

Collocational Competence in English for Dental Medicine

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CRITERIA FOR COLLOCATIONS

- Non-compositional
- Non-substitutable components
- Non-modifiable

- Collocations usually cannot be translated into other languages word by word:

do sport

go on a diet

respond to treatment

make a full recovery

COLLOCATIONS

Examples of collocations

- Noun phrases: *medical history*
- Verb phrases: *admit to hospital*
- Adjective phrases: *be necessary to*
- Prepositional phrases: *distal to*

- Full: place crowns/слагам корона
- Partial: administer analgesia/слагам упойка
- Zero: take medical history/схемам анамнеза

- Valid or invalid?
 - **make an experiment*

TYPES OF COLLOCATIONS

Lexical

[Adj] + [N]

[N] + of + [N]

[V] + [N]

[N] + [V]

[V] + [Adv]

[Adv] + [Adj]

Grammatical

[N] + [PP]

[N] + [to-INF]

[PP] + [N]

[N] + [that-CL]

[Adj] + [to-INF]

[Adj] + [PP]

[Adj] + [that-CL]

LEXICAL COLLOCATIONS

- Adv + Adj *critically ill*
- Adj + Noun *adverse reactions, infectious disease, massive heart attack, premature death*
- Preposition + Noun *at hand*
- Noun + Noun *blood vessel, side effects*
- Noun + Verb *opportunity arose*
- Verb + Noun *build up resistance, take an overdose*
exceed the recommended dose, have an operation
- Verb + Preposition *fall into/come out of coma, be in poor health*

THE ROLE OF COLLOCATIONS

- Words are not used in isolation
 - A matter of convention
 - Fluent speech
- All levels of writing or speaking
 - Professional translation

IDENTIFYING COLLOCATIONS

Concord

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N	L5	L4	L3	L2	L1	Centre	R1	R2	R3
1	THE	THE	THE	IN	THE	BLOOD	VESSELS	THE	THE
2	OF	MAY	OR	NERVES	AND		CLOTTING	IS	TO
3	AMOUNT	WERE	VENTRIC	THE	SEVERE		CELLS	ARE	ARE
4							VESSEL		
5							CIRCULATION		
6							CLOTS		

- Function words are filtered
- Small span size, nonadjacent collocates are not covered

COMMON PROBLEMS

[V] + [N]

? + **knowledge**

acquire/broaden/gain/extend/improve

(разширявам познанията си)

? + **problem**

deal with/overcome/solve/resolve

(справям се с проблем)

? + **exam**

have/take/pass/retake (взимам изпит)

? + **an experiment**

perform/carry out (правя експеримент)

[Adj] + [N]

health history (минали заболявания)

[N] + [N]

canker sore/aphthous ulcer (афта)

Most frequent lemmas, Dental Medicine (nouns, adjectives and verbs)

Nouns and frequency of occurrence	Adjectives	Verbs
teeth (493)/tooth (315)	heart (71)	use (166)
filling (110)	jaw (70)	make (98)
mouth (108)	cell (67)	brush (74)
patient (107)	root (67)	cause (62)
gum (103)	enamel (60)	need (29)
treatment (102)	body (62)	find (28)
bone (96)	children (56)	take (26)
disease (96)	surgery (55)	become (22)
food (95)	dentures (54)	prevent (22)
health (90)	crown (51)	remove (22)
blood (74)	decay (49)	affect (21)

DOMINANT COLLOCATIONS

1. Bacteremia was observed in 100% of the patients after *dental extraction*, in 70% after *dental scaling*, in 55% after third-molar surgery, in 20% after *endodontic treatment*, and in 55% after *bilateral tonsillectomy*.
2. An ADA-Accepted *dental floss* or *interdental cleaner* is recommended.
3. Moderate or *severe bruxism* and clenching can damage *oral structures* by causing wear on the teeth and gums, *bone breakdown* alongside inflammation, and *muscular dysfunction*.
4. The *oral mucosa* is very rich in *blood vessels* and if it is damaged, outside bacteria and the toxins which they produce get easily into the bloodstream.
5. The specific types of antigens on our red *blood cells* determine our *blood types*.

Which collocations to teach?

- Unique collocations: *administer an injection*
- Strong collocations: *perform an experiment, inhibit caries*
- Medium collocations: *to recover from an operation*
- Weak collocations: *remove plaque, prevent caries*

DICTIONARIES

TRANSLATION MEMORY BANKS

- BBI Combinatory Dictionary of English
- Oxford Collocations Dictionary for Students of English
- Cambridge International Dictionary of Idioms
- Collins COBUILD Dictionary of Idioms
- Linguee www.linguee.com
- ProZ <http://www.proz.com/>

LEARNING COLLOCATIONS

- Noticing collocations when reading
- Recording collocations in thematic groups
- Personalized collection of texts
- Revision and recycling



Thank you!