

Thu
16 Apr

English Language

This session will be divided into:

- Part 1: Talking about beliefs and opinions
- Part 2: Active / Passive Overview.

Part 1 Talking about beliefs and opinions

- **First what's collocation?**

A collocation is two or more words that often go together. These combinations just sound "right" to native English speakers, who use them all the time. On the other hand, other combinations may be unnatural and just sound "wrong".

natural English...	unnatural English...
the fast train fast food	the quick train quick food
a quick shower a quick meal	a fast shower a fast meal

Why we learn collocation?

- Your language will be more natural and more easily understood.
- You will have alternative and richer ways of expressing yourself.
- It is easier for our brains to remember and use language in chunks or blocks rather than as single words.

How to learn collocation?

- Be **aware** of collocations, and try to **recognize** them when you see or hear them.
- Treat collocations as **single blocks** of language. Think of them as individual blocks or chunks, and learn *strongly support*, not *strongly + support*.
- When you learn a new word, write down other words that collocate with it (*remember rightly, remember distinctly, remember vaguely, remember vividly*).
- Read as much as possible. Reading is an excellent way to learn vocabulary and collocations in context and naturally.
- Revise what you learn regularly. Practise using new collocations in context as soon as possible after learning them.
- Learn collocations in groups that work for you. You could learn them by **topic** (time, number, weather, money, family) or by a particular **word** (*take action, take a chance, take an exam*).
- You can find information on collocations in any good learner's dictionary. And you can also find specialized dictionaries of collocations.

Types of collocation:

- There are several different types of collocation made from combinations of verb, noun, adjective etc. Some of the most common types are:
- **adverb + adjective:** completely satisfied (NOT ~~downright~~ satisfied)
- **adjective + noun:** excruciating pain (NOT excruciating joy)
- **noun + noun:** a surge of anger (NOT a ~~rush~~ of anger)
- **noun + verb:** lions roar (NOT lions ~~shout~~)
- **verb + noun:** commit suicide (NOT ~~undertake~~ suicide)
- **verb + expression with preposition:** burst into tears (NOT ~~blow-up in~~ tears)
- **verb + adverb:** wave frantically (NOT wave ~~feverishly~~)

First part of talking about beliefs and opinions

Speaking about beliefs and opinions:

- I **Firmly believe** that young people should have the right to vote at 16.
- I **share** your **opinion** on the issue of hunting. I'm a **great believer** in animals' right.
- Contrary to **popular belief**, it is not true that blondes are dumb. (**What many people think**)
- We **have reason to believe** that you witnessed the accident.
- We are **poles apart** in our attitudes to life. (**are completely different**)
- It's a **matter of opinion** whether men are better drivers than women.
- I had a **difference of opinion** with my brothers. (**disagreement**)
- I've got a **sneaking suspicion** you may be right. (**I'm beginning to think**)

Second part: more formal ways of discussing beliefs

1. Make assumptions (**thinks or says things are true without enough evidence**)
2. Colored his judgment (**affected his judgment**)
3. Cast doubt on (**suggest something may be wrong with**)
4. Opinions are divided (**people have different opinions**)
5. Considered opinion (**opinion after much thought**)
6. Have serious misgiving about (**I have serious doubts about**)

Third part: Some error warnings

Collocation	Comment
I hope you'll come to my party.	Not wish
They've given up hope of any survivors.	Not the hope
We need to think hard about this problem.	Not consider hard
I wish they would just leave me alone.	Not let
Many people hold the view/opinion that....	Not meaning
He has strong opinions on my subject.	Not heavy or big

Exercises on page 52

Part 2: Active / Passive Overview pp. 30: 33

Tense	Active voice	Passive voice	Active sentence	Passive equivalent
Simple present	keep	is kept	I keep the butter in the fridge.	The butter is kept in the fridge.
Present continuous	is keeping	is being kept	John is keeping my house tidy.	My house is being kept tidy.
Simple past	kept	was kept	Mary kept her schedule meticulously.	Mary's schedule was kept meticulously.
Past continuous	was keeping	was being kept	The theater was keeping a seat for you.	A seat was being kept for you.
Present perfect	have kept	have been kept	I have kept all your old letters.	All your old letters have been kept.
Past perfect	had kept	had been kept	He had kept up his training regimen for a month.	His training regimen had been kept up for a month.
Simple Future	will keep	will be kept	Mark will keep the ficus.	The ficus will be kept.
Conditional Present	would keep	would be kept	If you told me, I would keep your secret.	If you told me, your secret would be kept.
Conditional Past	would have kept	would have been kept	I would have kept your bicycle here if you had left it with me.	Your bicycle would have been kept here if you had left it with me.
Present Infinitive	to keep	to be kept	She wants to keep the book.	The book wants to be kept.
Perfect Infinitive	to have kept	to have been kept	Judy was happy to have kept the puppy.	The puppy was happy to have been kept.
Present Participle & Gerund	keeping	being kept	I have a feeling that you may be keeping a secret.	I have a feeling that a secret may be being kept.
Perfect Participle	having kept	having been kept	Having kept the bird in a cage for so long, Jade wasn't sure it could survive in the wild.	The bird, having been kept in a cage for so long, might not survive in the wild.