

Vocabulary Builder: Collocations & Phrasal Verbs

Natural word partnerships that make your English sound fluent, not just correct.

Common Collocations

make a decision, a mistake, an effort, progress
do homework, a favour, business, damage
take a break, a risk, responsibility, a photo
have a conversation, a meeting, an idea, breakfast
give advice, a presentation, feedback, permission

Essential Phrasal Verbs

look into — investigate. "We need to look into this issue."
put off — postpone. "Let's put off the meeting until Friday."
get along with — have a good relationship. "I get along with my colleagues."
come up with — think of. "She came up with a great idea."
run out of — have none left. "We ran out of time."
catch up on — do something you missed. "I need to catch up on emails."
figure out — understand/solve. "I can't figure out this problem."
set up — arrange/establish. "Let's set up a call for tomorrow."

Practice Exercise

Fill each blank with the correct collocation or phrasal verb from above.

1. Can you _____ a decision by Friday?
2. We _____ of milk, could you buy some?
3. I need to _____ this problem before the deadline.
4. Let's _____ a meeting for next week.
5. She always _____ great ideas in brainstorming sessions.

Answer Key

1. make
2. ran out
3. figure out
4. set up
5. comes up with

Practice Tip

Don't just memorise the list — write one original sentence for each expression using something true about your own life. Personal sentences are remembered far longer.