

A

It's great here. Have had **unbroken sunshine**¹ ever since we arrived. We're having a wonderful time – though in the middle of the day it's just too **scorching hot**² to do anything but lie on the beach **soaking up the sunshine**³. This is the life!
Anna

- ¹ only sunshine, no clouds in the sky
- ² extremely hot
- ³ enjoying the sunshine

It's been **pouring with rain** all day. In fact I've never seen such **torrential rain**⁴! It's **freezing cold** in the tent - we all **got soaked**. Every half hour we look out of the tent hoping for a **break in the clouds**. In vain! We're going to a hotel next year!

It **rained heavily** all day yesterday but it's dry at the moment. There's **thick cloud**, though, and it certainly **looks like rain**⁵. Quite a **strong wind is blowing** too! Am glad we brought warm clothes!

- ⁴ heavy rain
- ⁵ looks as if it is going to rain

B

Weather conditions

collocation	example	comment
weather deteriorates [opposite: improves]	The weather is likely to deteriorate later on today.	<i>Deteriorate</i> is quite formal – the weather is getting worse is more informal.
thick/dense fog patches of fog/mist a blanket of fog [literary] fog/mist comes down [opposite: lifts]	There is thick fog on the motorway. There are patches of fog on the east coast but these should lift by midday.	<i>Patches of fog/mist</i> are small areas of fog/mist, whereas a <i>blanket of fog/mist</i> is thicker and more extensive.
strong sun [opposite: weak]	Avoid going on the beach at midday when the sun is strongest .	
heavy rain (NOT strong-rain) driving rain	Road conditions are difficult because of the driving rain .	<i>driving rain</i> = rain falling fast and heavily
heavy/fresh/crisp/thick/driving snow	The snow is lovely and crisp this morning.	<i>crisp snow</i> = snow that is fresh and hard
hard frost	There will be a hard frost tonight.	opposite of a <i>hard frost</i> = a <i>light frost</i> (NOT a <i>soft frost</i>)
high/strong/light/biting winds the wind picks up [opposite: dies down] the wind blows/whistles	The wind was light this morning but it's picking up now and will be very strong by the evening. The wind was whistling through the trees.	<i>biting winds</i> = very cold winds If the wind picks up, it gets stronger.

C

Extreme weather



- ¹ very unusual or unexpected
- ² struck, badly affected
- ³ extremely strong winds
- ⁴ rivers flooded

Exercises


13.1 Look at A and B opposite and complete these weather collocations.

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1 crisp | 5 a hard |
| 2 patches of | 6 torrential |
| 3 strong | 7 unbroken |
| 4 a biting | 8 a blanket of |

13.2 Look at A and B opposite. Change the underlined words so that each sentence has the opposite meaning.

- 1 There was a light wind yesterday.
- 2 The wind picked up in the evening.
- 3 The weather is likely to improve tomorrow.
- 4 It was scorching hot here yesterday.
- 5 There may be some light rain later on today.
- 6 The mist came down at about midday.

13.3 Replace the underlined words in this message with collocations from the opposite page.



Jill Hadfield 26 May at 12:59

I wish I'd worn a warmer jacket. There's a very cold wind. At least it's not raining heavily today. We had such heavy rain yesterday. I wish I was sunbathing on a Mediterranean beach.

♡ 12 💬 3

13.4 Answer these questions about the collocations on the opposite page.

- 1 What might make a river burst its banks?
- 2 What can you probably see if someone says, 'It looks like rain'?
- 3 What kind of wind is a freak wind?
- 4 Is it harder to drive if there's dense fog or if there are patches of fog?
- 5 What kind of weather conditions have you got if the rain is described as driving rain?
- 6 If we talk about severe weather conditions *hitting or striking* an area, what kind of image is created?
- 7 What, apart from wind, can blow or whistle?
- 8 Which of these verbs suggests most destruction and which least?
The storm *destroyed / damaged / devastated* the town.

13.5 Look up these words in your dictionary. Note down two more collocations for each one.

wind rain snow



Over to you

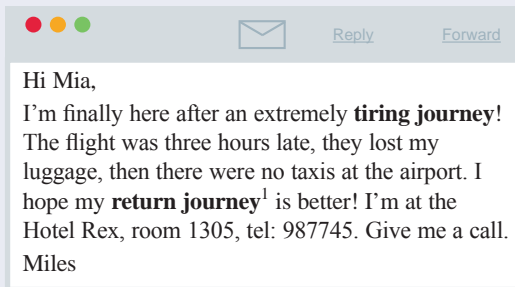
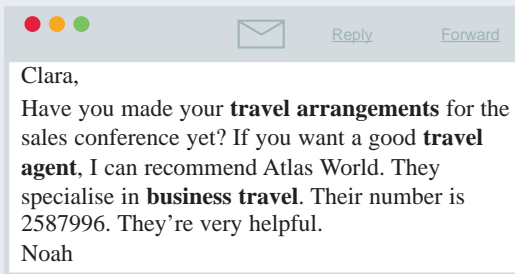
Either listen to the weather forecast on an English-language TV or radio channel **or** go to the website www.bbc.co.uk/weather. (You can enter the name of your own country to get information about the weather there.)

Make a note of any other useful weather collocations that you find.

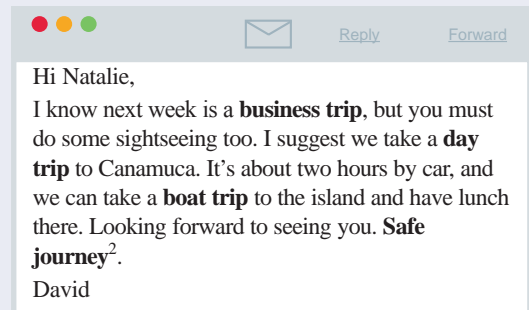
A

Travel, journey, trip

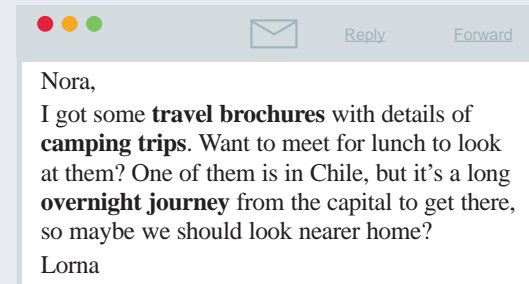
Look at these emails and note the different collocations for *travel*, *journey* and *trip*.



¹ The opposite of **return journey** is **outward journey**.



² said to someone who is about to make a journey



B

Flights

These collocations are all rather formal ones connected with flying:

Palair offers excellent **in-flight entertainment**, with the latest films and music.

The **in-flight magazine** includes maps and information about major airports.

[announcement by a cabin attendant] Ladies and gentlemen, we'll shortly be landing at Dublin Airport.

Please **fasten your seatbelts**.

The passenger **boarded the plane** on time, but it was delayed taking off and she missed her **connecting flight** in Amsterdam.

Domestic flights are often more expensive than international ones. [flights within a country]

Do you normally prefer a **window seat** or an **aisle seat** when you fly?

We managed to get a **charter**¹ **flight**; it was half the price of the **scheduled**² **flight**.

¹ flight on a plane rented for special use

² regular flight organised by the company which owns the plane

The weather en route is fine, and we anticipate a **smooth flight**³ to Stockholm today.

³ The opposite is a **bumpy flight**.



C

Accommodation

We stayed in a small, **family-run hotel**.

The Panorama is a rather **run-down hotel** in a back street near the city centre.

The Palace is a **luxury hotel** on the main square of Porto Alegre.

I can't afford to stay in **smart hotels**. I always have to look for **budget accommodation**. [very cheap]

I'd advise you to **make a reservation** before you go. The hotels near the beach are very popular and get **fully booked** during the summer.

Exercises

14.1 Complete each sentence with *trip*, *travel* or *journey*.

- 1 I'll get some brochures today and we can start planning our holiday.
- 2 Tom is away on a business all week.
- 3 It's a rather difficult overnight to the mountains but it's well worth it.
- 4 I prefer to arrange my holidays myself rather than use a agent.
- 5 On Saturday we went on a day to an interesting old castle.
- 6 Was it a tiring from Seoul to Los Angeles?
- 7 On summer weekends we often used to go on camping
- 8 Do you use a special firm to arrange business for your staff?
- 9 Do you make your own arrangements or does your secretary do it all?
- 10 I hope your flight is on time tomorrow. Safe! See you at the airport.

14.2 Complete these sentences.

- 1 We couldn't a reservation; all the hotels were booked.
- 2 As I've got long legs, I usually ask for an seat on a long flight, but on the flight to New York I had a seat and I got a great view of Manhattan as we came in, even though I didn't have much leg-room.
- 3 We're only scheduled to have about half an hour in Dubai, so I hope we don't miss our flight.
- 4 They seem to have much better in-flight on that airline; they have the latest films and you can play video games.
- 5 Passengers must their seatbelts before take-off and landing.
- 6 Passengers with seats in rows 1 to 25 are now invited to the plane.
- 7 The Principality Hotel was rather-down and we were very disappointed.
- 8 You can spend a lot of money and stay in a hotel or you can look for budget

14.3 Answer these questions about travel collocations.

- 1 What is the opposite of a smooth flight?
- 2 Which of these two kinds of flight do most people prefer and why?
- 3 What do we call a flight which is not a *charter* flight?
- 4 What do airlines often provide for passengers to read?
- 5 What is the difference between a *business trip* and *business travel*?
- 6 What is the opposite of *outward journey*?
- 7 If a hotel is family-run, is it especially trying to attract families as guests?

14.4 Write about 100 words describing a recent personal travel experience. Use the collocations from this unit.

Over to you

Next time you fly, look at the signs at the airports you pass through, which are often in English as well as the local language(s). Find and make a note of three useful collocations.

A

Writing about the landscape

From my room I look out over the **surrounding countryside**. It's very different from the **familiar landscape** I see from the windows at home. At home it's a **gentle landscape**¹ with **open fields**². Here it's a **bleak landscape** with **rocky mountains** in the distance.

¹ a landscape with nothing extreme or threatening about it

² fields uninterrupted by woods or houses

Yesterday we **followed a path** down to the lake. As we **turned a corner**, we **caught a glimpse of**³ a kingfisher standing in the water. John tried to **take a picture**⁴ of it but it **caught sight of** us and flew off. A little further on we **rounded a bend**⁵ and St John's Abbey **came into view**. The Abbey **fell into ruin**⁶ about three hundred years ago. Although it **lies in ruins**, it is **well worth seeing** as it stands in a **dramatic setting** on a **steep slope** beside a **fast-flowing river** with **mountains towering**⁷ above it.

³ saw for a moment

⁵ turned a corner

⁷ mountains rising dramatically

⁴ take a photo

⁶ became a ruin

The cottage is in some wonderful **unspoilt countryside**⁸ on the edge of a **dense forest**⁹. Unfortunately the trees **block the view** of the **snow-covered mountains**. It has a little garden with a stream at the end of it. The **stream winds**¹⁰ through the forest. They wanted to build a timber factory here but the local people said that it would **destroy the countryside** and, fortunately, their campaign to **protect the environment** succeeded.

⁸ countryside that has not been changed by industry or modern buildings

⁹ thick forest

¹⁰ makes lots of bends, doesn't flow in a straight line

B

The language of tourism

collocation	example
uninterrupted view	From most rooms there are uninterrupted views of the castle. [nothing blocks the views of the castle]
panoramic view	From the top floor restaurant diners have a panoramic view of the countryside. [view over a very wide area]
spectacular view	From the balcony there is a spectacular view of the mountains. [very dramatic view]
enjoy/admire a view	We stopped for a few minutes to admire the view .
breathtaking scenery	The area has some breathtaking scenery – mountains, cliffs, lakes. [extremely striking and beautiful views]
dominate the landscape	The castle dominates the landscape for miles around. [can be seen from a long way away]
beach stretches	A beautiful beach stretches for miles along the coast.
sandy beach	The hotel has its own sandy beach .
secluded beach	You'll love the secluded beaches . [without many people]
golden sands	You can wander for miles along the golden sands .
peaceful/tranquil countryside	You can quickly go from the hustle and bustle of the town to the tranquil countryside . [formal]

Exercises

15.1 Look at A. Complete the collocations to fit these pictures.



- 1 Near the lake there is an old house that ruin about a hundred years ago. It stands in a lovely landscape, surrounded by fields.
- 2 We a footpath along the river for about three kilometres. In the distance there were snow-..... mountains.
- 3 We walked through a forest; it was very dark among the trees.

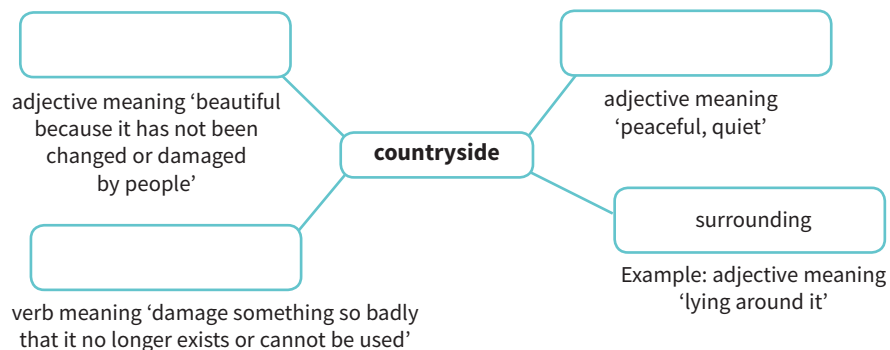
15.2 Correct the underlined collocation errors in this paragraph.

A chain of snowy mountains runs down the east of the country. The Wassa River, the country's biggest, dances slowly from the northern mountains to the sea. Even in summer it is a sour landscape, with its dark, stony mountains and its cold streams. But for me it is the family landscape of my childhood and I am happy that the government has decided to guard this environment. It is a dramatic set which is a lot worth visiting for anyone who likes spectacle views.

15.3 Choose the correct collocation.

- 1 We *made / took / put* a lot of photographs because it was such a beautiful day.
- 2 As I *returned / turned* the corner I *made / caught / took* a glimpse of the house through the trees.
- 3 A long *sanded / sandy* beach *reached / ran / stretched* for miles in front of us.
- 4 Unfortunately, the new hotel *blocks / jams / stops* the view of the castle.

15.4 Complete this collocation web for *countryside*.



15.5 Replace the words in brackets in each sentence with one word which collocates with the underlined word.

- 1 It's a beautiful town and the countryside (which is all around it) is even more beautiful.
- 2 The tower (is the most important and visible thing on) the landscape. From the top of the tower, you get a view (which allows you to see a very wide stretch) of the surrounding area.
- 3 There are lovely beaches (with very few people on them).
- 4 We travelled through some scenery (which was extremely exciting and beautiful).
- 5 From the windows of our villa we had views (which were continuous, without any obstacles,) of the lakes and mountains.

A

Describing towns and cities for visitors

Look at these extracts from a magazine article about tourist cities.



The **city skyline** is a wonderful mix of old and new, and the city itself has a lot of busy, narrow **cobbled**¹ **streets**. The old town is a **conservation area** and it has a lot of **quaint**² **old buildings** dating back to the city's foundation in the 1500s.

¹ made of a regular pattern of stones ² attractive because of being unusual and especially old-fashioned

Doradella Street has a lot of **upmarket**³ **shops** and rather **pricey**⁴, sometimes **overpriced**, **restaurants**, but not far away is the Genasia district, where you'll find restaurants which offer **good value** and a more **relaxed atmosphere**.



³ for people with expensive tastes ⁴ expensive, in a negative sense



Royal Avenue runs from north to south, and is **lined with shops**. Behind it, the streets are full of **lively bars** and **fashionable clubs**. The **pavement cafés** and shops of Luna Square are pleasant but very expensive.

As you drive into the city, the **tree-lined avenues** of the **residential areas** are soon replaced by the **high-rise flats** of the **inner city**⁵. Then come the **imposing buildings** of the Parliament and government departments.



⁵ central part of a city where poorer people live and where there are often social problems

B

Towns and cities and their problems

Here are some descriptions of the more negative aspects of towns and cities.

Some of the **inner-city areas** are an **urban wasteland**¹ and are somewhat dangerous for visitors. In fact some streets have become **no-go**² **areas**, with high crime. Many streets are **strewn with litter** and there are numerous **run-down**³ **buildings**. There are some **deprived**⁴ **areas** round the city centre with huge social problems. The **industrial zones** which lie on the edge of the city are grey and polluted.

¹ a city area which is empty and in a bad condition

² where the police and other authorities are afraid to enter

³ in very bad condition

⁴ not having the things that are necessary for a pleasant life, e.g. enough money, good living conditions

Triope is a **sprawling**⁵ **city** with **bumper-to-bumper**⁶ **traffic** all day long. The **exhaust fumes** can be a nightmare. The **volume of traffic** has increased in recent years and the **incessant roar**⁷ of trucks and buses makes the city centre an extremely noisy place. The **comfortable suburbs**⁸ away from the city centre contrast sharply with the poor **shanty towns**⁹ one sees on the way to the airport.

⁵ spread over a large area (slightly negative)

⁶ so many cars and so close that they are almost touching each other

⁷ very loud noise which never stops

⁸ a place from which many people travel in order to work in a bigger town or city

⁹ very poor houses made of discarded materials (e.g. tin, cardboard, plastic, etc.)

Exercises

16.1 Which of the collocations in A opposite do these photos illustrate?



16.2 Which of the collocations in the box have a positive meaning (+) and which have a negative meaning (-)?

relaxed atmosphere	lively bar	over-priced restaurants	urban wasteland
no-go area	imposing building	shanty town	fashionable club
			run-down buildings

16.3 Answer these questions using collocations from the opposite page.

- 1 What might prevent you from sleeping in a house near a busy motorway?
- 2 Exhaust fumes will get worse if what increases?
- 3 What is the opposite of a restaurant which is good value?
- 4 What kind of area with poor, home-made houses could certainly be called a deprived area?
- 5 If an area is very interesting historically, what may it officially be called?
- 6 What is another way of saying an expensive restaurant?
- 7 What do we call blocks of flats which have many storeys, perhaps 20 or more?
- 8 What adjective could be used about an attractive and perhaps slightly unusual old building?

16.4 Match the beginning of each sentence on the left with its ending on the right.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 It is a sprawling | traffic all the way to the airport. |
| 2 It is full of upmarket | runs from the castle to the river. |
| 3 There was bumper-to-bumper | zones and some large supermarkets. |
| 4 I get asthma from the terrible exhaust | with shops and cafés. |
| 5 I live in a residential | city covering an enormous area. |
| 6 Some of the more deprived | with litter. |
| 7 The main street in town | area but work in the city centre. |
| 8 The main street is lined | areas are not far from the city centre. |
| 9 On the outskirts are some industrial | fumes in the city centre. |
| 10 The streets were strewn | shops, which are too expensive for me. |

Over to you

Find a description in an encyclopaedia, tourist brochure or guide book of a city that you know well or are interested in. Make a note of any interesting collocations that you find there.

A Your month of birth and your character

Astrological Forecast

January You are good company¹ but you may have a selfish streak².

February You have an outgoing personality and a good sense of humour.

March You have a vivid imagination, but you tend to lose your temper too easily.

April You are highly intelligent with a razor-sharp mind.

May You set high standards for yourself and are fiercely³ loyal to your friends.

June The best aspect of your personality is the way you always put others first.

July Although you can be painfully shy in social situations, at work you give the impression of being supremely confident.

August You have a tendency to make snap decisions⁴.

September You have a strong sense of responsibility and always keep your word⁵.

October You are good at keeping secrets and never bear a grudge⁶.

November You find it hard to keep your temper⁷ if you think someone is making a fool out of you⁸.

December You can be brutally honest⁹ and sometimes hurt others' feelings.

¹ people enjoy being with you

² you sometimes act in a selfish way

³ stronger than *extremely*

⁴ quick decisions

⁵ do what you say you will do, keep your promises

⁶ resent for a long time bad things others have done to you

⁷ not get angry

⁸ trying to deceive or trick you

⁹ honest in a way that may hurt

B Behaviour: verb + noun collocations

collocation	example	comment
play a joke/trick	The children played a joke on the teacher by hiding under their desks before she came into the room.	NOT make a joke/trick
take a joke	Fortunately, the teacher could take a joke and didn't punish them.	= didn't mind a joke being played on her
swallow your pride	Isabella swallowed her pride and admitted that she was wrong.	= she did it even though it was embarrassing for her
throw a tantrum	The child threw a tantrum when I wouldn't buy him any sweets.	= behaved in a very uncontrolled manner
lose your patience	Finally I lost my patience and shouted at her.	= lost my temper, became angry
come to terms with	Nick has found it hard to come to terms with his illness.	= accept something psychologically
reveal your true character	Daniel's failure to support her has certainly revealed his true character .	opposite = conceal/hide your true character

Tip

Associating these collocations with people you know may help you to learn them.

Exercises

17.1 Which of the collocations in A describe negatives aspects of character?

17.2 Add the missing words in these letters to a magazine where readers are discussing their and others' characters. You are sometimes given the first letter.

1 I know that I a tendency to a grudge, but I just can't forget something bad a friend did to me recently. She has a selfish s..... and doesn't care sometimes how much she my feelings. I am finding it increasingly hard to k..... my temper with her. But perhaps it might be better to l..... my temper and let her know how I really feel?
Silvia M.

2 I have always tried to others first and not to think of myself. I believe you should not lose your p..... with your friends, but if someone seems to enjoy a fool out of you in front of other people, do those rules of friendship still apply?
Stefan P.

3 I'm a little shy with new people, though not p..... shy, but sometimes I think I the impression that I'm unfriendly. How can I convince people that I'm good c..... and worth getting to know?
Tom W.

4 Should I talk about personal matters to my closest colleague at work? She is not very good at secrets and she has a very v..... imagination. She always promises not to tell other people, but I'm not sure she always her word.
Jan H.

5 My boyfriend has a really friendly, o..... personality and a great of humour. He's intelligent and has a-sharp mind. The perfect man. We've been together now for a year, and I like him a lot, but don't love him any more. Should I be b..... honest with him and tell him?
Lydia T.

6 I think a friend is destroying himself with drugs. I feel a of responsibility towards him. He has always been f..... loyal to me in good and bad times, which is a wonderful a..... of his personality. I feel I ought to contact the police or social services, but I don't want to make a s..... decision which I'll regret later.
Gary J.

17.3 Complete B's remarks in these conversations so that they mean more or less the same as A's, using collocations from the opposite page.

- A: Charlie's found it hard to accept psychologically the fact that he's now divorced.
B: Yes, he's found it hard with his new situation.
- A: Parker's problem is he can't laugh when people play jokes on him.
B: No, it's true. He just can't, can he?
- A: Well, Sara's behaviour last night certainly showed the truth about her.
B: Yes, it certainly
- A: She always has very high expectations of both herself and her children.
B: Yes, she always
- A: Max started screaming and stamping his feet when I tried to put him to bed.
B: Well, two-year-olds often

17.4 Look in your dictionary. Can you find any other collocations ...

- ... where *word* has the meaning of promise?
- ... where *temper* relates to behaviour?
- ... where *sense of* ... relates to an aspect of character?

A

Words describing people's physical appearance

Read these quotations taken from essays where students were asked to describe their family members.



My father has a **round face** and a **droopy**¹ **moustache**. My mother has a more **pointed face** and a **straight nose**. My younger sister is more like my father. She has an **oval**² **face** and an **upturned nose**. My older sister is like a model. She has a **slim figure** and a **slender**³ **waist**. She has a **lovely complexion**⁴ and beautiful **sleek**⁵, **shoulder-length hair**, and she's always **immaculately groomed**⁶. I feel so ordinary next to her – I've got **coarse**⁷ **hair** and rather **broad hips**, but she always says I look nice.

¹ long and hanging down heavily

² shaped like an egg

³ attractively slim (a rather formal, poetic word)

⁴ the natural colour and quality of a person's skin

⁵ smooth and shiny

⁶ her appearance is always tidy and looked after with great care

⁷ rough, and not smooth or soft

My father and my two older brothers are all **well-built**⁸ with **broad shoulders**. My father is **going bald** but he still has a very **youthful appearance** for someone who is over forty. My brothers both have **thick hair** and **bushy**⁹ **eyebrows**. My younger brother is only two, but he's very cute, with **chubby cheeks**¹⁰. My mother's side of the family mostly have **dark hair** – in fact my mother had **jet-black hair**¹¹ when she was younger, before she **went grey** – but on my father's side, some have **fair hair** and some have **ginger**¹² **hair**.

⁸ have strong, attractive bodies

⁹ very thick

¹⁰ fat in a pleasant and attractive way

¹¹ completely black

¹² a red or orange-brown colour; used of people's hair

B

More collocations describing appearance

A short, **dumpy woman** was selling flowers at a stall on the street corner. [short and quite fat woman; used more often of women than of men. This collocation is slightly negative, so be careful how you use it.]

A **portly gentleman** answered the door. [fat and round; usually used of middle-aged and older men]

A **lanky youth** was standing at the street corner. [tall and thin and tending to move awkwardly]

I wouldn't like people to see me with **dishevelled hair** and dirty clothes. [very untidy; used of people's hair and appearance]

He **bears a striking resemblance to** his father. [looks remarkably like]

The lady who entered the room **had** a very **striking appearance**. [unusual appearance, in a positive, attractive sense]

Tip

Sometimes words are very restricted in what they can collocate with. The colour adjectives *blonde*, *ginger* and *auburn*¹ are only used of people's hair (not, for example, their clothes or other objects). When a word has restricted collocations, make a special note in your vocabulary notebook.

¹reddish brown

Exercises

18.1 Put the words from the box into the 'fat' or 'thin' column, then answer the questions.

portly lanky slender dumpy slim chubby

'fat' words	'thin' words

- Which words could be used to describe someone's waist?
- Which word is likely to be used of a rather physically awkward young person?
- Which word means 'fat but in a pleasant way'?
- Which word is more likely to be used to describe a man rather than a woman?
- Which word is more likely to be used to describe a woman rather than a man?

18.2 Look at B. Then match the adjectives in the first box below with the nouns in the second box.

bushy oval striking broad droopy chubby dishevelled

cheeks moustache shoulders hair eyebrows resemblance face

18.3 Fill the gaps with appropriate collocations. You are sometimes given the first letter(s).

I hadn't seen Owen since he was just a baby, so I was surprised to see that he was now a tall young man. He was (1) im..... gr....., smart and elegant. He was with a pretty young woman with (2) j.....-black, (3) shoulder-..... hair and a (4) l..... com...... She could have been a model, she had such a (5) str..... ap...... He had his arm round her (6) s..... wa...... With them was a (7) po..... g....., who looked as though he enjoyed good food, and who was probably her father. When I introduced myself to Owen, he smiled. 'Of course, I remember you,' he said. 'You used to work with my father. But you haven't aged at all! You have a much more (8) y..... a..... than my father now does. Dad has (9) very grey.' I felt very pleased when he said that; he obviously didn't notice I was beginning to (10) bald. Everyone likes to think they look young when they get older.

18.4 Use the words from the box to fill the gaps to give contrasting meanings.

round coarse upturned fair pointed straight dark sleek

- Her hair's not, it's quite, in fact it's almost black.
- She has an nose but her brother has a nose.
- Her mother has a face but her father has a face.
- My hair is so and ugly; Sally's is so and lovely.

Over to you

Think of a relative or friend of yours. Write a short description using collocations from this unit.