

LESSON 1: WHAT ARE COLLOCATIONS & WHY IMPORTANT

Be

- By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

Define

- Define collocations clearly.

Explain

- Explain why collocations matter for IELTS Speaking and Writing.

Avoid

- Avoid common collocation mistakes.



Use

- Use collocations in simple sentences.

DEFINITION OF COLLOCATIONS

Collocations are **natural word combinations** that native speakers use.

Example:

-  *make a decision*
-  *do a decision*

They sound natural in English and **improve fluency**.

WHY IMPORTANT FOR IELTS?

IELTS examiners check **lexical resource** (vocabulary use).

Using collocations helps you:

- Avoid repetition (*good* → *excellent performance, great achievement*)
- Sound natural (*take a risk, heavy traffic*)
- Write academic answers (*conduct research, global issue*)

Collocation use is linked to **Band 7 and above**.

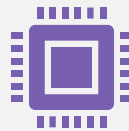
EXAMPLES



Education → *make progress, sit an exam, gain knowledge*



Health → *balanced diet, suffer from illness, maintain fitness*



Technology → *rapid development, access information, widespread use*

COMMON MISTAKES

Students often translate directly from their first language:

✗ *big rain* → ✓ *heavy rain*

✗ *do a crime* → ✓ *commit a crime*

✗ *strong tea* → ✓ *strong tea* (correct),
but not *powerful tea*

TASKS

Choose the correct collocation.

1. I need to (make/do) progress in my English.
2. She (committed/did) a serious crime.
3. The doctor told me to (take/do) medicine daily.

• **Task 2 (Speaking/Writing):** Write 3 sentences about **your hometown** using collocations.

Example: *My hometown has heavy traffic during market days.*

