

**Introduction to
L2 Vocabulary Acquisition
& Learning:
Lecture 03**

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REVIEW

- (): "laugh", "make", "box", "window"
– cannot be further divided
- ():
– : 're-' + 'make' = 're-make'
– : 'laugh' + '-ter' = 'laughter'
- ():
– *make-believe, window-shopping, jack-in-the-box*

REVIEW

- (**roots**): "laugh", "make", "box", "window"
– cannot be further divided
- (**derived words**):
– **prefixes**: 're-' + 'make' = 're-make'
– **suffixes**: 'laugh' + '-ter' = 'laughter'
- (**compound words**):
– *make-believe, window-shopping, jack-in-the-box*

() of meaning

- Even quite transparent phrases are often fixed in the syntax:
- e.g. talk
 - to talk turkey ()
(= talk seriously about details esp. in business)
 - to talk shop ()
(= talk about your job in the way people find boring)
 - to talk business
 - to talk politics ()

↑↓

Opacity of meaning

- Even quite transparent phrases are often fixed in the syntax:
- e.g. talk
 - to talk turkey () opaque
 - to talk shop ()
 - to talk business
 - to talk politics () transparent

↑↓

Collocation

- Collocation: a marriage contract between words, and some words are more firmly married to each other than others.
- Strong collocation: 'blond' & 'hair'
- Weak collocation: 'brown' & 'hair'
- Languages are full of strong collocational pairs and therefore, collocation deserves to be a central aspect of vocabulary study.

Adj. of size + Noun

	problem	amount	shame	man
large				
great				
big				
major				

Adj. of size + Noun

	problem	amount	shame	man
large	?	✓	✗	✓
great	✓	✓	✓	✓
big	✓	✓	✗	✓
major	✓	?	✗	✗

Collocability

- Some collocations are perfectly normal or *unmarked* (✓): a big problem
- Some would be felt to be unusual, or marked but still acceptable (?): a large problem
- Some would be considered very highly marked or *unacceptable* (✗): large shame
- A more complex nature of collocability:
 - ‘big shame’ is a doubtful collocation in English, but ‘great big shame’ seems much more acceptable. Collocation may govern longer stretches of language.

TASK

- Fill in the matrix with a tick, a question mark, and a cross. Share your guesses with others.

	a laugh	a smoke	an experience	a trip
take				
make				
have				
do				

TASK

- Fill in the matrix with a tick, a question mark, and a cross

	a laugh	a smoke	an experience	a trip
take	✗	?	✗	✓
make	✗	✗	✗	✓
have	✓	✓	✓	✓
do	✗	✗	✗	✗

smoke (noun)

object_of	61878	0.2
do	4253	1.25
see	2808	2.51
blow	2487	7.1
inhale	2135	8.93
produce	1933	3.82
smelt	1387	7.29
emit	1111	7.31
use	891	0.0
create	832	1.64
fill	723	3.45
breathe	552	5.63
generate	482	3.03
include	478	0.12
cause	459	1.75
blow	454	7.75
avoid	454	3.12
release	408	2.45
enjoy	400	1.91
exhale	380	7.05
let	369	1.72
detect	352	4.45
notice	349	3.42
drink	326	3.69

smoke (in 1.2 billion words)

• have a smoke	149
• have smoke	27
• make a smoke	21
• make smoke	24
• take a smoke (break)	23(57)
• take smoke	30
• do a smoke	8

Collocation appropriacy

- Knowledge of collocation appropriacy is part of the native speaker's competence.
 - It can be problematic for learners in cases where collocability is language-specific and does not seem solely determined by universal semantic constraints (e.g. 'green blood' would be odd in any human culture).
 - Even very advanced learners often make inappropriate or unacceptable collocations.
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TASK

- Here are some examples of sentences written by learners of English. Identify any odd or unacceptable collocations and suggest alternatives:
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TASK

1. His books commanded criticism from many people.
 2. There was a high difference between the two teams.
 3. I was very grateful, because he had rescued my life.
 4. He had been found guilty of some slight crimes.
-

TASK

1. His books commanded criticism from many people.
 - 'command *respect*' : OK
 - '*command criticism' : NG
 - receive/ meet with criticism
 - draw/attract/provoke criticism
 - face criticism
-

TASK

2. There was a high difference between the two teams.
 - a *high difference: NG
 - a **big/great/huge/enormous** difference
 - a **considerable/major/substantial** difference
-

TASK

3. I was very grateful, because he had rescued my life.
 - 'rescue one's life' NG
 - rescue someone from something: OK
 - **save** one's life
-

TASK

4. He had been found guilty of some slight crimes.
- 'slight crimes' NG
 - **petty crime** [U] 軽犯罪

Knowledge of collocation

- Knowledge of collocation is knowledge of what words are most likely to occur together (= *cooccurrence*).
- It is a question of *typicality* and statements about collocation can never be absolute (Halliday 1966).

Collocation over clause-boundaries

- 'The study of planning *appeals* for similar centres in the past, most of which were *rejected*, suggests that the future is more hopeful for developers. ... Now that the Secretary of State for the Environment has said that *applications* should be *approved* unless there are good reasons against them, many more should *succeed*.' (*Independent*)
- The relationship between 'reject/appeal' and 'application/approve/succeed' is strong, despite the intervening words.

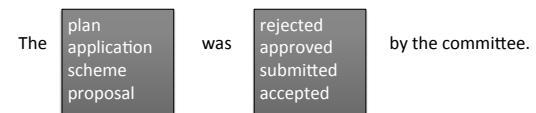
Collocational relationship

- They reject my appeal.
- The rejection of his appeal was a great shock.
- My application succeeded.
- She made a successful application.
- Getting our application approved took ages.
- You have to submit your application for approval.

Collocation analysis

- Our knowledge that they do collocate is based on years of experience of masses of data, and their regular co-occurrence.
- Adult native speakers have a good intuitive knowledge of typical collocations.
- Now computers can scan huge amounts of texts and provide collocational data to confirm and augment those intuitions.
- You will learn more about collocations in my advanced course in corpus linguistics.

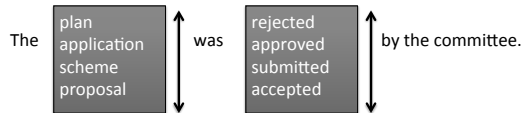
Sense relations



- A collocation relationship exists between the items in one box and the items in the other.

syntagmatic (left-to-right)
textual relationship

Sense relations



- But there are relations between items within each box.
- **Paradigmatic relations**: relations between different words that might have been chosen on the vertical axis.

Sense relations

- They are often called “sense relations”
- To distinguish the meaning of individual items in terms of what they mean in the real world (their *denotation*) from their meaning in relation to other words within the vocabulary system of the language (their *sense*).
 - Table --- a physical object (denotation)
 - Table --- sense relations (to ‘chair’, ‘sofa’, ‘desk’, and ‘furniture’ in the language system)

Synonymy

- Two or more words have the same meaning.
 - begin/start; below/beneath; toilet/lavatory
 - beer/ale; difficulty/problem; adore/worship
- It would be unwise to declare any two items to be exact synonyms.

Distinguishing factors in synonyms (1)

- Two words may be close in meaning and yet not collocate with the same items.

A: The baby began/started to cry as soon as they had left.

B: *I couldn't begin my car; the battery was flat.

C: *Before the world started, only God existed.

Distinguishing factors (2)

- Words may have different syntactic behaviour. ‘Leave’ and ‘depart’ may refer to the same event but with different syntactic restrictions:

A: The plane leaves/departs from Gatwick, not Heathrow.

B: We left the house at six.

C: *We departed the house at six.

Distinguishing factors (3)

- Words may belong to different contexts and situations. We are here concerned with distinctions such as technical/non-technical, speech/writing, formal/informal, etc.
- Words may be separated by geographical distribution. British people use ‘lifts’, Americans use ‘elevators.’

TASK

- Are the following pairs of items exact synonyms which can be interchanged in all contexts? If possible, create example sentences where the words cannot be interchanged.
- injure/damage - consider/regard
- pavement/sidewalk - confess/admit
- exit/way out

injure/damage

- His back was seriously damaged/injured in the accident.
- Many buildings were damaged/*injured in the blast.
- damage building/ reputation/ body
- injure body/ reputation (formal)/ *building

consider/regard

- Kubrick was considered/regarded as one of the most influential postwar film directors.
- We all considered him (to be) a hero.
- We all *regarded him a hero.
- He is considering whether to accept the offer.
- He is *regarding whether to accept the offer.

Antonymy

- Antonymy = oppositeness
- Different types of antonyms:
- **ungradable:**
 - 'alive' vs. 'dead'
- **gradable:**
 - boiling > hot > tepid > warm > cool > freezing
 - enormous > huge > big > medium > average > little > small > tiny > minute

Antonymy (2)

- One term in a pair may operate as the *unmarked* or *neutral* form.
- 'How big is your apartment?'
 - 'Big' is neutral for size in this usage. It does not presuppose that your apartment is big.
- 'How small is your apartment?'
 - You have already told me or I have good reason to believe that it is small.
- How long/wide/high ..? → **unmarked**

TASK

- What are the possible opposites of the words 'hard' and 'high' in these phrases? Which has the most contextual variation?
- high marks - hard exam
- high opinion - hard chair
- high building - hard journey
- high price - hard work
- high temperature - hard person
- high winds - hard drugs

TASK-2

- high marks *low marks*
 - high opinion *low opinion*
 - high building *low building*
 - high price *low price*
 - high temperature *low temperature*
 - high winds *gentle/light winds*
-

TASK-3

- hard exam *easy exam*
 - hard chair *soft chair*
 - hard journey *easy journey*
 - hard work *easy work*
 - hard person *easy person?*
 - hard drugs *soft drugs*
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