

Quiz topic: Common collocations – nouns which naturally follow verbs

1. 3 of the following nouns follow the verb 'catch' very naturally. Which verb and noun combination does NOT go together?

- a) catch a fish
- b) catch a bus
- c) catch a cold
- d) catch a new word in English

2. "Excuse me, would you mind _____ a photo of me and my girlfriend?"

- a) making
- b) taking
- c) catching
- d) doing

3. 3 of the following nouns follow the verb 'have' very naturally. Which verb and noun combination does NOT go together?

- a) have a meeting
- b) have a baby
- c) have a cup of coffee
- d) have business with someone

4. "Could you _____ me a favour? Would you mind answering the phone for a minute – I need to pop out to the post office."

- a) do
- b) make
- c) take
- d) all of the above answers

5. Which of the following verbs do NOT fit into this sentence: "The Health Authority has _____ its decision and will now allow the fertility treatment to go ahead."

- a) altered
- b) changed
- c) moved
- d) reversed

6. 3 of the following nouns follow the verb 'make' very naturally. Which verb and noun combination does NOT go together?

- a) make your bed in the morning
- b) make progress
- c) make a noise
- d) make the weekly shopping

ANSWERS:

Quiz topic: Common collocations – nouns which naturally follow verbs

1. 3 of the following nouns follow the verb 'catch' very naturally. Which verb and noun combination does NOT go together?

- a) catch a fish
- b) catch a bus
- c) catch a cold

d) catch a new word in English

a) This is not the answer because we can say: The number of fish being caught in the North Sea is decreasing.

b) This is not the answer because we can say: I usually catch the number 22 into town.

c) This is not the answer because we can say: I feel awful – I've caught a horrible cold.

d) You can say: 'I didn't catch it' if you didn't understand, but usually you learn or pick up a new word.

2. "Excuse me, would you mind _____ a photo of me and my girlfriend?"

- a) making
- b) taking**
- c) catching
- d) doing

a) You cannot *make* a photo in this situation.

b) In English we say take a photo.

c) You cannot *catch* a photo in this situation.

d) You cannot *do* a photo in this situation.

3. 3 of the following nouns follow the verb 'have' very naturally. Which verb and noun combination does NOT go together?

- a) have a meeting
- b) have a baby
- c) have a cup of coffee

d) have business with someone

a) This is not the answer because we can say: Don't forget, we're having a meeting at 11.00.

b) This is not the answer because we can say: Have you heard? Jane's having a baby!

c) This is not the answer because we can say: I'm going to have a cup of coffee. Do you want one?

d) We usually use the verb 'do' with business, e.g. It's been a pleasure doing business with you!

4. "Could you _____ me a favour? Would you mind answering the phone for a minute – I need to pop out to the post office."

a) do

b) make

c) take

d) all of the above answers

a) If we want someone to help us, we say: 'Could you do me a favour?'

b) What do we say if we want someone to help us?

c) What do we say if we want someone to help us?

d) Only one of the verb + noun combinations is correct.

5. Which of the following verbs do NOT fit into this sentence: "The Health Authority has _____ its decision and will now allow the fertility treatment to go ahead."

a) altered

b) changed

c) moved

d) reversed

a) *Alter* is very similar in meaning to *change* but it's used in more formal situations and can sometimes mean to 'change slightly'.

b) To 'change a decision' is a common collocation which is used in many situations, both formal and informal.

c) This is the right answer because 'move its decision' is not correct.

d) To 'reverse its decision' is often used in formal situations; it means to go back to the situation as it was BEFORE the decision was made.

6. 3 of the following nouns follow the verb 'make' very naturally. Which verb and noun combination does not go together?

a) make your bed in the morning

b) make progress

c) make a noise

d) make the weekly shopping

a) This is not the answer because we can say: I never make my bed in the morning – I never have enough time!

b) This is not the answer because we can say: I think I'm making quite good progress in my English studies.

c) This is not the answer because we can say: Stop making so much noise! I'm trying to sleep.

d) When we talk about going to the supermarket we usually say 'do the shopping', e.g. My wife usually does the shopping when I'm at work.

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