

COLLOCATIONS

Sample answers

1. Food Action-Noun Matching

<http://www.esl-galaxy.com/matching/Food%20and%20Restaurant%20Action.pdf>

a. What type of structural pattern is being practiced in this exercise?

Syntagmatic relations or collocations

b. How is the learner expected to find the correct answers?

From memory, having heard the collocations before (perhaps in the classroom or from prior experience), or by logic, knowing the meaning of the verbs and nouns separately, and perhaps by elimination, having already established some known collocations.

2. Drag and drop

http://www.englishclub.com/esl-games/match_animalsounds01.htm

http://www.englishclub.com/esl-games/match_categories01.htm

Do the exercises require learners to practice paradigmatic or syntagmatic relations?

Game 1 (animal sounds) practices collocations, therefore syntagmatic relations. The learner must place together words that are frequently heard together.

Game 2 is different. Animal and lion do not collocate (occur together in a sentence), but rather stand in paradigmatic relation (may be substituted for one another in certain circumstances).

3. Strong collocations

<http://www.better-english.com/strongcollocation/collocations.htm>

a. What kind of collocations does the activity focus on?

The sentences test adjective plus noun combinations in strong collocations, where one adjective is much more likely to occur with the noun than the others.

b. How well did you score? What does your score say about your mastery of English if you are i) a native speaker and ii) a second language speaker of English?

i) Native speakers might be expected to score highly on this test if they are comfortable in the register and topic of the sentences in the test, and if the pairs of words selected are valid collocations (i.e., a large group of speakers agree on the best answers).

ii) The same comments apply for second language speakers, who may also score lower depending on their proficiency and first-language transfer effects.