

A

Do, play and go

The table below gives examples of common sporting collocations with *do*, *play* and *go*.

You do	gymnastics, judo, weightlifting, aerobics, yoga, wrestling, circuit training, archery, athletics
You play	games, badminton, billiards, hockey, bowls, rugby, golf, (table) tennis, cricket, baseball, chess,
	darts, cards, dominoes
You go	fishing, skiing, bowling, cycling, skateboarding, surfing, snowboarding, hang-gliding, climbing,
	hill walking, sailing, jogging, swimming

You can also say you **go to aerobics/judo/yoga/karate** – this means that you go to a class in this sport.

Common mistakes

Learners often make mistakes with some common collocations connected with sport.

Make a point of learning these commonly used collocations.

- You **do** or **play sport**. (NOT ~~make~~ sport)
- You **do exercises**. (NOT ~~make~~ exercises)
- You **play computer** or other **games**. (NOT ~~do~~ games)
- You **have/play a game of** cards. (NOT ~~make~~ a game)
- You **go skiing**. (NOT ~~make~~ skiing)
- You **do activities**. (NOT ~~make~~ or ~~practise~~ activities)

If you are a serious sports person, you will certainly practise your sport, but that has a specific meaning, which is to do something again and again in order to get better at it, in other words **to train**. If you are a footballer you might **practise taking a penalty**, for example.

B

Winning and losing

Sportsmen and sportswomen want to **win matches**, not **lose matches**. But you can't win all the time! Sometimes a team or player **deserves to win**, but gets **narrowly defeated/beaten**.

Before they **go in for / enter a competition**, athletes **train hard**. They probably **attend/do** at least five **training sessions** a week. They are likely to **put up a fight** to **gain/get a place** in the next **stage/round of the competition**. Of course, a sports person's ultimate aim is to **break the world record** in their sport. If they succeed, they **set a new world record** and become a **world record holder**. They are sure to **come up against fierce/intense competition** as they try to **achieve their ambitions**. Sometimes they are satisfied if they just **achieve a personal best**.

Some sports people so **desperately want** to win that they take drugs to **enhance their performance**. This will be discovered when they **fail a drugs test**.

C

Football

You can **play** or **have a (football) match / game (of football)**. It might be a **home** or an **away match** depending on whether you're playing on your team's **home ground** or not.

The aim is to **score a goal**. Players may **tackle an opponent** to try to **take possession of the ball**¹. If you tackle in an illegal way, you **foul your opponent**. This will lead to the referee **blowing his whistle** and an opponent **taking a penalty** or **taking a free kick**. If someone isn't playing very well the manager may decide to **drop the player** from the team or **bring on a substitute**². Both teams hope that they will have **taken the lead**³ by half-time.

¹ get the ball ² replace one player with another ³ be in a winning position

25.1 Look at A. Complete the sentences with *do*, *play* or *go* in the correct form.

New Sports Club Opening Next Week

You can _____ judo!

You can _____ badminton!

You can _____ swimming!

You can _____ weight lifting!

You can _____ circuit training!

You can _____ table tennis!

You can _____ skateboarding!

You can even _____ darts!

In fact, you can _____ almost any sport you can think of.

So join now!

25.2 Look at B and C. Make ten collocations by matching a word from the box on the left with a word or phrase from the box on the right.

personal	set	the lead	a competition
blow	achieve	best	your performance
bring on	train	a substitute	a drugs test
fail	enhance	a record	hard
enter	take	a whistle	your ambitions

25.3 Look at the error warning. There are six verb + noun errors in this email. Find and correct them.

Giorgio 26 May at 12:59

Hi José,

Do you fancy coming on a sporting weekend with me next month? It sounds great – would make a change from playing computer games. You can make lots of different activities. You could even do fishing, I think. You can't go skiing at this time of year but you can make water skiing, if you like. Everyone has to make general exercises first thing in the morning and then you can make whatever sport you like, more or less. I've never practised badminton so I think I'm going to do that. Then in the afternoon I'm looking forward to the chance to practise my tennis serve with their professional coach. Please try to come!

25.4 Complete the collocations in this report of a rugby match.

Cambridge were happy to (1) _____ their last match 6:0. Oxford, the opposing team, put up a good (2) _____ and some people thought they (3) _____ to win. They were fearless in (4) _____ their opponents, but every time they took (5) _____ of the ball, Cambridge managed to win it back. Cambridge have now (6) _____ a place in the next (7) _____ of the competition. They will undoubtedly come up against some fierce (8) _____. However, they have already managed to (9) _____ an interesting world record by having four members of the same family in their winning team!

Over to **you**

Make a section in your vocabulary notebook for your own favourite sport. Find an English-language website connected with that sport. Write down any useful collocations you notice there.

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If you are a serious sportsperson, you will certainly practise your sport, but that has a specific meaning, which is to do something again and again in order to get better at it, in other words **to train**.

If you are a footballer you might **practise taking a penalty**, for example.

The conversation has no errors, but the changes will improve it.

Matthew: Have you downloaded that new e-book that has just appeared about Ireland?

Camilla: No, I don't use my e-book reader app much and I don't visit websites with articles discussing new books. What's it about?

Matthew: Well, it concerns the Irish War of Independence. It's very authentic and it manages to give the atmosphere of Ireland at the beginning of the 20th century.

Camilla: Is it just historical facts, then?

Matthew: No, the main people are two brothers who have different opinions about the war and this divides their family. In the first chapters they're happy and do everything together, but by the last chapter they have become enemies.

Camilla: Mm, it sounds a bit depressing to me.

Matthew: Well, it certainly doesn't finish in a happy way, but I liked it, and it's recommended very much by all the critics.

Camilla: So, a book with a pleasant start and a sad finish. Not for me, I'm afraid. I prefer the opposite.

23.2 Complete the crossword.

1				2								
3									4			

Across

3 I was completely — in my book and didn't realise how late it had got.

5 An alternative to 3 across.

6 He wants to go on the —. He's always

23.3 Match the words in the box on the left with their collocations on the right.

full big bedtime
female box-office

screen reading
lead hit house

23.4 Complete these collocations.

1 shoot / star in / make a

2 download an

3 flick / skim through a

4 compulsive / bedtime

Over to you

Online bookshops, as well as book and film review websites, often have mini-reviews and descriptions of books and films. Find a review of a book or film that you know and note down any interesting collocations in it.

Exercises

22.1 Match the words on the left with their collocations on the right.

- | | |
|---------|-----------|
| 1 set | additives |
| 2 food | food |
| 3 junk | produce |
| 4 ready | menu |
| 5 fresh | meals |

22.2 Complete these sentences using the collocations from exercise 22.1 to fill the gaps.

- 1 such as artificial flavours and colouring can cause allergies.
- 2 may be unhealthy, but it's quick and easy and fills you up.
- 3 People who don't have much time to cook often buy from the supermarket.
- 4 It's always better to buy instead of canned or frozen foods.
- 5 The is usually cheaper than ordering dishes separately in a restaurant.

22.3 Read these remarks by different people, then answer the questions.

- Logan: I've got some cheese and milk. Is there a fridge here I could put them in?
Connor: I feel so hungry! I can't believe it!
Layla: I've been sick and my stomach is aching. Must be something I ate.
Michael: No matter how much I eat, I always want more.
Scarlett: All these vegetables have been grown without any chemicals at all.
Bella: I always enjoy my food and look forward to it.

	name
1 Who has organic food?	
2 Who has an insatiable appetite?	
3 Who has perishable food?	
4 Who has a healthy appetite?	
5 Who has food poisoning?	
6 Who is dying of hunger?	

22.4 Replace the underlined words with suitable collocations from the opposite page.

- 1 Foods which are changed or treated as part of an industrial operation may damage our health in the long term.
- 2 Some people always have three full, satisfying meals a day, but I prefer a large breakfast and then a small meal around midday and a more sizeable meal in the evening.
- 3 There are some overpriced restaurants in the city centre, but down at the beach, there are some nice, not too expensively priced ones.
- 4 On my birthday my parents took me out for a big, good meal. They wanted to go for a very high quality meal but I said I'd prefer something more ordinary.
- 5 Iced tea is a drink that cools you and makes you feel less tired on a hot day, and is probably better for you than non-alcoholic drinks such as cola or lemonade.
- 6 Let me take you out to dinner on your birthday. Or would you prefer a meal prepared at home? I could make dinner for you at my place.