

Verb + Noun Collocations

Teacher's Notes

Description: There are many things that native speakers often take for granted, one of which is the innate ability to know which words belong together, particularly which verbs go before certain nouns. Understandably, your average English student might struggle with this as in their own language this may not be the case. This activity sheet helps to familiarise students with common Verb + Noun Collocations, offering them varied practice through a range of different exercises.

Aim: To practise Verb + Noun Collocations through a series of written and communicative exercises.

Procedure: Give each student a copy of the two-page activity sheet.

Exercise A: Students begin by adding a noun to each sentence to create Verb + Noun Collocations.

answer key:

- | | | | | |
|-----------|------------|---------|-----------|---------------|
| 1. photos | 2. friends | 3. fun | 4. law | 5. the dishes |
| 6. a fine | 7. a bus | 8. home | 9. energy | 10. the truth |

Exercise B: Next, students put the nouns under the verbs with which they are usually collocated. Some nouns may be used with more than one verb.

answer key:

make	take	do	have	catch
money a mess a mistake a noise	medicine risks a shower	housework the laundry your hair time (jail)	time a baby a party a shower	one's breath fire

get	pay	break	save	tell
a job home	a fine attention a bill	the law the news	time lives money	a joke a lie

Exercise C: After this, students complete the sentences, making Verb + Noun Collocations with one of the nouns provided plus a suitable verb in the correct form.

answer key:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. make a mess | 6. pay attention |
| 2. had a baby | 7. save money |
| 3. catch my breath | 8. telling jokes |
| 4. get a job | 9. broke the news |
| 5. take medicine | 10. doing the laundry |

Exercise D: Students then complete the conversation questions using a suitable verb in the correct form. Once they've done this, they ask them to a partner.

answer key:

- | | | | | |
|----------|---------|---------|----------|--------|
| 1. taken | 2. made | 3. told | 4. broke | 5. get |
|----------|---------|---------|----------|--------|

Exercise E: Lastly, students work in pairs to complete the sentences using a suitable verb and try and think of two words to match each description.

answer key:

- | | | | | |
|---------|----------|---------|--------|----------|
| 1. make | 2. doing | 3. take | 4. pay | 5. catch |
|---------|----------|---------|--------|----------|