

# Collocation: words that go together

The *Cambridge Learner's Dictionary* has lots of "WORDS THAT GO WITH ..." boxes at common words to show you the most common combinations, and to help you produce natural-sounding English. Many collocations are also shown in the example sentences in bold, for example 'We've put all our records on computer'.

1. Choose the correct word to complete each sentence. You will find help in the dictionary at the underlined word.

He was a boy with a strong / vivid imagination.

**WORDS THAT GO WITH *imagination***

have/lack/show imagination ◦ use your imagination  
 ◦ capture sb's imagination ◦ a fertile/vivid imagination

- The project finished with/ended in failure.
- Have you got any previous/former experience of childcare?
- Many people think this disaster could have been prevented/stopped.
- What's the difference in/between a teacher and a lecturer?
- I think he's lost/decreased weight.
- Everyone just stood there with/in silence.

2. Match the adjectives and nouns which fit best together.

a fatal	defeat
a heated	escape
a narrow	description
a close	idea
a detailed	accident
a lucky	quantity
a bright	argument
a vast	relationship

3. Replace the word in *italics* in each sentence with a more interesting but similar word. Use the WORDS THAT GO WITH ... boxes to help you.

Example:

He has received a *lot of* support for his proposals.

He has received **overwhelming/strong/widespread** support for his proposals.

**WORDS THAT GO WITH *support***

enlist/express/give/lose/rally support ◦ overwhelming/public/strong/tacit/widespread support ◦ support for sb/sth

- There has been a *big* increase in petrol prices.
- The scandal has *hurt* his professional reputation.
- I'm afraid this is only a *short* visit, I can only stay a couple of hours.
- The development could have a *bad* effect on the local wildlife.
- The government has *presented* its plans for education reforms.
- The consultants came up with some *good* suggestions for improving efficiency.

Make sentences using the phrases. For example:  
 Police are investigating the circumstances of this **fatal accident**.



# Answer Key

## Collocation

- 1.1. ended in failure
  2. previous experience
  3. disaster could have been prevented
  4. difference between
  5. lost weight
  6. in silence
- 
2. a fatal accident  
a heated argument  
a narrow defeat  
a close relationship  
a detailed description  
a lucky escape  
a bright idea  
a vast quantity
- 
- 3.1. a dramatic/sharp/significant/ substantial increase
  2. has damaged/ruined/destroyed his professional reputation
  3. a brief/flying visit
  4. an adverse/devastating/harmful effect
  5. has announced/outlined/unveiled its plans
  6. some constructive/helpful/sensible suggestions

