

SPORT 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.

2 WARM UP: SPEAKING EXERCISE

Describe the pictures. You need to speak as long as you can!

1



2



Prompts:

1. What are they doing?
2. Is it a group or individual sport?
3. Where are they?
4. Do you like this sport?
5. What are they wearing?
6. How could these sports be considered dangerous?



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. have the lead

2. set a record

3. score a goal

4. break a record

5. home game

6. make a comeback

7. enter a competition.



3 DEFINITIONS

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

1. The team **had the lead** from the beginning and never let it go.
2. The swimmer **set a new record** in the 100-metre freestyle event.
3. The striker **scored a goal** from outside the penalty box.
4. The athlete managed to **break the record** in the high jump event.
5. Our football team is excited about the upcoming **home game** against our rivals.
6. We were losing 2-0 but we **made a comeback** and won the match.
7. The talented singer decided to **enter a singing competition** to show her skills.

Meanings:

- a. achieve a new and notable accomplishment. **2**
- b. to be ahead or in a winning position. **1**
- c. successfully put the ball into the opposing team's goal. **3**
- d. exceed a previously set achievement. **4**
- e. recover from a losing position and achieve success. **6**
- f. participate or join a contest or event. **7**
- g. a sports match or competition taking place in the team's own venue. **5**

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. You may need to change the tense.

1. In the race, John had the **lead** from the very beginning.
2. The athlete managed to **set** a new record in the long jump event.
3. Sarah kicked the ball into the net and scored a **goal** for her team.
4. The swimmer broke the **record** in the 100-metre freestyle.
5. Our favourite team is playing a home **game** this weekend.
6. Despite trailing behind, the basketball team made a **comeback** and won the match.
7. Emily decided to enter a **competition** to showcase her photography skills.
8. With his exceptional skills and strategic moves, James, the star player, always has the **lead** in the basketball game.
9. The swimmer's incredible speed and stamina allowed him to set a new world **record** in the 200-metre freestyle event.
10. In the final minutes of the football match, Sarah skillfully moved through the defence and scored a **goal**, securing victory for her team.
11. The athlete's outstanding performance in the long jump event enabled him to **break** the previous Olympic record.
12. The local football team was thrilled to have their first home **game** of the season, with enthusiastic fans filling the stadium to cheer them on.
13. Despite being down by several points, the underdog team rallied together and made a **comeback**, ultimately winning the match.
14. After months of intense training, Rebecca decided to **enter** a national swimming competition to test her skills against athletes from around the country.



5 DIALOGUES USING COLLOCATIONS

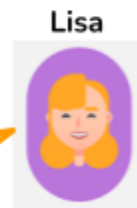
Complete the dialogues by completing each collocation.

Dialogue 1:



John

Who has the **lead** in the race?



Lisa

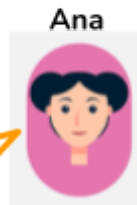
At the moment Jason has the **lead**, but I think Michael will win!

Dialogue 2:



Oli

How did you do in the race?

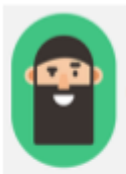


Ana

I came first, and I **set** a new record!



Dialogue 3:

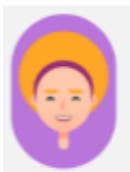
Duke

Did you play football at the weekend?

Laura

Yes. We won 4-0, and I **scored** 3 goals!

Dialogue 4:

Beth

Do you think Harry Kane will **break** Alan Shearer's record for scoring the most goals ever in the Premier League?

Joe

I'm not sure because he might sign for Real Madrid soon!

Dialogue 5:

Nathan

We have a home **game** this weekend. We're playing in our new stadium.

Jess

Oh that's exciting! I hope there's a good atmosphere!

Dialogue 6:

Oli



Hey Ana, did you see the game last night?

Ana



Yes, it was incredible! I can't believe City made a **comeback** from two goals down.

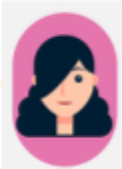
Dialogue 7:

Duke

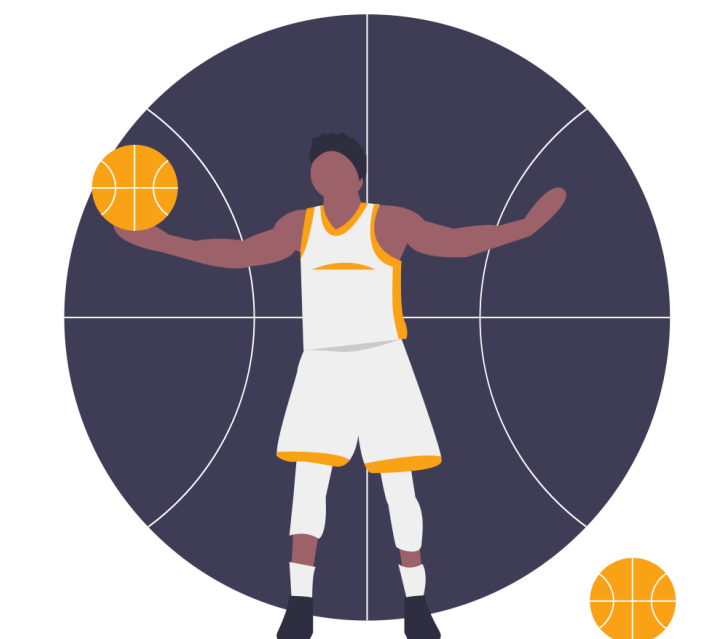


I'm not going to **enter** the competition.

Laura



That's a shame! You have done so much training. I hope you change your mind soon!



6 THE WILLOWDALE WARRIORS

Read the story below, then complete the exercises.

In a small town called Willowdale, there was a passionate football team known as the Willowdale Warriors. They had the lead in their league for months, and they were determined to set a record that would go down in history. Led by their charismatic captain, Alex, the team trained hard, striving to achieve greatness.

The day of their most crucial home game arrived, and the entire town gathered to cheer on their beloved Warriors. The atmosphere was electric as the players stepped onto the field. The opposing team was known for their tough defence, but the Warriors were determined to break a record.

The game began, and the Warriors fought hard, displaying their skills and teamwork. However, luck was against them as the opposing team managed to score an early goal, leaving the home crowd stunned. The Warriors refused to give up.

Alex rallied his teammates, urging them to make a comeback, and the crowd roared with enthusiasm. Then, in a moment of brilliance, the Warriors managed to equalise!

As the game reached its final moments, both teams pushed themselves to the limit. With only seconds remaining, a well-executed play resulted in a goal. The crowd went crazy, witnessing the Warriors break a record that seemed impossible.

Their victory made headlines around the football world. They received invitations to enter prestigious competitions. With the record-breaking victory as their driving force, the Warriors started a new journey.

The town of Willowdale was united behind their heroes, ready to witness their incredible journey unfold. Little did they know that this was just the beginning of an extraordinary adventure that would solidify their place in football history forever.

Questions:

1. Identify the collocations in the text.
2. Did the Willowdale Warriors set a new record?
3. How many goals were scored?
4. Was it a home game?
5. Which team made a comeback?
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. Has your favourite team or sports person ever **set a record**? Describe it.
2. How does **setting a record** impact an athlete's legacy and reputation within their sport?
3. Have you ever **scored a goal** in football? Describe your experience.
4. Can **scoring a goal** be seen as an individual achievement or a collective effort of the entire team?
5. Do you think there are some **records** that will never be **broken**?
6. How does the advancement of technology and equipment influence the ability to **break records** in sports?
7. How does the atmosphere created by the crowd influence the result of a **home game** in favour of the home team?
8. Does the concept of a **home game** vary across different sports?
9. Describe a time you have witnessed a team **make a comeback**? How did you feel?
10. What are some of the key psychological factors that contribute to a team **making a comeback** in sports?
11. What are some of the benefits and potential drawbacks **of entering a competition**? How does it contribute to an athlete's or person's growth and development?
12. If you had to **enter a competition** tomorrow and stand a good chance, what competition would you enter?
13. How does **having the lead** in a match impact the opposing team's tactics and approach?
14. How does crowd support affect the team or athlete who **has the lead**?





HOMEWORK

1 COLLOCATIONS RECAP

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

Collocations.

- a. have the lead
- b. set a record
- c. score a goal
- d. break a record
- e. home game
- f. make a comeback
- g. enter a competition.
