

PRACTICAL LESSON

Collocations

Lesson category: Mësimet në gjuhë angleze

Learn which words naturally go together in English: verb-noun, adjective-noun, noun-noun and preposition pairings. Covers make, do, take and pay, and the translation habits that produce unnatural combinations.

Collocations

A **collocation** is a pair or group of words that native speakers habitually use together. *Heavy rain* is normal English; *strong rain* is not, even though the meaning would be clear. Collocations are not governed by logic — they are governed by habit — which is why they must be learned as units.

Learning objectives

- Recognise the main types of collocation.
- Use *make*, *do*, *take* and *pay* with the right nouns.
- Choose the natural adjective for a given noun.
- Avoid word-for-word translation from your own language.

Types of collocation

Type	Pattern	Examples
Verb + noun	the verb that "goes with" the noun	<i>make a decision, do homework, take a photo, pay attention</i>
Adjective + noun	the usual descriptive pairing	<i>heavy rain, strong coffee, deep sleep, close friend</i>
Noun + noun	fixed compounds	<i>traffic jam, job interview, birthday party</i>
Verb + adverb	habitual intensity	<i>work hard, drive carefully, know well</i>
Adverb + adjective	degree pairings	<i>highly likely, deeply concerned, fully aware</i>
Verb + preposition	fixed dependent prepositions	<i>depend on, listen to, apologise for, belong to</i>
Adjective + preposition	fixed pairings	<i>good at, interested in, afraid of, proud of</i>

Make, do, take and pay

Verb	General idea	Common collocations
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make	create or produce something	<i>make a decision, make a mistake, make progress, make an effort, make a noise, make friends, make money, make a phone call</i>
do	perform a task or activity	<i>do homework, do the shopping, do the washing-up, do business, do research, do exercise, do your best, do a favour</i>
take	receive, carry, or use time	<i>take a photo, take a break, take a seat, take an exam, take medicine, take place, take care, take responsibility</i>
pay	give money or attention	<i>pay attention, pay a visit, pay a compliment, pay the bill, pay a fine, pay respect</i>

Some pairs are worth memorising because they are easy to confuse: *make a mistake* (not *do a mistake*), *do an exercise* (not *make an exercise*), *take an exam* (not *write an exam* in most varieties), *pay attention* (not *give attention*).

Strong adjective pairings

Noun	Natural adjective	Unnatural
rain	heavy rain	<i>strong rain</i>
coffee	strong coffee	<i>heavy coffee</i>
traffic	heavy traffic	<i>big traffic</i>
friend	close friend	<i>near friend</i>
sleep	deep sleep	<i>strong sleep</i>
chance	good chance	<i>big chance</i>
mistake	serious mistake	<i>strong mistake</i>
wind	strong wind	<i>heavy wind</i>

Dependent prepositions

Word	Preposition	Example
depend	on	<i>It depends on the weather.</i>
listen	to	<i>I listen to music.</i>
interested	in	<i>She's interested in history.</i>
good	at	<i>He's good at maths.</i>
afraid	of	<i>I'm afraid of heights.</i>
apologise	for	<i>He apologised for the delay.</i>
arrive	at / in	<i>arrive at the station, arrive in London</i>

Word	Preposition	Example
married	to	She's married to a doctor.

Why translation causes errors

Every language pairs words differently. A learner who translates directly produces grammatically correct but unnatural English:

Translated	Natural English
<i>make a photo</i>	take a photo
<i>do a mistake</i>	make a mistake
<i>say a lie</i>	tell a lie
<i>put a question</i>	ask a question
<i>give an exam</i>	take an exam
<i>make sport</i>	do sport / play sport
<i>strong rain</i>	heavy rain
<i>discuss about</i>	discuss (no preposition)

Common mistakes

Mistake	Correct
<i>I made my homework.</i>	I did my homework.
<i>She did a big mistake.</i>	She made a big mistake.
<i>Please give attention.</i>	Please pay attention.
<i>I depend of you.</i>	I depend on you.
<i>We discussed about the plan.</i>	We discussed the plan.
<i>He is married with a teacher.</i>	He is married to a teacher.

Learning tips

1. Record vocabulary in pairs, never alone: write *make a decision*, not *decision*.
2. Keep four lists — *make*, *do*, *take*, *pay* — and add to them as you read.
3. When you learn an adjective or a verb, learn its preposition at the same time.
4. If a phrase sounds odd to you in English, check it; it is often a translation from your first language.

Summary checklist

- Is this the verb English actually uses with this noun?
- Is the adjective the natural partner for this noun?

- Is the preposition the fixed one?
- Am I translating an image from my own language?

Shpjegim në gjuhën shqipe

Rregulli i anglishtes, i shpjeguar në shqip

Një **collocation** është një çift ose grup fjalësh që folësit amtarë i përdorin zakonisht bashkë. *Heavy rain* është anglishte e natyrshme; *strong rain* jo, edhe pse kuptimi do të merrej vesh.

Këto bashkëlidhje **nuk drejtohen nga logjika**, por nga zakoni. Prandaj ato nuk mund të nxirren me arsyetim: duhen mësuar si njësi.

Llojet kryesore janë: folje + emër (*make a decision*), mbiemër + emër (*heavy traffic*), emër + emër (*traffic jam*), folje + ndajfolje (*work hard*), ndajfolje + mbiemër (*highly likely*) dhe fjalë + parafjalë e ngulitur (*depend on*, *good at*).

Grupi më i vështirë është ai i katër foljeve **make**, **do**, **take** dhe **pay**, të cilat ndajnë midis tyre qindra emra pa asnjë rregull të qartë: *make a mistake*, *do homework*, *take a photo*, *pay attention*.

Ekuivalenti në gjuhën shqipe

Edhe shqipja i ka bashkëlidhjet e veta: *marr një vendim*, *bëj një gabim*, *jap provim*, *kam të drejtë*. Dukuria pra është e njohur.

Problemi është se **foljet nuk përkojnë** midis dy gjuhëve.

Shqip	Anglisht e saktë	Gabimi tipik
bëj një gabim	make a mistake	<i>do a mistake</i>
bëj detyrat	do homework	<i>make homework</i>
bëj një fotografi	take a photo	<i>make a photo</i>
marr një vendim	make a decision	<i>take a decision</i>
jap provim	take an exam	<i>give an exam</i>
bëj një pyetje	ask a question	<i>make a question</i>
kushtoj vëmendje	pay attention	<i>give attention</i>
tregoj një gënjeshtër	tell a lie	<i>say a lie</i>
shi i rrëmbyeshëm	heavy rain	<i>strong rain</i>
kafe e fortë	strong coffee	<i>heavy coffee</i>

Vini re çiftin e fundit: shqipja thotë *i fortë* për kafënë dhe *i rrëmbyeshëm* për shiun; anglishtja i ndan si *strong* dhe *heavy*. Kush përkthen drejtpërdrejt, gabon në njërin nga të dyja.

Parafjalët e ngulitura

Anglisht	Shqip	Kujdes
depend on	varet nga	<i>jo depend from</i>

Anglisht	Shqip	Kujdes
listen to	dëgjoj	shqipja nuk ka parafjalë
married to	i martuar me	jo married with
good at	i mirë në	jo good in
discuss	diskutoj për	anglishtja nuk merr parafjalë

Ku ndryshojnë dy gjuhët

- **Folja mbajtëse.** Shqipja përdor kryesisht *bëj* dhe *marr*; anglishtja i shpërndan të njëjtat kuptime midis *make*, *do*, *take* dhe *pay*.
- **Parafjala.** Ka raste ku shqipja e kërkon e anglishtja jo (*discuss*), dhe raste ku ndodh e kundërta (*listen to*).
- **Mbiemri.** Çiftet e forcës dhe të sasisë ndahen ndryshe në të dyja gjuhët.

Gabime të zakonshme të folësve të shqipes

Gabimi	E saktë	Pse
<i>I made my homework.</i>	I did my homework.	bashkëlidhje e ngulitur
<i>She did a big mistake.</i>	She made a big mistake.	po ashtu
<i>We discussed about the plan.</i>	We discussed the plan.	pa parafjalë
<i>He is married with a teacher.</i>	... married to a teacher.	parafjalë e ngulitur
<i>strong rain</i>	heavy rain	mbiemri i duhur