

II. COLLOCATIONS

- A collocation is a set of words that often go together.

E.g. pen and paper, pencil and rubber, chicken and rice.

- It refers to a relationship between words that frequently occur together, so collocational meaning refers to association that a word acquires in its collocation.

Eg. **Pretty**: girl, boy, color, flower.

- ❖ So, the combination of these (collocations) just sounds 'right' to native speaker, who use them all the time. On the other hand, other combination may be unnatural and just sound "wrong". That is why we say collocation refers to how words go together or form fixed relationship.

E.g. -Say **make lunch**, not **do lunch** - Say **fast train**, not **quick train**

-Say **quick shower**, not **fast shower** - Say **heavy rain**, not **thick rain**

2.1 Collocatins with (have, do, make, take, break, catch, pay, save, keep, come, go, get)

A. Have	B. Do	C. Make	D. Take	E.
break	F. Catch			
Have a lunch	do business	make a difference	take a chance	break a
promise	catch a bus			
Have a bath	do your h/work	make a mess	take a rest	break a
record	catch a thief			
Have a holiday	do a favor	make a mistake	take a taxi	break a
habit	catch a fire			
Have a problem	do your hair	make an effort	take a seat	break a
window	catch a ball			
Have a rest	do the cooking	make progress	take an exam	
catch a cold				
Have a drink	do your best	make money	take a look	
Have a sympathy	do nothing	make trouble	take notes	
G. pay	H. Save	I. Keep	J. Come	K. Go
L. Get				

Pay attention	save energy	keep a diary	come close	go bad
get angry				
Pay respect	save money	keep a promise	come direct	go dark
get ready				
Pay a fine	save time	keep a respect	come first	go yellow
get dressed				
Pay interest		keep a secret	come on time	go crazy
get wet				
Pay a price		keep quiet	come early	go mad
get married				

2.2 Types of collocations

- A. Adverb + adjective E.g. A **richly decorated** room.
- B. Adjective + noun E.g. I was ordered to take **regular exercise**.
- C. Noun + noun E.g. The **ceasefire agreement** came in to effect at 5 am.
- D. Noun + verb E.g. The lion started to roar when it heard the **dog barking**.
- E. Verb + noun E.g. The prisoner was hanged for **committing murder**.
- F. Verb + adverb E.g. Tison **whispered softly** in Robel's ear.

2. Denotative and connotative meanings

Denotation is **when you mean what you say, literally**. That is denotative refers to direct/literal meaning. In another word, denotation is dictionary meaning. The **denotative meaning** of a word is simply the commonly accepted meaning or the definition that you would find if you were to look up that word in a dictionary

Connotation is **created** when you mean something else, something that might be initially hidden. The connotative meaning of a word is based on implication, or shared emotional association with a word. Connotation is the use of a word to suggest a different association than its literal meaning, which is known as denotation. Connotative meaning is understood

depending on the context in which the word is used and the past experiences of the listener. Many words, especially **nouns**, **verbs**, **adjectives**, and **adverbs** have connotative meanings.

For example, take the word 'blue'. Its denotative meaning is blue color. And **its connotative** meaning is to describe a **feeling of sadness**. eg "She's feeling **blue**." Connotations can be either **positive**, **negative**, or **neutral**.

Examples of connotative meaning:

A) He's such a **dog**. In this sense, the word **dog** connotes **shamelessness**, or **ugliness**.

B) That woman is a **dove** at heart. Here, the **dove** implies **peace** or **gentility**.

C) There's no place like **home**. It most often refers to family, comfort, and security.

D) That woman is so **pushy**! *Pushy* refers to someone who is loud-mouthed, insisting, and irritating.

E) My **mom** and **dad** worked hard to put me through college. The words **Mom** and **Dad**, when used in place of *mother* and *father*, connote loving parents, rather than simply biological parents.

Example: Describing a 'Group'

As another example, consider the words **group**, **clique**, **club**, and **gang**. All four have basically the same denotative meaning: a set of more than one person. Each of these words has a different connotative meaning, however.

- **Group** has a neutral connotation. The word simply describes a number of people. It does not inspire either positive or negative feelings.
- **Clique** also means a group of people, but it carries a negative connotation. This is because "clique" is typically used in circumstances where the group is known for excluding others. This

word should be used carefully: If you want to be thought of as a welcoming group, the negative connotation of this word will turn people off!

- **Gang** is defined as an organized group, but it has very negative connotations. The use of this term suggests criminal activity and/or violent behavior.
- **Club** also refers to a group of people, but this word has a more positive connotation because a club is a collection of people that voluntarily come together for a shared passion or purpose.

Example: Describing 'Demeanor'

If you know someone whose personality style is the opposite of high-strung, it's important to choose an appropriate word to describe the person's demeanor. Should you use relaxed, lackadaisical or easygoing?

- **Relaxed** is a fairly neutral or positive way to describe someone's temperament, but it doesn't imply that the person is this way all the time. Someone could be relaxed now, but become very agitated or excited at another time.
- **Easygoing** is also likely to be perceived as a positive or natural description. It is more likely to be viewed as a general statement about a person's general nature rather than a snapshot of a moment in time.
- **Lackadaisical** is never a compliment. Someone who is lackadaisical is relaxed and easygoing, but that person is also probably careless and disengaged. This term has a negative connotation.
- **Connotative Words: Examples**
 - To see more examples of how words with similar denotations can have positive, neutral or negative connotations, refer to the chart below.

Positive Connotation	Neutral Connotation	Negative Connotation
interested	curious	nosy
Employ	use	exploit
thrifty	saving	stingy
steadfast	tenacious	stubborn
sated	filled	crammed
courageous	confident	conceited

unique
meticulous
vintage
elated

different
selective
old
happy

peculiar
picky
decrepit
manic

Exercise 1: Finding Words With Negative Connotations

Instruction: Read the sentences below. Identify the word(s) that have a negative connotation.

1. Bedford is a gritty neighborhood, but the rent is affordable.
2. On my flight to Los Angeles, I sat next to this geezer. He was very old.
3. Every morning my neighbor takes his mutt to the park. It always barks loudly when leaving the building.
4. You need to be pushy when you are looking for a job.
5. Bob is bullheaded sometimes, but he always gets the job done.

Exercise 2: Choose a Word With a Positive Connotation

Instruction: Choose the word with the most positive connotation to complete the sentences below.

1. I love spending time with my aunt. She has a very (childlike, youthful, childish) outlook on life.
2. I enjoy finding ways to make the most of my budget by being (frugal, miserly, and cheap).
3. I am (confident, arrogant, egotistical) that I will be selected for a role in the school play.
4. I realize that you're feeling (nosy, prying, inquisitive), but I'd rather not discuss the matter.
5. My cousin is very (blathering, jabbering, and talkative).

Exercise 3:

Instruction: For each of the sentences below, determine if the bold word has a positive or negative connotation.

1. How long have you been dieting? Maybe too long. You look so **skinny**.
2. I can tell you put a lot of work into your book report. It is **extraordinary**.

3. I hope to look like my sister when I grow up. She is absolutely **gorgeous**.
4. I know that Eddie and I are the same age, but he is just so **juvenile**.
5. It's certainly **unusual** to use Comic Sans font on a resume.

KEY ANSWERS FOR THE ABOVE EXERCISES

A) Answers for Exercise 1: Finding Words With Negative Connotations

The terms with a negative connotation are marked in bold.

1. Bedford is a **gritty** neighborhood, but the rent is affordable.
2. On my flight to Los Angeles, I sat next to this **geezer**. He was very old.
3. Every morning my neighbor takes his **mutt** to the park. It always barks loudly when leaving the building.
4. You need to be **pushy** when you are looking for a job.
5. Bob is **bullheaded** sometimes, but he always gets the job done.

B) Answers for Exercise 2: Choose a Word With a Positive Connotation

Options with the most positive connotation are marked in bold.

1. I love spending time with my aunt. She has a very (childlike, **youthful**, childish) outlook on life.
2. I enjoy finding ways to make the most of my budget by being (**frugal**, miserly, cheap).
3. I am (**confident**, arrogant, egotistical) that I will be selected for a role in the school play.
4. I realize that you're feeling (nosy, prying, **inquisitive**), but I'd rather not discuss the matter.
5. My cousin is very (blathering, **talkative**, jabbering).

C) Answers for Exercise 3: What's the Connotation?

Answers appear in parentheses after each sentence.

1. How long have you been dieting? Maybe too long. You look so **skinny**.
(negative - implies the person has lost too much weight)
2. I can tell you put a lot of work into your book report. It is **extraordinary**.
(positive - implies that the results are very good)
3. I hope to look like my sister when I grow up. She is absolutely **gorgeous**.
(positive - implies great beauty)
4. I know that Eddie and I are the same age, but he is just so **juvenile**.
(negative - implies immature and childish)
5. It's certainly **unusual** to use Comic Sans font on a resume. (negative - implies that this is a bad idea)