

Adjective + Noun Collocations

Activity Sheet (page 1/2)

Collocations are two or more words that often go together. They can be made up of different types of words. This worksheet looks at common Adjective + Noun Collocations.

A. Here are five adjectives that are commonly collocated with nouns. Complete the Adjective + Noun collocations in each sentence by adding one of the following adjectives.

strong heavy bad long high

1. Our flight was cancelled due to the winds.
2. We were all devastated when we heard the news.
3. After the rain, the park was completely flooded.
4. He earns a salary working as a banker in the city.
5. It's a way from London to Dundee. We won't get there in a day.
6. John's a smoker. He's always got a cigarette in his mouth.
7. Due to the cost of fuel, people are using their cars less.
8. I'm not surprised he's got such breath. He eats garlic with every meal.
9. I'll need a coffee if I'm going to stay awake for the meeting.
10. I hadn't seen him in a time, so it was lovely to catch up.

Talk with a partner and see if you can think of any more nouns that are often used with these adjectives.

B. Match the adjectives below with the nouns with which they are often collocated.

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. double | a. riser |
| 2. big | b. luck |
| 3. good | c. mistake |
| 4. side | d. effects |
| 5. upset | e. bed |
| 6. main | f. course |
| 7. early | g. stomach |
| 8. serious | h. school |
| 9. healthy | i. accident |
| 10. private | j. diet |

C. Complete the Adjective + Noun Collocations using suitable nouns.

1. Learning to speak English fluently can take a very long
2. Although he earns a high, he doesn't enjoy his job.
3. The medication had some nasty side, and I started to feel quite unwell.
4. When I told him the bad, he started to cry.
5. Because of the strong, we decided not to take the boat out.
6. I attended a private until I was 12. I then switched to a public one.
7. I knew he was a heavy as I could smell it on his breath.
8. Jim was involved in a serious as he was driving home from work.
9. His girlfriend didn't want to kiss him because of his bad
10. Sara is an early, she rarely sleeps in.

D. Complete the sentences using Adjective + Noun Collocations from the previous page.

1. Due to the of living, few people can afford a holiday these days.
2. with your exam tomorrow. I'm sure you'll do very well.
3. I had a very at the cafe last night and couldn't get to sleep.
4. Although we'd requested a, they put us in a room with two single ones.
5. After the, the ground was wet for days.
6. You'll end up with an if you eat too many of those strawberries.
7. England is a from Australia. It takes over a day to get there.

E. Complete the conversation questions using suitable Adjective + Noun Collocations. Afterwards, find a partner and ask each other the questions.

1. Would you rather have a dull job with a or a fun job with a low one?
2. Have you ever had any when taking medication? If so, what were they?
3. Have you ever made a really? If so, what was it?
4. Do you have a, or do you eat a lot of junk food?
5. If money wasn't a problem, would you send your kids to a or a public one?
6. Are you an, or do prefer getting up late?
7. Eating out, do you usually just have a, or do you order dessert too?