11 What Might You Do?

In this exercise you’ll have to think about how words work together. Helping learners with words that are frequently and typically found with certain other words is one of the main aims of the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English:

- Word combinations are highlighted throughout the text.
- At key dictionary entries Collocation Boxes list word combinations with definitions where necessary, together with example phrases which show these words in a natural context.

The CD-ROM gives you instant access to all the most common word combinations in a special “Phrase bank”. And you can test yourself by clicking “Exercises” at the top of the screen.

Read through the following questions and choose the logical answers. For each question, there may be more than one correct answer. For example, in question 1, you can make money or make an effort, and something can make a change, but you do the laundry, do an experiment, and do a job.

1. Which of the following might you make?
   a) money  b) the laundry  c) an effort  d) an experiment  e) a job  f) a change

2. Which of the following might you do?
   a) an appointment  b) your best  c) the laundry  d) an accusation  e) your homework  f) your duty

3. Which of the following might you form?
   a) a committee  b) a circle  c) a strategy  d) a government  e) a leader  f) a line

4. Which of the following might you construct?
   a) a tree  b) a building  c) a scream  d) an argument  e) a detail  f) a fence

5. Which of the following might you perform?
   a) music  b) business  c) a function  d) a kind act  e) medicine  f) surgery

6. Which of the following might you commit?
   a) a serious crime  b) an act of kindness  c) facts to memory  d) death  e) suicide  f) a felony

7. Which of the following might you conduct?
   a) a study  b) an error  c) an orchestra  d) an investigation  e) a party  f) electricity

8. Which of the following might you develop?
   a) a fact  b) an idea  c) film  d) time  e) a product  f) a hypothesis
Teacher’s Notes

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Time: 25 minutes

Aims:

To improve understanding of certain verb-object word combinations (collocations).

To prepare students for TOEFL®/TOEIC® examinations.

1. Introduce the activity by giving some examples of acceptable and unacceptable collocations. (You can tell the truth but not “tell the facts”. You can express ideas but not “express your name”)

2. Ask the students to work on their own and select the answers that they think are logical.

3. Divide the students into groups, where they can share, compare, and discuss their answers with other learners.

4. Tell the students to check their dictionaries for typical word combinations. Encourage them to think about which word to look up (e.g. “make” or “money” for the phrase make money?).

5. Ask the class to come up with a variety of other typical objects that can follow each of these verbs.

Answers:

1. a, c, f
2. b, c, e, f
3. a, b, c, d, f
4. b, d, f
5. a, c, d, f
6. a, c, e, f
7. a, c, d, f
8. b, c, e, f