

Learning collocations

When learning words it is helpful to notice and to learn some of the words that they often occur with (their collocations). The dictionary helps you to know which words are frequently used together. One of the ways information is given on collocations is in a box shown after the meaning of the word.

join¹ /dʒɔɪn/ verb ★★★

1 [T] to become a member of an organization, club etc ≠ LEAVE: *I'm thinking of joining a choir.* ♦ *countries that would like to join the EU* ♦ *He wants to join the army.*

1a. to start to work for an organization: *Martin joined the firm in 1999.*

Collocation

Nouns frequently used as objects of **join 1**

- army, band, club, group, party, team, union

▶ Activity 1

Write down adverbs you think are frequently used before the adjective *interested*. Find the entry for the word *interested* in the dictionary, and look at the *Collocation* box in the entry. Check your answers.

_____ interested

▶ Activity 2

Write down nouns you think are frequently used with the verb *combat*. Find the entry for *combat* in the dictionary, and look at the *Collocation* box in the entry. Check your answers.

combat _____

▶ Activity 3

Read the questions and circle the correct words. Check your answers in the dictionary.

a Three of these six adverbs are frequently used with the verb *love*. Which are they?

dearly strongly passionately truly
effectively highly

b Three of these six adjectives are frequently used with the noun *memory*. Which are they?

colourful untidy painful fond
bright vivid

c Three of these six nouns are frequently used with the verb *negotiate*. Which are they?

contract result price direction
deal plan

▶ Activity 4

List three words that you think typically occur with each of these words (a–f). Check your answers in the dictionary by looking at the *Collocation* box in each entry.

a verbs

_____ payment

b nouns

popular _____

c adjectives

_____ kiss

d nouns

gain _____

e verbs

_____ leg

f adjectives

_____ possession