

Extension exercises

Chapter 9: Combining words

Exploring how learners use English

Use a short text, appropriate for the level and interests of your learners. This could be a written text or a transcript of conversation.

After they have read it, ask learners to annotate the text, using circles and arrows to highlight fixed expressions, frames, multiword expressions and patterns.

Ask them to do the same with a text that they have written themselves.

The aim of this exercise is to raise the learners' awareness of these features of language, and of how they function in English. The exercise may depend on a certain amount of discussion or even make them more aware preliminary teaching so that learners are familiar with the features explored in this chapter. If in your teaching you have used some of the technical terms, you can use these in this exercise. You may also need to demonstrate how you want them to annotate the material.

If you share the learners' first language or have a good knowledge of it, you may want to carry out the exercise, also, with a text in that language. This will help them to understand how words combine in any language, and highlight the importance of paying attention to these features.

Analyse texts written by some of your learners or transcribe a recording of some of them speaking. Analyse the errors they make. What proportion of these can be explained by problems with knowing how words combine?

Course materials

Study two or three sections of course materials that you use which focus on learning vocabulary.

How much attention is paid to the other words or patterns with which the words combine?