



PIANO D'INTERVENTO PER LA RIDUZIONE
DEI DIVARI TERRITORIALI IN ISTRUZIONE

FORMAZIONE SULLE COMPETENZE DI BASE



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Teaching Vocabulary with Collocation

From studying vocabulary to using vocabulary

Dott. Giacomo Folinazzo (University of Toronto)

Key Points:

- Traditional methods
- Corpus linguistics
- Collocation
- Classroom application
- Students' awareness



Traditional methods

- Lists with definitions and translations
- Synonyms, antonyms (semantic approach)
- Prefix, suffix, root (morphological approach)
- Contextual, topical (at the park, at school, etc)
- Activities (fill-in-the-blanks, sentence writing, etc)

These promote memorization, test preparation

Most language teachers have experienced this

- “I Studied a lot, but I can’t use the word”
- The word is used but in an awkward way.



“If you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day. If you teach a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime.”

Chinese Proverb

Memorization vs Usage

- **Corpus linguistics** — the study of language as expressed in the real world (language data collected from natural context).
- **Collocation** — combination of words that appears together in high frequency in everyday language usage.
- **Classroom application**

Some examples:

to make the bed - *I need to make the bed every day.*

to take a risk - *Sometimes we all need to take risks in life.*

to give someone advice - *My friend gave us some advice on how to find a job.*

-> More than formulas and common phrases

Collocation Dictionary

www.ozdic.com

Practical examples

- **Assessment (n.)** The act of assessing; evaluation; appraisal.
- ITA = valutazione
- www.ozdic.com
- Let's write some sentences

☆ **assessment** *noun*

■ ADJ.

broad, general, overall | individual | continuous, regular

Examination is by continuous assessment.

| quick, rapid | external, internal | initial | final | accurate, balanced, fair, good, proper, realistic | careful, comprehensive, detailed, formal, systematic, thorough | independent, objective | personal, subjective

He was shrewd in his personal assessments.

| adequate | critical | optimistic, pessimistic | course | tax | needs, performance, quality, risk

Needs assessment is crucial if the hospital is to deliver effective health care.

| environmental, financial, medical, psychiatric, scientific

■ VERB + ASSESSMENT

carry out, do, give, make, undertake

The new manager carried out an assessment of the sales department.

■ ASSESSMENT + NOUN

methods, procedures, technique | criteria | process, system

■ PHRASES

a form/method of assessment

Practical examples

- **Perspective (n.)** the state of one's ideas; the facts known to one, etc., in having a meaningful interrelationship.
- **ITA – prospettiva**
- **Let's write some sentences.**

★ **perspective** *noun*

¹ *in art*

ADJ.

distorted | horizontal, vertical

PREP.

in ~, out of ~

That tree is out of perspective.

PHRASES

the laws of perspective

² *attitude to sth*

ADJ.

different, new | broader, wider | proper, true

We can now see things in their true perspective.

| cultural, historical, political, social, theoretical, etc.

VERB + PERSPECTIVE

get sth in/into, place sth in/into, put sth in/into, see sth in

Her death put everything else into perspective.

| gain, get, put

When you reach middle age you get a different perspective on life. This website puts a completely different perspective on world news.

| keep | lose | adopt

The book adopts a historical perspective.

| shift | provide

PREP.

from the ~ of

We should view this from the perspective of the people involved.

| in/into ~

Let's get this into perspective.

Practical examples

- Encourage students to guess collocates:

What can we say after the word “stimulating”?

Stimulating

Practical examples

- Encourage students to guess collocates:

What can we say after the word “reliable”?

Reliable

Now, write your own sentence.

Tips for teaching

- Include it in your teaching. Show its usefulness.
- Encourage independent research.
- Use metalanguage (e.g. collocation)
- Include in assessment
- Encourage guessing
- Increase awareness of relations between words
- Compare with Italian and other languages (plurilingual pedagogy)
- Paradigm shift

References

Duan, M., & Qin, X. (2012). Collocation in English Teaching and Learning. Theory & Practice in Language Studies, 2(9).

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McCarten, J. (2007). Teaching vocabulary. Lessons from the Corpus. Lessons from the Classroom.

Mukherjee, J. (2006). Corpus linguistics and language pedagogy: The state of the art—and beyond. In S. Braun, K. Kohn, & J. Mukherjee (Eds.), Corpus technology and language pedagogy: New resources, new tools, new methods (pp. 5–24). Frankfurt am Main, Germany: Peter Lang.

Reppen, R. (2010). Using corpora in the language classroom (Cambridge language education). New York: Cambridge University Press

Useful Websites

In class:

<https://www.macmillandictionary.com/browse/collocations/american/a/>

www.ozdic.com

<https://www.freecollocation.com/search?word=simple>

For teachers:

<https://www.englishclub.com/vocabulary/collocations.php>