



## **COLLOCATIONS WITH THE ADJECTIVE+NOUN FORMULA**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This article explores the use of collocations with the adjective+noun formula. Collocations are words that frequently occur together in a language, and the adjective+noun formula is a common pattern for constructing phrases. The aim of this article is to provide an overview of the methods used to identify and analyze collocations with the adjective+noun formula, present the results of previous studies on this topic, discuss the implications of these findings, and provide suggestions for future research.

### **KEYWORDS**

collocations, adjective  
+ noun formula,  
language patterns,  
phraseology, corpus  
linguistics

### **INTRODUCTION**

Collocations are an essential part of language patterns and play a vital role in language learning and teaching. Collocations can be defined as words that often occur together in a language, and they are used to express a variety of meanings and concepts. One of the most common patterns for constructing collocations is the adjective+noun formula. This formula involves combining an adjective with a noun to create a phrase that expresses a particular concept or meaning. This article provides an overview of the methods used to identify and analyze collocations with the adjective+noun formula, presents the results of previous studies on this topic, and discusses the implications of these findings for language learning and teaching<sup>1</sup>.

The methods used to identify and analyze collocations with the adjective+noun formula involve the use of corpus linguistics, which is the study of language patterns based on large collections of texts. Researchers use computer programs to analyze large collections of texts and identify patterns in the language use. The data collected can then be analyzed to identify the most frequent collocations with the adjective+noun formula, the contexts in which they occur, and the meanings they express.

Previous studies have identified several common collocations with the adjective+noun formula, such as "good idea," "big problem," "hard work," and "heavy rain." These collocations are used frequently in spoken and written language and express a variety of meanings and concepts. For example, "good idea" is used to express a positive opinion or suggestion, while "big problem" is used to describe a significant challenge or difficulty.

<sup>1</sup> Ottenheimer Harriet (2009). *The Anthropology of Speaking: an Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth. P. 122. ISBN 9781111828752.

The adjective+noun formula is a common collocation pattern in English that involves an adjective modifying a noun. This formula is prevalent in various contexts, such as advertising, academic writing, and everyday language use. Collocations are word combinations that frequently occur together and have a strong association in meaning. In this way, the adjective+noun formula is a crucial aspect of language use and comprehension.

Collocations with the adjective+noun formula can serve various communicative functions. They can express evaluation, comparison, and attribution. For instance, "good" + "idea," "great" + "deal," "new" + "approach," and "positive" + "impact" are common collocations with the adjective+noun formula that reflect the semantic relations of evaluation and attribute. These collocations involve assessing the quality of a noun or attributing a specific characteristic to it.

The frequency and salience of the collocations with the adjective+noun formula indicate that they are essential building blocks of language use and comprehension. Furthermore, these collocations have been found to be highly idiosyncratic, meaning that they cannot be predicted based on the meanings of their component words alone. As such, learners of English may need to memorize collocations with the adjective+noun formula as a separate aspect of their language learning.

Corpus linguistics is a useful tool for identifying and analyzing collocations with the adjective+noun formula. The Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) is a large corpus of English texts that can be used to extract and analyze collocations. The Word Sketch tool in the Sketch Engine software is one example of a tool that can be used to identify and analyze collocations with the adjective+noun formula. In this way, corpus linguistics can help learners of English to identify and memorize common collocations, as well as to gain a deeper understanding of the semantic relations that underlie these collocations.

In conclusion, the adjective+noun formula is a common collocation pattern in English that serves various communicative functions, such as expressing evaluation, comparison, and attribution. These collocations are essential building blocks of language use and comprehension and may require memorization as a separate aspect of language learning. Corpus linguistics is a useful tool for identifying and analyzing collocations with the adjective+noun formula and can help learners of English to gain a deeper understanding of these collocations and their semantic relations.

Collocations are two or more words that often go together. They are combinations that native English speakers use all the time.

Here are some common adjective + noun collocations.

<b>absolute beginner</b>	I've never tried surfing before. I'm an <b>absolute beginner</b> .
<b>alphabetical order</b>	The students were listed in <b>alphabetical order</b> .
<b>balanced diet</b>	Health specialists recommend that we eat a <b>balanced diet</b> .
<b>bare essentials</b>	They took with them nothing but the <b>bare essentials</b> .
<b>big disappointment</b>	Dropping out of college was a <b>big disappointment</b> to his parents.
<b>big mistake</b>	Believing her boyfriend's promises was a <b>big mistake</b> .
<b>blatant lie</b>	How dare she say I didn't pay for my ticket! That's a <b>blatant lie!</b>
<b>broken home</b>	The child comes from a <b>broken home</b> and goes from one parent to the other.
<b>chilly reception</b>	Tom's new girlfriend received a <b>chilly reception</b> . His friends didn't like her.

<b>clear message</b>	The results of the elections sent a <b>clear message</b> to the government.
<b>clear understanding</b>	He wanted the boys to have a <b>clear understanding</b> of the consequences.
<b>close friend</b>	Jack is a very <b>close friend</b> of mine. We've known each other since our school days.
<b>common knowledge</b>	It's <b>common knowledge</b> that we need water to survive.
<b>complete agreement</b>	They were in <b>complete agreement</b> with the proposal.
<b>deep breath</b>	"Take a <b>deep breath</b> before you dive in." said the swimming instructor.
<b>deciding factor</b>	The proximity of the motorway was a <b>deciding factor</b> in their choice of location.
<b>enormous influence</b>	Emma's father had an <b>enormous influence</b> on her.
<b>express purpose</b>	Alice went to see her boss with the <b>express purpose</b> of resigning.
<b>fair deal</b>	We like to do business with that firm. We always get a <b>fair deal</b> .
<b>great pride</b>	My father takes <b>great pride</b> in his garden.
<b>heavy traffic</b>	The bus arrived late because of the <b>heavy traffic</b> .
<b>high quality</b>	We can assure you that all our products are of <b>high quality</b> .
<b>innocent victim</b>	Many civilians were <b>innocent victims</b> of the attacks.
<b>instant coffee</b>	<b>Instant coffee</b> is handy but it's not what I prefer.
<b>key issue</b>	This is a <b>key issue</b> . We need to discuss it further.
<b>logical conclusion</b>	If the climate continues to get hotter, then the <b>logical conclusion</b> is a period of drought.
<b>major problem</b>	Finding qualified employees is a <b>major problem</b> for the company.
<b>mixed feelings</b>	Harry had <b>mixed feelings</b> about leaving home. He was happy to be independent but sad to be far from his family.
<b>momentous decision</b>	Accepting female students was a <b>momentous decision</b> for the university.
<b>nasty habit</b>	She still has that <b>nasty habit</b> of biting her nails.
<b>notable achievement</b>	Winning the gold medal was a <b>notable achievement</b> for the athlete.
<b>noticeable difference</b>	Repainting the house made a <b>noticeable difference</b> .
<b>personal belongings</b>	Private lockers are provided for your <b>personal belongings</b> .
<b>prominent role</b>	While in government he played a <b>prominent role</b> in the reform of the health system.
<b>public opinion</b>	In politics <b>public opinion</b> is very important.
<b>rough estimate</b>	Could you give me a <b>rough estimate</b> of the cost?
<b>speedy recovery</b>	Sorry to hear you're ill. I wish you a <b>speedy recovery</b> .

<b>steady job</b>	I did temporary or part-time work until I found a <b>steady job</b> .
<b>strong accent</b>	The tourist spoke with a <b>strong accent</b> .
<b>tight grip</b>	In this area you'd better keep a <b>tight grip</b> on your wallet!
<b>total madness</b>	It's <b>total madness</b> to go sailing when a storm is announced.
<b>vague memory</b>	I have a <b>vague memory</b> of the incident but I can't remember the details.
<b>valid reason</b>	Students cannot skip a class without a <b>valid reason</b> .
<b>weak point</b>	There are many <b>weak points</b> in his theory.

The use of collocations with the adjective+noun formula is an essential aspect of language learning and teaching. Students who learn to use these collocations effectively will be able to communicate more effectively in English. Teachers can help students learn these collocations by providing opportunities for practice and by using real-life examples to illustrate their use. Furthermore, research has shown that the use of collocations in language teaching can lead to improved language proficiency and greater confidence in using the language.

### Conclusions and Suggestions:

In conclusion, the use of collocations with the adjective+noun formula is an essential part of language learning and teaching. These collocations are used frequently in spoken and written language and express a variety of meanings and concepts. The methods used to identify and analyze collocations with the adjective+noun formula involve the use of corpus linguistics, which is a valuable tool for language researchers. Teachers can help students learn these collocations by providing opportunities for practice and by using real-life examples to illustrate their use. Future research in this area should focus on identifying the most effective methods for teaching collocations with the adjective+noun formula and on exploring the impact of collocation use on language proficiency and confidence.

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