Eating and drinking

Talking about types of food

In each of these conversations, useful collocations are in bold.

Tom: Kids eat far too much junk food.
Nelly: Yeah, but it's hard to get them to eat nourishing meals\(^1\). They think they're boring.

Fran: Have you tried the new supermarket yet?
Jim: Yes. The fresh produce\(^2\) is excellent, and they have a big organic food section.

Fran: Mm, yes. I actually think their ready meals\(^3\) are good too.

Liam: I can't believe food additives\(^4\) are good for our long-term health.
Todd: No, and I think processed foods\(^5\) in general are probably bad for us, not to mention GM foods\(^6\)!

Gail: The restaurant was leaving perishable food\(^7\) lying round outside the fridge, and some people got food poisoning so the authorities closed it down.
Terry: Oh dear.

\(^1\) meals which make you healthy and strong
\(^2\) foods produced from farming, e.g. dairy produce, agricultural produce; pronounced \(/\text{pr}	ext{o}dju:\text{s}/\)
\(^3\) meals already prepared or which just need to be heated quickly before eating
\(^4\) substances added to food to improve its taste or appearance or to preserve it
\(^5\) foods which are changed or treated as part of an industrial operation
\(^6\) genetically modified foods
\(^7\) food which goes bad quickly, e.g. cheese, fish

Eating and drinking

Look at this information on eating out for visitors to a town. Note the collocations in bold.

Jane and Ron are in the Old Port restaurant area looking for somewhere to eat.

Jane: Let's find a café and have a quick snack. And I could really do with a refreshing drink.
Ron: I'm dying of hunger! I need a square meal.
Jane: I know you have a healthy appetite, but you had a hearty breakfast only three hours ago! Well, how about having a soft drink and a bag of crisps now, and a proper lunch later?
Ron: Crisps will only spoil your appetite. Look, this restaurant looks good and the set menu is reasonably priced. Let's go in.

\(^1\) large
\(^2\) unusually large and good
\(^3\) high-quality

Whether it's a light meal or a substantial meal you're looking for, whether you want a slap-up meal\(^1\), a gourmet meal\(^2\) or just tasty, home-cooked food, there's something for everyone in the Old Port restaurant area. Enjoy good food in a pleasant setting.

\(^1\) meal
\(^2\) meal

We say international food/cuisine, NOT world-wide food/cuisine. A Chinese/Mexican/French meal is what you eat in a restaurant. When referring in general to the food of a country or culture we say Chinese/Mexican/French food/cooking/cuisine.
**Exercises**

**23.1** Match the words on the left with their collocations on the right.

1. set
2. food
3. junk
4. ready
5. fresh

- additives
- food
- produce
- menu
- meals

**23.2** Complete these sentences using the collocations from exercise 23.1 to fill the gaps.

1. ................................. ................................. such as artificial flavours and colouring can cause allergies.
2. ................................. ................................. may be unhealthy, but it’s quick and easy and fills you up.
3. People who don’t have much time to cook often buy ................................. ................................. from the supermarket.
4. It’s always better to buy ................................. ................................. instead of canned or frozen foods.
5. The ................................. ................................. is usually cheaper than ordering dishes separately in a restaurant.

**23.3** Read these remarks by different people, then answer the questions.

Richard: I’ve got some cheese and milk. Is there a fridge here I could put them in?

Archie: I feel so hungry! I can’t believe it!

Polly: I’ve been sick and my stomach is aching. Must be something I ate.

Ken: No matter how much I eat, I always want more.

Suzie: All these vegetables have been grown without any chemicals at all.

Nina: I always enjoy my food and look forward to it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Who has organic food?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Who has an insatiable appetite?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Who has perishable food?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Who has a healthy appetite?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Who has food poisoning?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Who is dying of hunger?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**23.4** Replace the underlined words with suitable collocations from the opposite page.

1. Foods which are changed or treated as part of an industrial operation may damage our health in the long term.
2. Some people always have three full, satisfying meals a day, but I prefer a large breakfast and then a small meal around midday and a more sizeable meal in the evening.
3. There are some overpriced restaurants in the city centre, but down at the beach, there are some nice, not too expensively priced ones.
4. On my birthday my parents took me out for a big, good meal. They wanted to go for a very high quality meal but I said I’d prefer something more ordinary.
5. Iced tea is a drink that cools you and makes you feel less tired on a hot day, and is probably better for you than non-alcoholic drinks such as cola or lemonade.
6. Let me take you out to dinner on your birthday. Or would you prefer a meal prepared at home? I could make dinner for you at my place.
Films and books

Talking about films and books

When a new book or film comes out, newspapers will review it. The people who review the book/film are called book reviewers / film critics and they write book/film reviews. If they don’t like a book/film they give it a bad review. We can say that a novel or film is based on a true story. We say that a book/film captures an atmosphere or that a book/film deals with a topic. We talk about the opening/closing scenes of a film and the opening/closing chapters of a book. We talk about the beginning and end of a book/film (NOT start and finish). If everything works out well for the central characters, we say that the book/film has a happy ending. You may recommend a book/film that you enjoyed to a friend. If a lot of people have enjoyed it, it is highly recommended.

Just about films and acting

I’ve never had any desire to become an actor myself but I’d love to produce a film. I think historical dramas work particularly well on the big screen and I’d love to make a film about Vikings in Britain. There’d be plenty of opportunities to use special effects during battle scenes. I’d want the male lead to be played by Hugh Grant, while Nicole Kidman could have the female lead. Sean Penn could play the role of a Viking warrior and I’d like Judi Dench to take on a cameo role. I’m sure that, as always, she would give an excellent performance. My dream is to make a film that would be nominated for an Oscar. Of course, I’d also like it to be an immediate box-office hit, playing to full houses worldwide.

Other strong collocations are cast a film [select the actors for a film], star in a film, shoot a film, make a film.

Just about books

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>collocation</th>
<th>example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>be engrossed/absorbed in a book</td>
<td>Sam was so engrossed/absorbed in her book that she didn’t hear me.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>compulsive reading</td>
<td>Many people find articles about the private lives of film stars compulsory reading (so interesting you can’t stop reading)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bedtime reading</td>
<td>I don’t think a horror story makes good bedtime reading.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>an easy read</td>
<td>Detective stories are good for train journeys as they’re an easy read.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>take out / borrow / return / renew a library book</td>
<td>You can take out/borrow six library books at one time. You should return your library book tomorrow. I’m going to renew my library book for another week.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>flick/skim through a book</td>
<td>Mona flicked/skimmed through the book without reading it in detail.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>beautifully written</td>
<td>The book is beautifully written – I highly recommend it.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Critics review books and films, NOT criticise them. To criticise a book or film means to say negative things about it. Remember that you watch television, NOT see television, but you can see or watch a film or programme on television. We usually say see a film at the cinema.
Exercises

24.1 Use collocations from A opposite instead of the underlined words in this conversation. The conversation has no errors, but the changes will improve it.

Matthew: Have you read that new book that has just appeared about Ireland?
Lorna: No, I don’t go to bookshops and I don’t read articles discussing new books. What’s it about?
Matthew: Well, it concerns the Irish War of Independence. It’s very authentic and it manages to give the atmosphere of Ireland at the beginning of the 20th century.
Lorna: Is it just historical facts, then?
Matthew: No, the main people are two brothers who have different opinions about the war and this divides their family. In the first chapters they’re happy and do everything together, but by the last chapter they have become enemies.
Lorna: Mm, it sounds a bit depressing to me.
Matthew: Well, it certainly doesn’t finish in a happy way, but I liked it, and it’s recommended very much by all the critics.
Lorna: So, a book with a pleasant start and a sad finish. Not for me, I’m afraid. I prefer the opposite.

24.2 Complete the crossword.

Across
3 I was completely ...... in my book and didn’t realise how late it had got.
5 An alternative to 3 across.
6 He wants to go on the ...... He’s always wanted to be an actor.
7 Who played the male ...... in Destination Saturn?

Down
1 ...... role means ‘small but special part in a film/play’.
2 The film was ...... for an Oscar but it didn’t win.
4 It was an amazing film about space travel, with fantastic special ......

24.3 Match the words in the box on the left with their collocations on the right.

full big bedtime
female box-office
screen reading
lead hit house

24.4 Complete these collocations.
1 shoot / star in / make a .................
2 renew / borrow / return a .................
3 flick / skim through a .................
4 compulsive / bedtime .................

Follow-up
Online bookshops, for example, Amazon, often have mini-reviews and descriptions of books and DVDs. Find a review of a book or film that you know and note down any interesting collocations in it.
Music

Describing music

Look at these music reviews and note the collocations in bold.

Bloom Music from the Centre of the Earth (Palm records 234655)
New arrivals on the rock music scene, Bloom are already making a big impact. If you're looking for background music, then this is not for you, but if you want music to blast out from your hi-fi and annoy the neighbours, then Bloom's debut album, with tracks from their live performance at the Delays Stadium, may be just what you want.

Johnny MacRoy Songs we loved (Kase Phonograph 488792)
For fans of easy listening and catchy tunes, this is all you need. In fact it's so relaxing you might just fall asleep. MacRoy gives a sentimental performance of these old love songs. At 47, he's not exactly a pop idol but his adoring fans will love it.

The Divide Amphibian (Fono Corp 3321978)
This is a rock symphony, an extraordinary piece of music. After their massive hit in 2004 with Megalith, their record company has released this CD hoping for another big hit. The band themselves wrote the music. They have a huge following and are due to go on tour later this year.

The Oxbridge Symphonia British classics old and new (Rotor Records 775537)
Haunting melodies and the occasional virtuosic performance from its two soloists mark this collection of popular British classical music, which aims to capture a wider audience for the classics and to promote Britain's musical heritage. Roger Crow conducts the orchestra. Crow himself composed two of the pieces, hence the CD title. Good birthday present for your uncle and aunt. But if you're a real classical music lover, save your money.

BUST-OUT WITH JOLA V BLAZE MAMA (Presto 58843)
Bust-out's new double CD features Jola V, a young rap artist from Miami. Jola used to be with Chicago hip-hop band Frenzy, but went solo in 2004. The band have remixed four tracks from earlier albums and Jola's uptempo numbers just add to the excitement.

1 sound extremely loud
2 presented to the public for the first time
3 music that is not serious or difficult
4 pleasant and easy to remember
5 extremely skilful
6 includes as an important part
7 rock music in which rhymed lyrics are spoken over rhythm tracks
8 made a new version of a musical track
9 played at a fast beat

Playing music

I saw Martin strumming a guitar the other day. I didn't know he could play.

He can't. He just likes people to think he can. He's got no musical talent whatsoever.

I've taken up the guitar. I've had three lessons so far.

That's great. I love live music. What can you play?

Well, the first week was all about tuning the instrument. I've got to play a piece for my teacher next week.
Exercises

25.1 Change the underlined words using collocations from A so that each sentence has the opposite meaning.
1. The band's last CD was a minor hit. (give two answers)
2. There are some great slow numbers on this new CD.
3. The band has a small following of dedicated fans.
4. Music was playing quietly on a CD player when I entered the house.
5. Maria Plurosa gave a poor performance of Heder's violin concerto last night.

25.2 Correct the eight collocation errors in this paragraph. The first one is done for you.

For all folk music lovers, Johnny Coppin's new CD, The Long Harvest, published last week, will be a great addition to their collection. Bob recently got solo after five years with the folk band Blue Mountain. He is proud of the musical inheritance of his native Kentucky. Tracks 3 and 7 comprise his old friend Wiz Carter on guitar. With this CD Coppin says he hopes to control a wider audience for folk music. His excellent living performance at the recent Lockwood Folk Festival suggests he has a good chance of succeeding. He makes a tour next month. Don't miss him.

25.3 What word(s) mean …?
1 ... music that is playing while you are doing something else and not really listening to it?
2 ... music that is not complicated or difficult to listen to?
3 ... a pop musician who is a very big star with many fans?
4 ... a type of performer who speaks rhymed lyrics over rhythm tracks?
5 ... to tighten or loosen the strings of an instrument till they make the correct note?
6 ... a way of playing a guitar by moving your fingers across the strings?

25.4 Complete these sentences with suitable collocations.
1. Hundreds of ................. fans were waiting for Shamira to come out of the concert hall.
2. The orchestra gave a wonderful .......... of some popular classics.
3. It was a very .......... tune; you only had to hear it once and you were singing it.
4. I'd love to .......... .......... a musical instrument but I don't have time.
5. It is one of those .......... melodies which you never forget, so beautiful, yet so sad.
6. There's a lot of musical .......... in the family; all the children play an instrument.

Now, for twenty thousand dollars, who wrote Beethoven's Fifth Symphony?
Sport

Do, play and go

The table below gives examples of common sporting collocations with do, play and go.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>You do</th>
<th>gymnastics, judo, weightlifting, aerobics, yoga, wrestling, circuit training, archery, athletics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You play</td>
<td>games, badminton, billiards, hockey, bowls, rugby, golf, (table) tennis, cricket, baseball, chess, darts, cards, dominoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You go</td>
<td>fishing, skiing, bowling, cycling, skateboarding, surfing, snowboarding, hang-gliding, climbing, hill-walking, sailing, jogging, swimming</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You can also say you go to aerobics/judo/yoga/karate – this means that you go to a class in this sport.

Winning and losing

Sportsmen and sportswomen want to win matches, not lose matches. But you can’t win all the time! Sometimes a team or player deserves to win, but gets narrowly defeated/beaten.

Before they go in for / enter a competition, athletes train hard. They probably attend/do at least five training sessions a week. They are likely to put up a fight to gain/get a place in the next stage/round of the competition. Of course, a sportsperson’s ultimate aim is to break the world record in their sport. If they succeed, they set a new world record and become a world record holder. They are sure to come up against fierce/intense competition as they try to achieve their ambitions. Sometimes they are satisfied if they just achieve a personal best.

Some sports people so desperately want to win that they take drugs to enhance their performance. This will be discovered when they fail a drugs test.

Football

You can play or have a (football) match / game (of football). It might be a home or an away match depending on whether you’re playing on your team’s home ground or not.

The aim is to score a goal. Players may tackle an opponent to try to take possession of the ball1. If you tackle in an illegal way, you foul your opponent. This will lead to the referee blowing his whistle and an opponent taking a penalty or taking a free kick. If someone isn’t playing very well the manager may decide to drop the player from the team or bring on a substitute2. Both teams hope that they will have taken the lead3 by half-time.

1 get the ball  2 replace one player with another  3 be in a winning position
Exercises

26.1 Look at A. Complete the sentences with do, play or go in the correct form.

New Sports Club Opening Next Week

You can .................................. judo! You can .................................. badminton!
You can .................................. swimming! You can .................................. weight lifting!
You can .................................. circuit training! You can .................................. table tennis!
You can .................................. skateboarding! You can even .................................. darts!
In fact, you can .................................. almost any sport you can think of. So join now!

26.2 Look at B and C. Make ten collocations by matching a word from the box on the left with a word or phrase from the box on the right.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>personal</th>
<th>set</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>blow</td>
<td>achieve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bring on</td>
<td>train</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fail</td>
<td>enhance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>enter</td>
<td>take</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>the lead</th>
<th>a competition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>best</td>
<td>your performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a substitute</td>
<td>a drugs test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a record</td>
<td>hard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a whistle</td>
<td>your ambitions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

26.3 Look at the error warning. There are six verb + noun errors in this e-mail. Find and correct them.

Do you fancy coming on a sporting weekend with me next month? It sounds great – would make a change from playing computer games. You can make lots of different activities. You could even do fishing, I think. You can't go skiing at this time of year but you can make water skiing, if you like. Everyone has to make general exercises first thing in the morning and then you can make whatever sport you like, more or less.

I've never practised badminton so I think I'm going to do that. Then in the afternoon I'm looking forward to the chance to practise my tennis serve with their professional coach. Please try to come!

Giorgio

26.4 Complete the collocations in this report of a rugby match.

Cambridge were happy to (1) .................................. their last match 6:0. Oxford, the opposing team, put up a good (2) .................................. and some people thought they (3) ......................... to win. They were fearless in (4) ......................... their opponents, but every time they took (5) ......................... of the ball, Cambridge managed to win it back. Cambridge have now (6) ......................... a place in the next (7) ......................... of the competition. They will undoubtedly come up against some fierce (8) ......................... . However, they have already managed to (9) ......................... an interesting world record by having four members of the same family in their winning team!

[Follow-Up]

Make a section in your vocabulary notebook for your own favourite sport. Find an English language website connected with that sport. Write down any useful collocations you notice there.

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Excerpt

More Information
Academic writing 1: giving opinions

Reviewing the work of academics

Look at these extracts from reviews in academic journals.

Stating things strongly and less strongly

The sentences below express opinions, either strongly or less strongly.

Strong expressions of opinion

The invention of the steam engine was the key factor in the birth of the industrial revolution.

The events of 1954 are a perfect example of how political leaders make misjudgements that have serious long-term effects.

This is a clear illustration of the importance of a strong monetary policy.

Less strong expressions of opinion

The figures offer a tentative explanation of the causes of acid rain pollution. [an explanation given by someone who is not totally certain that it is the correct explanation]

The statistics broadly support the view that the economy is heading towards recession.

Other general academic collocations

There is a strong tendency in the work of some linguists to suggest that spoken language is inferior to written language.

We must first gather evidence, then carry out a detailed study of all the factors that play a part in social conditioning.

You cannot expect your claim to be accepted if you cannot offer supporting evidence.

Simon Hart challenges the theory of social change put forward by Professor Kemp.

It is important in academic writing always to acknowledge your sources. If you fail to do this, you will commit plagiarism. [use another person’s idea or a part of their work and pretend that it is your own]

In 1998, Lucas Georgescu published the results of his groundbreaking research on genetics. His latest paper also makes a significant contribution to the field. He sets out some powerful arguments which will shape our thinking for years to come.

In this latest book, Marina Kass gives an account of Karl Marx’s philosophy and provides evidence to support the claim that Garpov seriously misinterpreted Marx. In addition, the book offers a concise summary of the present state of Marxist philosophy.

Partridge strenuously defends her theory, which has come under attack recently in several journals. She argues that the Prime Minister played a central role in the political crisis of 1811, and goes into great detail to support her argument.

Nathan Peel attempts to establish a connection between mobile phone use and physical damage to users’ brains, but he does not offer irrefutable proof and the statistics do not show any significant trends.

In this latest book, Marina Kass gives an account of Karl Marx’s philosophy and provides evidence to support the claim that Garpov seriously misinterpreted Marx. In addition, the book offers a concise summary of the present state of Marxist philosophy.

We do research or carry out research, NOT make research.

Someone puts forward a theory or proposes a theory, NOT gives a theory.
Exercises

32.1 Look at A and answer the questions.
1 Which collocations suggest that the writer admires Georgescu’s work?
2 Which collocations indicate that Partridge’s work has not been accepted by everyone?
3 Which collocations suggest that Marina Kass focuses on facts?
4 Which collocations suggest that Nathan Peel is interested in analysing social statistics?

32.2 Rewrite each sentence using the word in brackets, so that it keeps the same meaning.
1 The example of Mrs Brown clearly illustrates the need for better medical services in the area. (ILLUSTRATION)
2 A doctoral thesis must always make it clear where it got its information. (SOURCES)
3 Dr Kahn’s results provide clear evidence that our theory is correct. (IRREFUTABLE)
4 The article begins by concisely summarising the background to the research project. (CONCISE)
5 The book interestingly describes the life of Marx as a young man. (ACCOUNT)
6 Janet’s theory has been attacked recently in a number of journals. (COME)

32.3 In B some collocations are presented as expressing an opinion in a strong way. Which collocations in the texts in A also express an opinion in a strong way?

32.4 Match the words in the box on the left with the words that they collocate with on the right.

32.5 Choose the correct collocation.

32.6 Complete this table with collocations for the nouns listed. Use a dictionary to help you if necessary. The first line is completed as an example.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>verb</th>
<th>adjective</th>
<th>noun</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>to publish</td>
<td>an outstanding</td>
<td>article</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>experiment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>survey</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Number and frequency

Commenting on how much or how many

These adjectives collocate strongly with both number and amount. Try to use them instead of small or large where appropriate.

Talking about numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>collocation</th>
<th>example</th>
<th>comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>odd/even numbers</td>
<td>51 is an odd number – 50 is an even number</td>
<td>odd numbers are 1, 3, 5 etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a decline/drop in</td>
<td>There's been a recent decline in the number of homeless people is worrying.</td>
<td>Drop is more informal than decline.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the number of</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>an increase/rise in</td>
<td>The increase in the number of homeless people is worrying.</td>
<td>Rise is slightly more informal than increase.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the number of</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>come to a total of</td>
<td>If we add up all the figures it comes to a total of 794.</td>
<td>A calculation comes to a total of x; the person calculating arrives at a total of x.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>birth rate rises/falls</td>
<td>Over the last few years the birth rate has been falling.</td>
<td>A rate can also drop or decline as well as fall.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a unit of currency/</td>
<td>The standard unit of currency in most EU countries is the euro.</td>
<td>We also talk about a unit of electricity, unit of length.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>measurement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Frequency

Widespread [existing or happening in many places or among people] collocates strongly with a lot of words relating to either attitude (widespread interest, widespread support) or problems (widespread damage, widespread poverty):

There has been widespread support for the government's new policy on education.

The heavy winds at the weekend have caused widespread damage.

Rare [infrequent and special] collocates with things in the natural world (rare disease, rare bird, rare species) and also with collectable items of special interest (rare stamps).

If someone repeatedly does something that annoys you, you can use the expression keeps asking, keeps interrupting, keeps hitting, etc. This is common in informal spoken English:

Please don't keep interrupting me when I'm trying to work.

The children keep asking me when we're going to buy a new computer.

Constant and continual also convey the idea of something happening repeatedly:

I couldn't get on with my work today because of constant interruptions - the phone kept ringing every five minutes.

It was a mistake to go on holiday with them. Their continual complaining drove us mad.

Describing graphs and charts

Profits rose sharply/steeply in July, but fell sharply/steeply in September.

There was a dramatic rise/fall in the number of students applying to university this year.

Numbers of mature students have increased steadily/gradually since the 1960s.

The number of crimes committed in the city has remained constant/stable since 2001.
### Exercises

**46.1** Use adjectives from A opposite instead of the underlined words to complete the collocations.

1. I only put a very small amount of chilli in the soup but it was still too hot for some people.
2. There was an extremely large amount of information to read, 5,000 pages, which was far too much for one person to absorb.
3. We can’t ignore the fact that a small but important number of people disagree with the plan.
4. There was an unexpected number of people at the meeting who had never voted in their lives.
5. The government’s new budget will mean that a rather large number of people will have to pay more in taxes. (Give two answers.)

**46.2** Choose the correct collocation.

1. 17, 29 and 395 are all strange / odd / unequal numbers.
2. Many European countries use the euro as their standard unit of money / value / currency.
3. 26, 8 and 192 are all equal / level / even numbers.
4. The bill comes / arrives / gets to a total of 287 dollars.
5. The unemployment rate is falling / decreasing / lowering.

**46.3** Use words from the box to complete the news reports. You may use the words more than once.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>decline</th>
<th>rare</th>
<th>keep</th>
<th>widespread</th>
<th>drop</th>
<th>fall</th>
<th>rise</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Following (1) ____________ criticism of the government’s environmental policy and a recent report showing a (2) ____________ in the numbers of seabirds along the nation’s coastline, a scheme has been announced which, it is hoped, will result in a (3) ____________ in the population of birds, especially of those (4) ____________ species which are seriously threatened with extinction.

Unfortunately, last year’s storms did (5) ____________ damage to homes in the north, and the damage is still visible in many places. One local resident complained ‘We (6) ____________ asking the authorities when we will be compensated. They (7) ____________ promising to sort it out but then nothing happens.’ There has been a steady (8) ____________ in the number of severe storms in the area, with an average of two per year recorded in the 1980s and more than five per year now.

Although only a relatively small number of people die from (9) ____________ diseases each year, a plan to build a research centre into such diseases has received (10) ____________ support from all political parties. ‘I’m glad to say that we have seen a steady (11) ____________ in the incidence of these diseases,’ a medical expert said. ‘But we must be careful. The numbers could (12) ____________ again if we do not continue to support research.’

**46.4** Write sentences describing the sales figures in the chart. Use all the collocations from D.

**Sales of mobile phones**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Sales</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>10000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>15000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>20000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>25000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>30000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun</td>
<td>35000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul</td>
<td>30000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug</td>
<td>25000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep</td>
<td>20000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>15000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>10000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>5000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>