**Collocations and Idioms**

**🔗 1. Collocations**

**📌 Definition:**

**Collocations** are natural combinations of words that frequently go together in a language. They *sound right* to native speakers because they are commonly used together.

**📎 Types of Collocations (with examples):**

| **Type** | **Example** |
| --- | --- |
| Verb + Noun | **make** a decision |
| Noun + Noun | a **school** trip |
| Adjective + Noun | **strong** coffee |
| Adverb + Adjective | **deeply** sorry |
| Verb + Adverb | **run** quickly |
| Verb + Preposition | **depend** on |

**✅ Why Learn Them?**

* Makes your English sound natural
* Helps with fluency
* Reduces the risk of “word-for-word” translation errors

**⚠️ Note:**

Some combinations are incorrect even if they sound logical: ❌ *do a decision* → ✔️ *make a decision*  
❌ *strong rain* → ✔️ *heavy rain*

**🎭 2. Idioms**

**📌 Definition:**

An **idiom** is a fixed phrase whose meaning is different from the literal meaning of the words.

**🧠 Examples and Meanings:**

| **Idiom** | **Meaning** |
| --- | --- |
| *Break the ice* | Start a conversation in a tense situation |
| *Hit the nail on the head* | Say exactly the right thing |
| *Under the weather* | Feeling sick or unwell |
| *Spill the beans* | Reveal a secret |
| *Piece of cake* | Very easy |

**✅ Why Learn Idioms?**

* Idioms are common in everyday conversation, movies, and books.
* Understanding idioms helps you grasp the “real” meaning behind expressions.

**⚠️ Note:**

Idioms can’t usually be translated word-for-word.  
E.g., *It's raining cats and dogs* means “It’s raining heavily,” not that animals are falling from the sky.

**Practice Activity**

**Part 1: Identify the Type**

Say whether each phrase is a **collocation** or an **idiom**.

1. Catch a cold
2. Let the cat out of the bag
3. Heavy traffic
4. Bite the bullet
5. Strong tea

**Part 2: Match the Idiom to Its Meaning**

| **Idiom** | **Meaning** |
| --- | --- |
| A. Once in a blue moon | 1. Reveal a secret |
| B. Kill two birds with one stone | 2. Rarely |
| C. Spill the beans | 3. Achieve two things at once |

Write the correct match:  
6. A → \_\_  
7. B → \_\_  
8. C → \_\_