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
- respond to treatment
- go on a diet
- 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/снемам анамнеза

- Valid or invalid?
  *make an experiment
# TYPES OF COLLOCATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lexical</th>
<th>Grammatical</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[Adj] + [N]</td>
<td>[N] + [PP]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[N] + of + [N]</td>
<td>[N] + [to-INF]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[V] + [N]</td>
<td>[PP] + [N]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[N] + [V]</td>
<td>[N] + [that-CL]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[V] + [Adv]</td>
<td>[Adj] + [to-INF]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Adv] + [Adj]</td>
<td>[Adj] + [PP]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[Adj] + [that-CL]</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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

- 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
(справяям 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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nouns and frequency of occurrence</th>
<th>Adjectives</th>
<th>Verbs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>teeth (493)/tooth (315)</td>
<td>dental (475)</td>
<td>use (166)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>filling (110)</td>
<td>oral (103)</td>
<td>make (98)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mouth (108)</td>
<td>good (50)</td>
<td>brush (74)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>patient (107)</td>
<td>common (44)</td>
<td>cause (62)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gum (103)</td>
<td>orthodontic (43)</td>
<td>need (29)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>treatment (102)</td>
<td>periodontal (41)</td>
<td>find (28)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bone (96)</td>
<td>permanent (39)</td>
<td>take (26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>disease (96)</td>
<td>possible (36)</td>
<td>become (22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>food (95)</td>
<td>important (35)</td>
<td>prevent (22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>health (90)</td>
<td>deciduous (33)</td>
<td>remove (22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>blood (74)</td>
<td>affect (21)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

An ADA-Accepted dental floss or interdental cleaner is recommended.

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.

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.

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