

What are Adjective + Noun Collocations?

Worksheet

Adjective-noun collocations are adjective-noun pairs that native speakers naturally combine, like 'heavy traffic', 'strong coffee', or 'deep sleep'.

Questions

1. "The ___ rain kept us indoors all day."
A) strong
B) thick
C) heavy
D) deep
2. "She gave a ___ speech at the conference."
A) heavy
B) powerful
C) strong
D) deep
3. "I took a ___ breath before the interview."
A) heavy
B) deep
C) strong
D) thick
4. "What a ___ idea for your startup!"
A) strong
B) heavy
C) bright
D) deep
5. "The ___ traffic made us late for work."
6. "I need a ___ coffee to wake up in the morning."
7. "After the long hike, I fell into a ___ sleep."
8. Define: heavy + ?
9. Define: strong + ?
10. Define: deep + ?

Answer Key

1. C) heavy — 'Heavy rain' is the standard collocation. 'Strong rain' or 'thick rain' are unnatural.
2. C) strong — 'Strong speech' or 'powerful speech' both work. 'Strong' is the classic collocation here.
3. B) deep — 'Deep breath' is the natural collocation for controlled, calming breathing.
4. C) bright — 'Bright idea' is the collocation for a clever, original idea.
5. The natural collocation is 'heavy traffic'. Complete: "The heavy traffic made us late for work." Why: 'Heavy' is the standard adjective for traffic (volume/density); we don't say 'strong' or 'thick' traffic.
6. The natural collocation is 'strong coffee'. Complete: "I need a strong coffee to wake up in the morning." Why: We describe coffee strength with 'strong', not 'heavy' (though 'heavy' is used for cream/body in coffee culture).
7. The natural collocation is 'deep sleep'. Complete: "After the long hike, I fell into a deep sleep." Why: 'Deep' describes profound, undisturbed sleep; 'heavy' or 'dark' sound unnatural here.
8. heavy traffic, heavy rain, heavy cost, heavy workload
9. strong coffee, strong accent, strong evidence, strong opinion
10. deep sleep, deep breath, deep water, deep knowledge

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