my photos of birds. This was a major turning point for me and, after we graduated, Julian and I became freelance photographers. We were based in Europe while our twin boys were growing up, but since they both graduated last year, we have started exploring and photographing further afield. We spent some time in Africa this year, and want to take photographs in Japan and Korea next year.

What is Mariam's profession?

Mariam is a wildlife photographer.

1 Where is Mariam from?

2 What subject did she study in college?

3 How did she meet her husband?

4 What important turning point in her life does she mention?

5 Do Mariam and Julian have children?

6 Where are they planning to travel next year?



3.6 LISTEN TO THE AUDIO AND MATCH THE EVENTS TO WHEN THEY HAPPENED



23 years ago



This morning



One month ago



25 years ago



3 years ago



3.7 CROSS OUT THE INCORRECT WORDS IN EACH SENTENCE

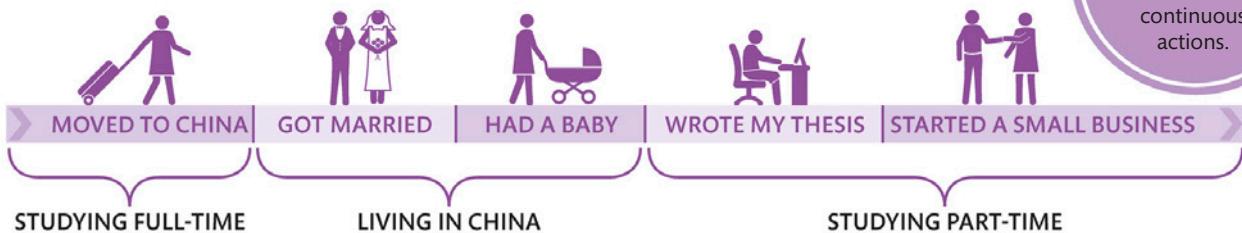
Lisa ~~was receiving~~ / **received** an email from her friend ~~every morning~~ / **this morning**.

- 1 Lisa ~~was going~~ / **went** to Thailand 25 years ~~since~~ / **ago**.
- 2 Bill ~~had taught~~ / **was teaching** when Lisa arrived in Thailand.
- 3 Lisa and Bill ~~were getting married~~ / **got married** 23 years ago, **on** / ~~in~~ March
- 4 Lisa ~~had been traveling~~ / **has traveled** for 25 years before she returned.
- 5 Barbara ~~has graduated~~ / **graduated** from college **previous** / ~~last~~ month.



3.8 USE "WHEN" AND "WHILE" TO DESCRIBE THE EVENTS ON THE TIMELINE, SPEAKING OUT LOUD

TIP
Use "when" for completed actions and "while" for continuous actions.



I moved to China while I was studying full-time.



1 I got married while I was studying full-time.



2 I was while I was studying full-time. I had a baby.



3 I wrote my thesis while I was studying part-time.



4 I was while I was studying part-time. I started a small business.



03 CHECKLIST

Collocations

Aa Beliefs and opinions

Talking about your life