

# ENGLISH PLUS

WITH  
ANSWER  
KEY

## PRACTICE WORKSHEETS



## COLLOCATIONS

## METAPHOR

# Collocations Advanced | Metaphor

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**1. Rewrite the underlined part of each sentence using a metaphor.**

A. The presidential visit meant no one had time to relax.

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B. Rosetta took full responsibility for the failure of the project.

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C. I don't think Greg will ever win Rosie's heart; it's time he accepted that.

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D. The company had done so well that year that it agreed to pay for a staff night out.

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E. I'm glad I'm not in charge of this team.

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F. Eva is very good at finding a bargain.

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**2. Answer these questions based on your knowledge of metaphors.**

A. What usually goes hand in hand with inflation: an increase or a decrease in savings?

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B. If a relationship hits the rocks, is it the end or the beginning of that relationship?

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C. If you say that someone is hopping mad, do you mean that they are good at athletics or that they are very angry?

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D. If you run into difficulties or trouble, does that mean that they happen quickly?

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- E. Would you be more likely to call a magazine article featuring gossip about celebrities light reading or a weighty tome?

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- F. If you talk about facing the facts, are the facts more likely to be pleasant or unpleasant?

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**3. Explain the difference in meaning between the sentences in each pair.**

- A. a Jess walked into a well-paid job in the City.  
b Jess got a well-paid job in the City.

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- B. a Rafael is heading the project team.  
b Rafael is backing the project team.

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- C. a Dad jumped to the wrong conclusion.  
b Dad came to the wrong conclusion.

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- D. a Jan left the room with a light heart.  
b Jan left the room with a heavy heart.

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- E. a Fat chance I've got of winning!  
b I've got a slim chance of winning.

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4. Choose the correct collocation.

- Kieran's constant whistling is (*riding / getting / driving*) (A) me crazy.
- Sylvia is a first-class designer as she has a good (*eye / nose / hand*) (B) for detail.
- You mustn't shoulder the heavy (*weight / burden / task*) (C) of redecorating the house all by yourself.
- There is just a (*thin / slim / skinny*) (D) chance that Marek might pop in today.
- The committee has some (*fat / weighty / heavy*) (E) matters to discuss on today's agenda.
- When the results came out, Marco was thrilled to see his name (*footing / facing / heading*) (F) the list of successful candidates.

5. Explain what the play on words is based on in each of these headlines.

A. ATHLETE RUNS INTO TROUBLE

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B. DIET PILLS HAVE FAT CHANCE OF SUCCESS

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C. NEW DIRECTOR KEEPS ROYAL BALLET ON ITS TOES

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D. SHOEWORLD CO. TO FOOT THE BILL

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E. NEW LAW MAKES RABBIT OWNERS HOPPING MAD

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1. A. \_\_\_\_\_  
B. \_\_\_\_\_  
C. \_\_\_\_\_  
D. \_\_\_\_\_  
E. \_\_\_\_\_  
F. \_\_\_\_\_
2. A. \_\_\_\_\_  
B. \_\_\_\_\_  
C. \_\_\_\_\_  
D. \_\_\_\_\_  
E. \_\_\_\_\_  
F. \_\_\_\_\_
3. A. \_\_\_\_\_  
B. \_\_\_\_\_  
C. \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Sheet

D.

E.

4. A. \_\_\_\_\_ B. \_\_\_\_\_ C. \_\_\_\_\_ D. \_\_\_\_\_ E. \_\_\_\_\_

F. \_\_\_\_\_

5. A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

# Collocations Advanced | Metaphor

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## 1. Rewrite the underlined part of each sentence using a metaphor.

- A. The presidential visit meant no one had time to relax.

The presidential visit kept everyone on their toes.

- B. Rosetta took full responsibility for the failure of the project.

Rosetta shouldered the blame for the failure of the project.

- C. I don't think Greg will ever win Rosie's heart; it's time he accepted that.

I don't think Greg will ever win Rosie's heart; It's time he faced the facts.

- D. The company had done so well that year that it agreed to pay for a staff night out.

The company had done so well that year that it agreed to foot the bill for a staff night out.

- E. I'm glad I'm not in charge of this team.

I'm glad I'm not heading the team.

- F. Eva is very good at finding a bargain.

Eva has an eye for a bargain.

## 2. Answer these questions based on your knowledge of metaphors.

- A. What usually goes hand in hand with inflation: an increase or a decrease in savings?

A decrease in savings is likely to go hand in hand with inflation as people will have less money available for saving.

- B. If a relationship hits the rocks, is it the end or the beginning of that relationship?

If a relationship hits the rocks, it is the end of that relationship.

- C. If you say that someone is hopping mad, do you mean that they are good at athletics or that they are very angry?

If you say someone is hopping mad, you mean that they are very angry.

- D. If you run into difficulties or trouble, does that mean that they happen quickly?

No, not necessarily. If you run into difficulties or trouble, it just means that you encounter them or have them. The verb *run* here doesn't have any associations with speed.



- E. Would you be more likely to call a magazine article featuring gossip about celebrities light reading or a weighty tome?

You'd call a magazine dealing with celebrity gossip light reading. The collocation 'a weighty tome' would only be used to refer to a book that is long and has difficult content - unless it is being used ironically, of course. So you might joke to a friend who is reading a celebrity magazine, 'I can see you're reading your usual weighty tome!'

- F. If you talk about facing the facts, are the facts more likely to be pleasant or unpleasant?

If you talk about facing the facts, the facts are likely to be unpleasant.

**3. Explain the difference in meaning between the sentences in each pair.**

- A. a Jess walked into a well-paid job in the City.  
b Jess got a well-paid job in the City.

a Jess got the job very easily.

b Jess got the job - but we don't know whether it was easy for her to get it or not.

- B. a Rafael is heading the project team.  
b Rafael is backing the project team.

a Rafael is in charge of the project team.

b Rafael is supporting the project team / giving the project team her support.

- C. a Dad jumped to the wrong conclusion.  
b Dad came to the wrong conclusion.

a Dad very quickly drew the wrong conclusion.

b Dad drew the wrong conclusion - but we don't know whether he did so quickly or not.

- D. a Jan left the room with a light heart.  
b Jan left the room with a heavy heart.

a Jan left the room feeling happy and carefree

b Jan left the room feeling sad and despondent.

- E. a Fat chance I've got of winning!  
b I've got a slim chance of winning.  
a I've got no chance of winning at all.

b I've got a very small chance of winning.

4. Choose the correct collocation.

- Kieran's constant whistling is (*riding / getting / driving*) (A) **driving** me crazy.
- Sylvia is a first-class designer as she has a good (*eye / nose / hand*) (B) **eye** for detail.
- You mustn't shoulder the heavy (*weight / burden / task*) (C) **burden** of redecorating the house all by yourself.
- There is just a (*thin / slim / skinny*) (D) **slim** chance that Marek might pop in today.
- The committee has some (*fat / weighty / heavy*) (E) **weighty** matters to discuss on today's agenda.
- When the results came out, Marco was thrilled to see his name (*footing / facing / heading*) (F) **heading** the list of successful candidates.

5. Explain what the play on words is based on in each of these headlines.

A. ATHLETE RUNS INTO TROUBLE

The metaphor here is based on the word *run*. An athlete literally runs in a race. But if he metaphorically runs into trouble, that simply means that he has a problem. The problem might not be connected with running in any way.

B. DIET PILLS HAVE FAT CHANCE OF SUCCESS

The metaphor is based on the connection between being fat and dieting. Diet pills are intended to help people lose weight but if they have a fat chance of success, they are unlikely to succeed.

## C. NEW DIRECTOR KEEPS ROYAL BALLET ON ITS TOES

The play on words is based on the idea of ballet dancers literally dancing on their toes and  
the figurative meaning of the expression *keep someone on their toes*, which is to keep  
someone energetic and concentrated.

## D. SHOEWORLD CO. TO FOOT THE BILL

The play on words connects the word *foot*, used here metaphorically to mean pay, with its  
literal meaning of the part of the body where we wear shoes.

## E. NEW LAW MAKES RABBIT OWNERS HOPPING MAD

The play on words is based on the fact that *hop* is a verb closely associated with the  
movement of rabbits (and frogs). The new legislation must be something that makes  
rabbit owners angry, e.g. a tax on owning rabbits.

# Collocations Advanced | Metaphor

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1. A. The presidential visit kept everyone on their toes.  
B. Rosetta shouldered the blame for the failure of the project.  
C. I don't think Greg will ever win Rosie's heart; It's time he faced the facts.  
D. The company had done so well that year that it agreed to foot the bill for a staff night out.  
E. I'm glad I'm not heading the team.  
F. Eva has an eye for a bargain.
2. A. A decrease in savings is likely to go hand in hand with inflation as people will have less money available for saving.  
B. If a relationship hits the rocks, it is the end of that relationship.  
C. If you say someone is hopping mad, you mean that they are very angry.  
D. No, not necessarily. If you run into difficulties or trouble, it just means that you encounter them or have them. The verb *run* here doesn't have any associations with speed.  
E. You'd call a magazine dealing with celebrity gossip light reading. The collocation 'a weighty tome' would only be used to refer to a book that is long and has difficult content - unless it is being used ironically, of course. So you might joke to a friend who is reading a celebrity magazine, 'I can see you're reading your usual weighty tome!'  
F. If you talk about facing the facts, the facts are likely to be unpleasant.
3. A. a Jess got the job very easily.  
b Jess got the job - but we don't know whether it was easy for her to get it or not.  
B. a Rafael is in charge of the project team.  
b Rafael is supporting the project team / giving the project team her support.  
C.

## Answer Sheet

a Dad very quickly drew the wrong conclusion.

b Dad drew the wrong conclusion - but we don't know whether he did so quickly or not.

D. a Jan left the room feeling happy and carefree

b Jan left the room feeling sad and despondent.

E. a I've got no chance of winning at all.

b I've got a very small chance of winning.

4. A. ● driving    B. ● eye    C. ● burden    D. ● slim    E. ● weighty  
F. ● heading

5. A. The metaphor here is based on the word *run*. An athlete literally runs in a race. But if he metaphorically runs into trouble, that simply means that he has a problem. The problem might not be connected with running in any way.

B. The metaphor is based on the connection between being fat and dieting. Diet pills are intended to help people lose weight but if they have a fat chance of success, they are unlikely to succeed.

C. The play on words is based on the idea of ballet dancers literally dancing on their toes and the figurative meaning of the expression *keep someone on their toes*, which is to keep someone energetic and concentrated.

D. The play on words connects the word *foot*, used here metaphorically to mean pay, with its literal meaning of the part of the body where we wear shoes.

E. The play on words is based on the fact that *hop* is a verb closely associated with the movement of rabbits (and frogs). The new legislation must be something that makes rabbit owners angry, e.g. a tax on owning rabbits.