

# Collocations

## Collocation 1.

Choose the correct.

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**1 He spoke English with a ..... French accent.**

- average
- careless
- widespread
- pronounced
- chronic

---

**2 His new novel has met with ..... acclaim.**

- careless
- dreadful
- great
- pronounced
- wholehearted

---

**3 We need to make sure that there is enough ..... accommodation to house all the delegates.**

- careless
- dreadful
- yellow
- luxury
- wholehearted

---

**4 He gave us a ..... account of all that you had achieved over there.**

- ready
  - yellow
  - careless
  - luxury
  - glowing
-

**5 Could you please give me an ..... account?**

- itemised
  - dreadful
  - great
  - luxury
  - glowing
- 

**6 We need to crack down hard on the ..... abuse of drugs.**

- average
  - outright
  - widespread
  - frenetic
  - careless
- 

**7 He was able to predict what was going to happen with ..... accuracy.**

- itemised
  - uncanny
  - careless
  - luxury
  - glowing
- 

**8 They've made some highly ..... accusations about us.**

- itemised
  - uncanny
  - damaging
  - luxury
  - glowing
- 

**9 We need to find a new site with ..... access to the European motorway network.**

- ready
- outright
- widespread
- pronounced

wholehearted

---

**10 This will probably be the ..... achievement of her career.**

itemised

uncanny

damaging

crowning

glowing

---

**11 I did all the groundwork on this project but he only gave me a ..... acknowledgement in his report.**

itemised

uncanny

damaging

crowning

grudging

---

**12 I don't know him very well. He's just a ..... acquaintance.**

casual

uncanny

damaging

crowning

grudging

---

**13 We're fighting for the ..... abolition of the death penalty.**

average

outright

decisive

frenetic

chronic

---

**14 I'm afraid he was involved in a ..... accident.**

ready

dreadful

- widespread
  - pronounced
  - wholehearted
- 

**15 He invited me around to see his ..... acquisition, a new BMW.**

- casual
  - latest
  - damaging
  - crowning
  - grudging
- 

**16 We need to take some ..... action before it is too late.**

- casual
  - latest
  - decisive
  - crowning
  - grudging
- 

**17 He wasn't particularly good. He was of about ..... ability.**

- average
  - latest
  - decisive
  - frenetic
  - chronic
- 

**18 I don't think we can succeed without the ..... acceptance of the unions.**

- average
  - polite
  - careless
  - pronounced
  - wholehearted
- 

**19 There always a lot of ..... activity going on but nothing much seems to get done!**

- careless
  - latest
  - yellow
  - frenetic
  - grudging
- 

**20 I'm afraid her husband has got a ..... addiction to gambling.**

- careless
- latest
- decisive
- Frenetic
- Chronic

## Collocations 2

*Choose the correct answer.*

---

**1 I'm an \_\_\_\_\_ admirer of your work.**

- Ardent
  - triumphant
  - stale
  - considerable
  - cast-iron
- 

**2 This new process is a \_\_\_\_\_ advance in technology.**

- ardent
  - significant
  - stale
  - considerable
  - cast-iron
- 

**3 He knows the interviewer already and that will give him an \_\_\_\_\_ advantage over me.**

- ardent
  - significant
  - unfair
  - considerable
  - cast-iron
- 

**4 I wouldn't upset him. He can be a \_\_\_\_\_ adversary.**

- ardent
  - significant
  - unfair
  - dangerous
  - cast-iron
- 

**5 He gave me some \_\_\_\_\_ advice and I took it.**

- ardent
  - significant
  - unfair
  - dangerous
  - blunt
- 

**6 We know very little about this. We need to bring in an \_\_\_\_\_ adviser to help us.**

- outside
  - significant
  - unfair
  - dangerous
  - blunt
- 

**7 I don't like this at all. It's a really \_\_\_\_\_ affair.**

- outside
- ugly
- unfair
- dangerous
- blunt

---

**8 It's not a very challenging job. I only have to deal with \_\_\_\_\_ affairs.**

- outside
  - ugly
  - everyday
  - dangerous
  - blunt
- 

**9 They don't always agree but I think there is a bond of \_\_\_\_\_ affection between them.**

- outside
  - ugly
  - everyday
  - deep
  - blunt
- 

**10 It seems no time at all since I started work and here I am at \_\_\_\_\_ age.**

- outside
  - ugly
  - everyday
  - deep
  - retirement
- 

**11 That type of behaviour was possible in a \_\_\_\_\_ age but we are more tightly regulated these days.**

- bygone
  - ugly
  - everyday
  - deep
  - retirement
- 

**12 I don't trust him. I think he has a \_\_\_\_\_ agenda.**

- bygone
- hidden

- everyday
  - deep
  - retirement
- 

**13 We cannot tolerate this sort of \_\_\_\_\_ aggression from a competitor in one of our key markets.**

- bygone
  - hidden
  - naked
  - deep
  - retirement
- 

**14 We have a \_\_\_\_\_ agreement with them and we must respect it.**

- bygone
  - hidden
  - naked
  - binding
  - retirement
- 

**15 I think they must be providing them with some kind of \_\_\_\_\_ aid. But I don't know what.**

- bygone
  - hidden
  - naked
  - binding
  - covert
- 

**16 I agree with the \_\_\_\_\_ aims of what you are trying to do but not with some of the details.**

- broad
  - hidden
  - naked
  - binding
  - covert
-



**17 I'm sure he's got the job. He's walking around with a \_\_\_\_\_ air.**

- broad
  - triumphant
  - naked
  - binding
  - covert
- 

**18 You need to open the windows and get rid of the \_\_\_\_\_ air in here.**

- broad
  - triumphant
  - stale
  - binding
  - covert
- 

**19 The problems in Tokyo have caused \_\_\_\_\_ alarm on Wall Street.**

- broad
  - triumphant
  - stale
  - considerable
  - covert
- 

**20 He definitely wasn't there. He has a \_\_\_\_\_ alibi.**

- Broad
- Triumphant
- Stale
- Considerable
- cast-iron

## Collocations 3

*Decide the correct answer.*

---

**1 We need to carry out a detailed \_\_\_\_\_ of the project before we go any further.**

- amount
- analysis
- alarm
- alternative
- ambition

---

**2 The news of the merger and the threat of job losses has caused considerable \_\_\_\_\_ among the work force.**

- allusion
- allowance
- alarm
- applause
- application

---

**3 If we let the unions decide everything, there will be complete \_\_\_\_\_. It just won't work.**

- amount
- analysis
- anarchy
- alternative
- ambition

---

**4 I think he had been very unhappy for some time. He suddenly exploded with pent-up \_\_\_\_\_ and was completely out of control.**

- amount
- analysis
- anarchy
- anger
- ambition

---

**5 David has a different way of looking at the world. He always sees things from an unusual \_\_\_\_\_ .**

- amount
  - analysis
  - anarchy
  - anger
  - angle
- 

**6 Deborah and Simon can't stand each other. There is deep \_\_\_\_\_ between them.**

- animosity
  - analysis
  - anarchy
  - anger
  - angle
- 

**7 Everybody knows already but there will be a formal \_\_\_\_\_ later this morning.**

- animosity
  - announcement
  - anarchy
  - anger
  - angle
- 

**8 I don't know what she earns exactly but I do know it is a vast \_\_\_\_\_.**

- amount
  - allowance
  - alarm
  - alternative
  - ambition
- 

**9 In the factory, men are getting paid more than women and we need to do away with this \_\_\_\_\_.**

- animosity

- announcement
  - anomaly
  - anger
  - angle
- 

**10 I expect you to give me a straight \_\_\_\_\_ to this.**

- animosity
  - announcement
  - anomaly
  - answer
  - angle
- 

**11 In costing this, I think we need to make generous \_\_\_\_\_ for the probable delays in getting planning permission.**

- allusion
  - allowance
  - appetite
  - applause
  - application
- 

**12 I think we should look round for a feasible \_\_\_\_\_ .**

- allusion
  - allowance
  - alarm
  - alternative
  - application
- 

**13 I think you need to make a full \_\_\_\_\_ to her for your sexist behaviour.**

- animosity
  - announcement
  - anomaly
  - answer
  - apology
-

**14 He made an emotional \_\_\_\_\_ to keep his job but he'd made too many mistakes and I had to let him go.**

- appeal
  - announcement
  - anomaly
  - answer
  - apology
- 

**15 We didn't think she would come and so we were delighted when she put in an unexpected \_\_\_\_\_ at our party.**

- appeal
  - appearance
  - anomaly
  - answer
  - apology
- 

**16 He seems to be devoured by overwhelming \_\_\_\_\_ .**

- allusion
  - allowance
  - alarm
  - alternative
  - ambition
- 

**17 Microhard seem to have a healthy \_\_\_\_\_ for taking over innovative companies.**

- appeal
  - appearance
  - appetite
  - answer
  - apology
- 

**18 In his speech he made a flattering \_\_\_\_\_ to your work.**

- allusion
- appearance
- appetite

- applause
  - application
- 

**19 The announcement was made to deafening \_\_\_\_\_ .**

- appeal
  - appearance
  - appetite
  - applause
  - apology
- 

**20 If you want the job, you're going to have to put in a formal \_\_\_\_\_ .**

- appeal
- appearance
- Appetite
- Applause
- Application

## Collocations 4

*Choose the correct answer.*

---

**1 Your company has had a long and fruitful \_\_\_\_\_ with mine.**

- assignment
  - assistance
  - association
  - assessment
  - assets
- 

**2 We had to choose from a motley \_\_\_\_\_ of candidates.**

- assignment
- assistance
- association
- assortment

assets

---

**3 She wants me to carry out a special \_\_\_\_\_ for her.**

assignment

aspect

assertions

assessment

assets

---

**4 I became involved in a heated \_\_\_\_\_ with him about this.**

aptitude

arbitration

argument

attack

attention

---

**5 I'm afraid to say I think your plan starts from an unfounded \_\_\_\_\_ .**

assignment

assistance

association

assortment

assumption

---

**6 I think we made a hasty \_\_\_\_\_ of this project and we need to carry out a fresh one.**

article

aspect

assertions

assessment

arrival

---

**7 Before we continue I need to ask for a categorical \_\_\_\_\_ that you will treat all information as confidential.**

assurance

assistance

- association
  - assortment
  - assumption
- 

**8 I'm fed up of him putting forward wild \_\_\_\_\_ with no basis in fact.**

- article
  - aspect
  - assertions
  - arrangement
  - arrival
- 

**9 I don't think we can reach agreement by ourselves. We need to submit this to \_\_\_\_\_.**

- aptitude
  - arbitration
  - attempts
  - attack
  - attention
- 

**10 It hasn't come yet but we are awaiting its imminent \_\_\_\_\_ .**

- aptitude
  - arbitration
  - argument
  - arrangement
  - arrival
- 

**11 You need to improve the hostile \_\_\_\_\_ in your office.**

- assurance
  - atmosphere
  - association
  - assortment
  - assumption
- 

**12 We both had our own ideas of what to do but we came to an amical \_\_\_\_\_ .**



- aptitude
  - arbitration
  - argument
  - arrangement
  - attention
- 

**13 We mustn't pass over the more worrying \_\_\_\_\_ of this scheme, the job losses.**

- article
  - aspect
  - argument
  - arrangement
  - arrival
- 

**14 His crude \_\_\_\_\_ to have me dismissed went badly wrong.**

- assurance
  - atmosphere
  - attempts
  - assortment
  - assumption
- 

**15 I'm pleased to say that you have shown a marked \_\_\_\_\_ for this type of work.**

- aptitude
  - atmosphere
  - attempts
  - attack
  - attention
- 

**16 He published a brilliant \_\_\_\_\_ on this subject.**

- article
- arbitration
- argument
- arrangement

arrival

---

**17 I'm worried about the Stock Market and I've decided to build up my liquid \_\_\_\_\_ .**

article

aspect

assertions

assessment

assets

---

**18 I got vital \_\_\_\_\_ from our Munich office.**

assignment

assistance

assertions

assessment

assets

---

**19 It was easy to shrug off such a crude personal \_\_\_\_\_ .**

assurance

atmosphere

attempts

attack

assumption

---

**20 As the meeting went on and on, most people's \_\_\_\_\_ wandered.**

assurance

atmosphere

attempts

attack

attention

## Collocation 5

Complete with: awareness – barriers – audience – attitude – bank – aversion – ban – authority – bargain – ball – award – basics – balance – authenticity – background – ballot – authorities -

1. He electrified the packed \_\_\_\_\_ with his presentation.
2. He is the boss. He exerts absolute \_\_\_\_\_.
3. If there is a risk of pollution, I think we need to inform the proper \_\_\_\_\_.
4. I think we need to adopt a firm \_\_\_\_\_ in these negotiations.
5. I'm afraid I've developed a deep \_\_\_\_\_ to this topic.
6. He was presented with a Freddy, the highest \_\_\_\_\_ you can receive in our profession.
7. What we need to do is to raise consumer \_\_\_\_\_ of our product.
8. She has done well to get to her present job. She comes from a deprived \_\_\_\_\_.
9. I only have a rough idea of the problem. Perhaps you could sketch in the \_\_\_\_\_?
10. You probably don't know very much about him. He's the sort of person that prefers to keep to the \_\_\_\_\_.
11. We need to maintain the delicate \_\_\_\_\_ between the need for quality and the need for quantity.
12. I thought he would do well as my successor but he fumbled the \_\_\_\_\_.
13. I think that this new development casts doubt on the \_\_\_\_\_ of this document. It may be a forgery.
14. He was elected in a secret \_\_\_\_\_.
15. They have announced an immediate \_\_\_\_\_ on the import of British beef.
16. He is a recognised expert, a renowned \_\_\_\_\_ on this subject.
17. My son would like to get a job with a merchant \_\_\_\_\_ in the City of London.
18. You certainly drive a hard \_\_\_\_\_. You're a very tough negotiator.

19. We have to try to break down the cultural \_\_\_\_\_ and get people to try Japanese sushi.

20. We've got too far away from our key goals. We need to get back to \_\_\_\_\_ .

### Collocations 6

Complete the sentence using: belief – bill – blunder – bias – blame – benefit – behavior – blow – battle – beach – blast – bitterness -

1. I don't see any point in continuing to compete in the Japanese market. We're fighting a losing \_\_\_\_\_ .

2. I need to get away from everything and lie back and relax on an unspoilt \_\_\_\_\_ somewhere.

3. I'm appalled by your callous \_\_\_\_\_ . That is no way for a responsible company to act.

4. He continues to cling to the \_\_\_\_\_ that he can do everything. But he really needs to delegate.

5. I'm happy to say that we have derived considerable \_\_\_\_\_ from working with your company.

6. They show a deep-rooted \_\_\_\_\_ against buying foreign products.

7. Their claim really stretches the bounds of \_\_\_\_\_ . I'm sure it's false.

8. Cleaning up the pollution will be expensive. Who is going to foot the \_\_\_\_\_ ?

9. The strike last year created great \_\_\_\_\_ between the strikers and the non-strikers.

10. The public inquiry absolved my company from any \_\_\_\_\_ .

11. When it exploded I got caught in the \_\_\_\_\_ and was thrown 50 feet.

12. It took me a while to get over such a devastating \_\_\_\_\_ .

13. When I was made redundant I was given a big cheque to soften the \_\_\_\_\_ .

14. I think we have committed a monumental \_\_\_\_\_ here. How can we put it right?

15. somebody is going to have to shoulder the \_\_\_\_\_ for what has gone wrong.
16. I'm going to a \_\_\_\_\_ concert in aid of the flood victims in Africa.
17. I'm phoning up concerning your outstanding \_\_\_\_\_. When can you settle it?
18. He hasn't worked in years and now lives on unemployment \_\_\_\_\_.
19. She has a deep-rooted \_\_\_\_\_ in her own ability.
20. When the boss comes, I want you all to be on your best \_\_\_\_\_. No fooling around.

### Collocations 7

Complete the paragraph using: brain – bureaucracy – budget – boom – burden – body – books – breath – bond – business – book – boredom – breakthrough – board – breakdown – building – brand – brink -

- I have to go to Head Office to attend a \_\_\_\_\_ meeting. It's very important.
- The matter is very serious. We need to refer it to our advisory \_\_\_\_\_ for consideration
- Working together under such pressure created a strong \_\_\_\_\_ between the team. They became very close.
- I'm afraid that that thought-provoking \_\_\_\_\_ is out of print.
- The tax authorities are going through the \_\_\_\_\_ with a fine tooth comb.
- Economists are forecasting an economic \_\_\_\_\_.
- There must be something I can do to relieve the excruciating \_\_\_\_\_ of this job.
- I've been taxing my \_\_\_\_\_ about this but haven't come up with a solution.
- The customers have great \_\_\_\_\_ loyalty. They won't buy anything else.
- The argument led to a total \_\_\_\_\_ in the negotiations.
- We have achieved a significant scientific \_\_\_\_\_.
- We await the news with bated \_\_\_\_\_.
- The negotiations are teetering on the \_\_\_\_\_ of total collapse.

I'm afraid our expenditure has gone over the annual \_\_\_\_\_ .

I don't know how they can work in such a crumbling \_\_\_\_\_ . They need to spend more money on the up-keep or knock it down.

If you take on this job, you'll be assuming a heavy \_\_\_\_\_ .

We should try to cut down some of this cumbersome \_\_\_\_\_ .

This is an expanding \_\_\_\_\_ . It is really flourishing.

It's time we got down to \_\_\_\_\_ .

We need to drum up some new \_\_\_\_\_ . Sales are going down

### Collocation 8.

Complete the sentences using: campaign – call – camera – capacity – care – car – career – calculation – capabilities – capital – calm – campaigner -

We made a rough \_\_\_\_\_ but it turned out to be very wide of the mark.

You'll have to phone me after work. We're not allowed to take a personal \_\_\_\_\_ during office hours.

It's so quiet there. Nothing seems to disturb the perfect \_\_\_\_\_ .

He was stealing from the factory but we caught him on \_\_\_\_\_ and had the evidence to sack him.

The next time you are in Denver, you must pay me a \_\_\_\_\_ .

He fought an energetic \_\_\_\_\_ for the Presidency but lost.

He's not done a very good job and people are casting doubt about his \_\_\_\_\_ .

The factory is operating at maximum \_\_\_\_\_ .

I want you to lavish tender loving \_\_\_\_\_ on this project. It must succeed.

I'm not sure you'll win this boardroom battle. Tom is a shrewd and experienced \_\_\_\_\_ .

I feel great. I don't have a \_\_\_\_\_ in the world.

She made an emotional and rousing \_\_\_\_\_ to the workers to take strike action.

This research is very delicate and calls for special \_\_\_\_\_ .

I'd like to carve out a \_\_\_\_\_ in the music business but it's very hard.

Although I've had a long and successful \_\_\_\_\_ , it has had its ups and downs.

Tom has written off his sports \_\_\_\_\_ .

She is endowed with a great \_\_\_\_\_ for hard work.

They've accumulated a large amount of \_\_\_\_\_ and I think they are planning to take us over.

You must understand that I am only acting in an advisory \_\_\_\_\_ . The final decision is yours.

His \_\_\_\_\_ is really vulgar and flashy. Typical of a teacher.

### Collocation 9.

Complete using: cash – catalogue – case – caution – century – challenge – catastrophe – celebration – cause

He argued the \_\_\_\_\_ for retaining the factory with great conviction.

I'll see if we have that much money in our petty \_\_\_\_\_ .

I hope you have received our new spring \_\_\_\_\_ . There are quite a few new product lines.

We seem to be heading for a \_\_\_\_\_ . We need to take urgent action.

What we are dealing with here is an unusual and complicated \_\_\_\_\_ .

I think the overriding \_\_\_\_\_ of Longbridge's difficulties was a lack of investment.

We need to take a risk, throw \_\_\_\_\_ to the wind.

You will have to pay COD, \_\_\_\_\_ on delivery.

There are a lot of major problems. We are confronted with a daunting \_\_\_\_\_ .

It's a time to be careful. We need to proceed with the utmost \_\_\_\_\_ .

We need to determine the original \_\_\_\_\_ of the problems.

I'm sure two of the candidates are suitable but the other one is a borderline \_\_\_\_\_ .

What good news. This calls for a \_\_\_\_\_ .

Could you pay for this? I seem to be a bit short of \_\_\_\_\_ . I'll pay you back later.

I think there is an irrefutable \_\_\_\_\_ for closing down the plant.

We are working with our competitors as on this issue we have a common \_\_\_\_\_ .

It will be a difficult job. I hope I can rise to the \_\_\_\_\_ .

It's interesting to be alive at the turn of the \_\_\_\_\_ .

I think we need to take this to court as a test \_\_\_\_\_ .

Please contribute to the Hunger Site. It's all in a good \_\_\_\_\_ .

### Collocation 10.

Complete the sentences. Use: charge - chase - chance - cheque (UK) check (US) - check - charity - chaos - chasm - charm - change - chat - character -

This should boost our \_\_\_\_\_ of getting the contract.

The report calls for a marked \_\_\_\_\_ in our procedures.

The office was in a state of utter \_\_\_\_\_ . Nobody knew what they were doing.

I think we have only an infinitesimal \_\_\_\_\_ of getting the work.

We have made a substantial donation to \_\_\_\_\_ .

The guy simply oozes \_\_\_\_\_ . Everybody loves him.

I want you to take sole \_\_\_\_\_ of the project. Everyone will report to you.

You can trust her completely. She's endowed with a dependable \_\_\_\_\_ .

There is a yawning \_\_\_\_\_ between the salary the workers want and what we are offering.

I think the strike has probably ruined our \_\_\_\_\_ of getting the order.

I've just dropped in for a friendly \_\_\_\_\_ .

Do what you want. You have a blank \_\_\_\_\_ on this project.



Could you run a \_\_\_\_\_ on the procedures? I'm not sure they are working properly.

This research has proved to be a wild-goose \_\_\_\_\_ .

That's a serious \_\_\_\_\_ you are making. I hope you can substantiate it.

You should accept the job offer. A \_\_\_\_\_ like that won't come again.

Please don't be alarmed, sir. This is just a routine \_\_\_\_\_. We often stop people like this.

I'm afraid his \_\_\_\_\_ bounced.

As the service was poor, they agreed to waive the service \_\_\_\_\_.

I think I've got a fighting \_\_\_\_\_ of getting the job.

### Collocation 11.

Find the missing word. Use: choice – coercion – climate – collection – coincidence – coexistence – claim – clock – collaboration – circumstances – clash – citizens – circulation – clichés – collapse -

I don't like either of the alternatives. We're faced with an awkward \_\_\_\_\_.

When we found out the product was dangerous we had to remove it from \_\_\_\_\_ as quickly as possible.

Things have changed. We will have to adapt ourselves to the new \_\_\_\_\_.

The majority of people are decent, law-abiding \_\_\_\_\_.

She put forward a tenuous \_\_\_\_\_ for compensation which did not stand up to examination.

You did very well in adverse \_\_\_\_\_.

I agree you are entitled to compensation for your treatment but this is really an exaggerated \_\_\_\_\_.

I had to do what I did by force of \_\_\_\_\_.

I think he has a legitimate \_\_\_\_\_ to be the inventor of this process.

He's living in precarious \_\_\_\_\_.

He's the sort of boring speaker that uses lots of well-worn \_\_\_\_\_.

He spent the winter in the north of Norway and had problems coping with the inhospitable \_\_\_\_\_.

If you carry on like this, it's going to end in a head-on \_\_\_\_\_ with Sarah.  
I'd advise you to back off a bit.

I wish we could start again but there is no way to put the \_\_\_\_\_ back.

He didn't do it voluntarily. He gave way to \_\_\_\_\_ .

I don't like you and I'm sure the feeling is mutual but we need to aim for  
peaceful \_\_\_\_\_ or we'll both lose our jobs.

The fact we were there at the same time was pure \_\_\_\_\_ .

I'm sure we would benefit from \_\_\_\_\_ between our companies.

The downturn in the market brought about the \_\_\_\_\_ of the company.

He has acquired quite an impressive \_\_\_\_\_ of first editions.