

MULTI-WORD EXPRESSIONS

Phrasal Verbs, Collocations, Idioms

PHRASAL VERB

a unit comprised of a verb and an adverb particle,
e.g. *I have to **look after** the children.*

Syntactic aspect

transitive v + adv, e.g. *Don't give the story away, silly!*

object = pronoun, e.g. *He cleaned it up.*

transitive v + adv + prep., e.g. *I'll take you up on that generous invitation.*

Placement of the object

- particles can go before or after noun objects (except multi-word objects which go always after the particle). But particles can only go after pronoun objects, e.g.

She switched off the light. / She switched the light off. / She switched it off.

Inseparable phrasal verbs

- the adverb particle cannot be separated from the verb by another sentence element, e.g. *carry on with* (continue), *fall out with* (quarrel with), *get around* (evade, avoid), *get in* (enter), *go on with* (continue), *go over* (review), ...

Prepositional verbs

- base verb + a preposition, e.g. activity verbs (*look at, look for, go through, deal with, ...*), communication verbs (*talk to/about, ask for, write to, call for, ...*), mental verbs (*be known as, be seen as, be considered as, ...*) causative verbs (*lead to, come from, result in, ...*), occurrence verbs (*look like, happen to, ...*), verbs of existence or relationship (*depend on, belong to, consist of, differ from, be based on, ...*)

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COLLOCATION

word combinations

meaning is neither transferred, nor non-literal

a habitual co-occurrence of lexical items

- its relation to the other elements of vocabulary,
- its ability to combine with other words (valency),
- words can usually be combined (collocated) only with certain words,
- words of the language that are most likely to occur together, i.e. typical collocations, e.g. *rain*, n (+ adj. *heavy, pouring, soaking, steady, ...*)

COLLOCATIONS

GRAMMATICAL COLLOCATIONS

- a phrase:
dominant word (n, adj, v) and
a preposition or grammatical structure
(infinitive or a clause), e.g., *decide on*
(not: ~~at~~), *accuse (sb) of* (not: ~~on~~), ...
- typical g.c.: verb patterns with
infinitive, bare infinitive,
-ing form
- incorrect g.c. = grammatical mistake

LEXICAL COLLOCATIONS

- normally do not contain
prepositions, infinitives, or clauses
- consist of nouns, adjectives, verbs,
adverbs, e.g., *warmest regards* not
~~*hot/heartly regards*~~
- incorrect l.c. = lexical mistake

LEXICAL COLLOCATIONS

LOVE – noun, verb, adjective

adj + n *obsessive, genuine, true, everlasting, maternal, ...*

v + n *feel, seek, promise, fall in, make, be in, ...*

adv + v *dearly, passionately, truly, tenderly, ...*

adj + n *affair, letter, song, story, ...*

phrases *head over heels in love, love at first sight,
the love of one's life, love blossoms at any age, etc.*

Collocations in the verb phrase

DO

e.g. the housework, some gardening, the washing up, homework, ...

MAKE

e.g. an agreement, a suggestion, a decision, a cup of tea, war, love, ...

COME TO

e.g. an agreement, a conclusion, an end, a decision, ...

COME INTO

e.g. bloom, flower, a fortune, operation, a sight, view, fashion, use, ...

PUT

e.g. all your eggs in one basket, your mind to, two and two together, ...

SET

e.g. fire to, on fire, foot in, a good example, ...

IDIOMS

- the expression that is a unit of meaning and that is grammatically and lexically fixed/frozen
- its meaning cannot be deduced by examining the meanings of the constituent lexemes
- foreign language speakers have to be cautious in the usage of idioms due to a seeming similarity
- *cast (one's) pearls before swine* – not ~~*throw pearls to swines*~~
- see phraseological units above