**Types of collocation**

According to Scott Thornbury, words "hunt in packs." (1998:8) That is to say, all words have their own, unique collocational fields. Collocations can be defined in numerous ways (see Moon 1997:43), but for pedagogical purposes it is more practical to restrict the term to the following: two or three word clusters which occur with a more than chance regularity throughout spoken and written English. Below are the most easily distinguishable types:

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| **Verb + noun** | throw a party / accept responsibility |
| **Adjective + noun** | square meal / grim determination |
| **Verb + adjective + noun** | take vigorous exercise / make steady progress |
| **Adverb + verb** | strongly suggest / barely see |
| **Adverb + adjective** | utterly amazed / completely useless |
| **Adverb + adjective + noun** | totally unacceptable behaviour |
| **Adjective + preposition** | guilty of / blamed for / happy about |
| **Noun + noun**\* | pay packet / window frame |

\* also known as compound nouns



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Answers  
1. make 2. catch 3. tell 4. take 5. beg 6. wash 7. reach 8. suffer (only with suffer in silence)

Dictagloss

Listen to the story, paying attention to the collocations. Write down the ones you hear. Then listen again and complete the text below.

Text with gaps:

I met my ex-husband in 1995; we \_\_\_\_ in love at first sight. We \_\_\_ a fantastic relationship for three happy years. Then, on our third anniversary, he proposed and we \_\_\_ married six months later. At first, everything was perfect; we both \_\_\_ the housework together; I \_\_\_ the washing-up and \_\_\_\_ the beds and he \_\_\_ the cooking and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. He always \_\_\_\_ a mess when he \_\_\_ the cooking, but I didn’t mind because the dinners were always delicious.

Everything changed after a few years when he \_\_\_ a new job in Manchester; we \_\_\_\_ the decision to move there, so he wouldn’t have to \_\_\_\_ the train to work every day. He started working later and \_\_\_\_\_\_ less attention to me. He stopped \_\_\_\_\_ the housework, so I had to \_\_ everything. He \_\_\_\_ a lot of \_\_\_\_\_\_ but then he would \_\_\_\_\_ them. He was very stressed and he started to \_\_\_ bald, he \_\_\_ very depressed about this and started \_\_\_\_\_\_ drunk after work. I was \_\_\_\_\_\_ very worried about him. He would always come home drunk and \_\_\_\_ a mess. Then, one day, while I was cleaning his clothes, something \_\_\_\_\_\_ my attention. It was a lipstick stain on his shirt. I \_\_\_ very angry; he was \_\_\_\_\_ a secret from me! That night when he \_\_\_\_ home, I confronted him and he \_\_\_\_\_ the news to me: he had been \_\_\_\_\_\_ an affair. It \_\_\_\_\_ my heart. I kicked him out of the house and we \_\_\_ divorced two weeks later.