**COLLOCATION EXERCISES**

**A**

1 The meeting took almost five hours so it was impossible to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

attention all the time. 

2 The problem is difficult to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ under control. 

3 It took us all day to clean up the office after the burglary – the thieves \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

a terrible mess. 

4 I don't think we should \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a decision yet; we should wait. 

5 Only 31% of the students who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the final exam passed it. 

6 I think we should look for a new supplier – the one we have at the moment

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us too many problems. 

7 Could you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ me a favour and post these letters on your way home? 

8 I've told him ten times that he's got the wrong telephone number. I'll \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

crazy if they call again. 

9 The company offers its employees free language training but not many people

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ advantage of it. 

10 Our personnel assistant is leaving next month - she's \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

a baby. 

**B**

1 There's a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ balance between success and failure.



2 My camera was stolen from my bag at the airport so I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

a claim on my insurance. 

3 The police gave a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ description of what had happened. 

4 I wasn't dressed for the occasion. I felt \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ out of place. 

5 The chances of England winning the next World Cup are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

unlikely, I'm afraid. 

6 We are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a lot of problems at the moment. 

7 Reports that he earns more than $5m a year are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

exaggerated. 

8 **Michael:** Did you enjoy the play?

 **Sue:** No, I didn't. It was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ boring. 

9 I'm overweight and completely out of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I really should start getting some exercise again. 

10 He speaks with a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Liverpool accent. Some of my American colleagues have trouble understanding what he's talking about. 

**C**

1 It took them over a week to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ their decision.

2 It'll be very difficult to persuade him. He is very set in his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. 

3 It goes without \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that we'll all support your new strategy. 

4 They are always on the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ young and versatile people.

5 It's your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to prepare this week's report – I did it last week. 

6 Our main competitor's new product \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a real threat to our target of increasing our market share. 

7 You shouldn't be so quick to criticise her for the poor results. You have to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

into account the fact that she was ill for over a month. 

8 There are three important points I'd like to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. 

9 It takes a very determined person to achieve results as good as this; you really have to put your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to it. 

10 Don't \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to conclusions – I haven't had a chance to explain it to you yet. 