

FAMILY COLLOCATIONS

1 COLLOCATIONS: THEORY

Read the theory about collocations and then complete the worksheet.

What is a Collocation?

In English, we have the habit of using certain words together more often than others. These words that appear together are called collocations.

Why are Collocations Important?

It is important to master collocations, as they will make your speech sound more natural. When you use collocations, your speech will be idiomatic; meaning you will sound more like a native speaker.

Examples of Common Collocations

We **had a good time** at the party.

Let's **have a drink** after work.

Good luck with the exam! Just **do your best**.

I **make my bed** every morning.



2 GUESS THE MEANING

Study the collocations. Work in pairs and try to figure out each collocation's meaning. You are not expected to know them all, but give it a go and have fun!

1. immediate family.

2. extended family.

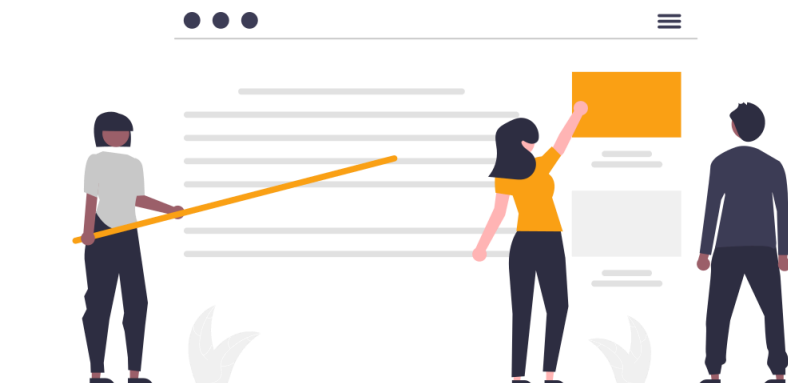
3. family tree.

4. family members.

5. close-knit family.

6. carefree childhood.

7. bitter divorce.



3 DEFINITIONS

Read the sentences below and match the phrases in bold to their meaning.

1. They have only shared the news with their **immediate family**.
2. She grew up surrounded by her **extended family**.
3. He can trace his **family tree** back to the 16th century.
4. It is important for a child to know all their **family members**.
5. They celebrate all holidays together. They have a **close-knit family**!
6. Their family is wealthy so they had a **carefree childhood**.
7. She cheated on her husband so they had a **bitter divorce**.

Meanings:

- a. a divorce that does not end on good terms.
- b. an easy childhood without any worries or problems.
- c. a family that has close, strong relationships.
- d. a diagram showing relationships between people in several generations of a family.
- e. relatives outside of your immediate family: aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents.
- f. a person's smallest family unit, including parents, siblings, spouses and children.
- g. any person that is part of your family.

Task: Work in pairs and create example sentences for each collocation, then share them with the class.



4 COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

Complete the sentences by completing the collocations with the correct word.

1. The funeral was limited to _____ family only.
2. They invited their friends and extended _____ to the wedding.
3. She is researching her _____ tree to discover more about her roots.
4. He treats his pets like _____ members!
5. I love spending time with my family - we are a close-knit _____.
6. He really wants to give his kids a carefree _____.
7. After a bitter _____, Wendy was looking forward to starting a new life.
8. My immediate _____ consists of my parents and my younger sister.
9. During holidays, we gather with our extended _____, including aunts, uncles, and cousins.
10. I spent hours researching my family _____ and discovered ancestors dating back several centuries.
11. All family _____ are invited to the reunion to celebrate our grandparents' anniversary.
12. We come from a _____ family where everyone supports and cares for each other.
13. My _____ childhood was filled with adventures, laughter, and playing in the neighbourhood.
14. The _____ divorce between my parents left a lasting impact on our family dynamics.



4 DIALOGUES USING COLLOCATIONS

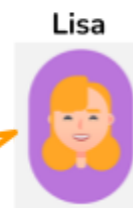
Complete the dialogues by completing each collocation.

Dialogue 1:



John

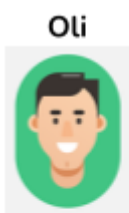
Are you inviting your whole family to your wedding?



Lisa

No, just my _____ family as we don't have a lot of space at the venue.

Dialogue 2:



Oli

I'm researching our family _____ to understand our heritage and pass down the stories to future generations.

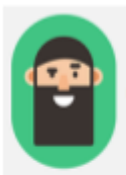


Ana

That's great. Let me know what you find.



Dialogue 3:

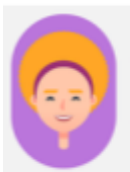
Duke

Are your _____ family invited to your birthday party?

Laura

Yes! I am excited to see my cousins. I haven't seen them for years!

Dialogue 4:

Beth

Let's gather all our family _____ for a group photo.

Joe

Great idea! I'll go and ask everyone.

Dialogue 5:

Nathan

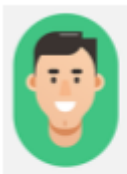
How was your childhood growing up in London?

Jess

It was great! I come from a _____ family so I have a lot of special memories from my childhood.

Dialogue 6:

Oli



Remember those _____ childhood days, running through the fields and laughing without a worry?

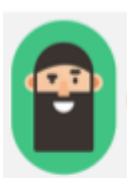
Ana



Oh, definitely! Hanging out and playing games until the sun set. Those moments will stay with me forever.

Dialogue 7:

Duke

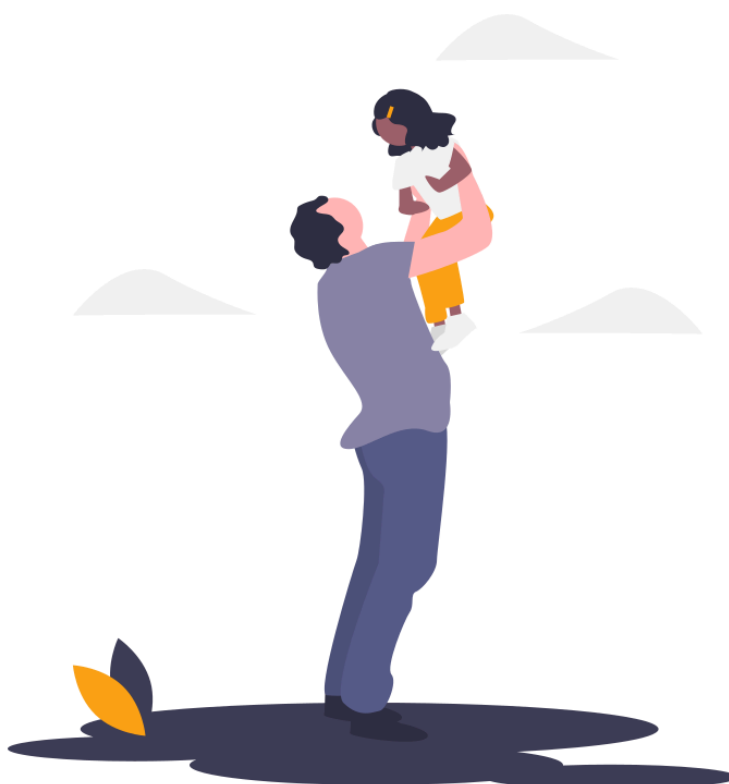


The _____ divorce has caused a lot of pain and hurt.

Laura



Yes, it's been a difficult and challenging experience for all of us



6 THE JACKSON'S

Read the story below, then complete the exercises.

The Jackson's were a small but close-knit family that treasured their family bonds above all else. The immediate family consisted of a loving mother, a caring father, and their two children, a boy and a girl. They lived in a cosy house surrounded by a beautiful garden.

Beyond their immediate family, they also had a large extended family. The family tree was filled with aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents who brought joy and warmth to their lives. Every holiday season, the family members would come together, creating memories that would last a lifetime.

The children had a carefree childhood, filled with laughter and play. They would explore the woods nearby, climb trees, and build forts. These simple pleasures brought them immense happiness.

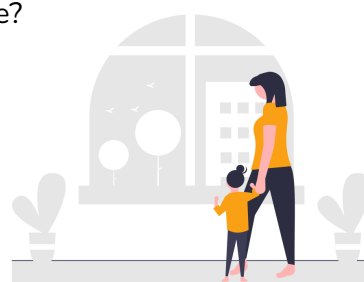
However, as the children grew older, things became tense within the family. Their parents faced hardships. Arguments became frequent, and the once happy household was clouded with tension. Eventually, their marriage ended with a bitter divorce.

The children now split their time between their mother's and father's households, longing for the days when their family was whole. The extended family offered support and love during this difficult period. Their aunts and uncles provided guidance, and their grandparents listened to their problems.

Despite the pain of the divorce, the rest of the family remained strong. The children learned to adapt to their new reality and found happiness in the love from their extended family. Over time, the wounds began to heal, and all family members rebuilt their lives, finding joy in new experiences and forming new connections.

Questions:

1. Identify the collocations in the text.
2. Who was in the Jackson's immediate family?
3. Who was in the Jackson's family tree?
4. How did the bitter divorce affect the family?
5. Are they still a close-knit family after the bitter divorce?
6. Retell the story to a classmate.
7. Predict what will happen next.



7 COLLOCATION QUESTIONS

Practice using the collocations in a natural way by answering the following questions.

1. Who is in your **immediate family**?
2. Describe your relationship with your **immediate family**.
3. Have you ever researched your **family tree**?
4. Why do you think there is a growing trend of people researching their **family tree**?
5. In your culture, is it common to have close relationships with your **extended family**?
6. Describe your relationship with your **extended family**.
7. What are the characteristics of a **close-knit family**?
8. What are the benefits of growing up in a **close-knit family**, and how does it contribute to an individual's sense of security and support?
9. Did you have a **carefree childhood**? Describe your experiences.
10. What are some factors or experiences that can hinder a child's ability to have a **carefree childhood**?
11. In what ways can **family members** contribute to the overall well-being and happiness of each other?
12. How can you create and maintain strong relationships between **family members** who have different political views?
13. How does a **bitter divorce** impact the lives of the couple and children involved? Does it affect the future relationships and trust levels of the individuals?
14. What are some strategies that couples can adopt to minimise **bitterness** and hostility during a **divorce** process?





HOMework

1 COLLOCATIONS RECAP

Use the words from the box to create separate sentences or a story. Have fun!

Collocations.

- a. immediate family.
- b. extended family.
- c. family tree.
- d. family members.
- e. close-knit family.
- f. carefree childhood.
- g. bitter divorce.
