

## How can we use *sustainable* in a sentence? – Getting to know the “Collocates”-function (Worksheet B)



### What are collocations?

Words often appear together with certain other words, and there are certain words that don't come together. For example, the word *sense* often appears with the word *make* – *make sense*, making it a collocation. The collocation function of [www.english-corpora.org](http://www.english-corpora.org) helps us to find words that often appear together with the particular word we are searching for. In this way, it helps us to use the right words together to make our language more authentic.

### Step-by-Step-Guide:

1. Go to [www.english-corpora.org](http://www.english-corpora.org) and make sure you are logged in. Click on “Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA)”.
2. In the blue box click on the left, click on “+” and then on “Collocates”.
3. In the first field, type in the word you want to find collocations for. Note that you can only type in one word (e.g. *public transport*: type in “transport”). Leave the second field blank.
4. In the grid below, click on “4” to the left and “4” to the right. All fields from 1 to 4 should be green now.
5. Click on “Texts/Virtual” (written in grey below the grid) and select your “sustainability” corpus.
6. Click on “Find collocates”.
7. A page with four tables will pop up: one each for nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs. The words you see here are words that often appear together with the word you searched for. Browse through the list and look for words that you think might be interesting for your project. Do NOT click on the word!
8. Once you find a word, click on the little text symbol in the left column of the table next to your word. Now you should see the concordance lines with two words highlighted in green in each line: the word you searched for and the word you chose from the list. Here, you can find examples of how to use the two words together.

### **Checklist: Finding the right collocation**

- I did not know or use this collocation before (e.g., *emission* → not *carbon emission*. ❌)
- The collocation is interesting and relevant to my project topic and I can use it in my writing.
- I understand how this collocation can be used in a sentence (look at the example sentences to find out).
- I feel confident that I can use this collocation myself.

If you are in doubt, ask a classmate or your teacher!

## How can we use *sustainable* in a sentence? – Getting to know the

### “Collocates”-function – Tasks

1. Search for collocations of the word *sustainable*. Choose **two** collocations (that means two words from the lists) that you find interesting and that you would like to use in your project. Write down the English word and the translation. 🔍

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

2. For each collocation / word, write down two example sentences from the concordance lines (remember to click on the text symbol next to the word, not on the word itself!) that show you how you can use the word in a sentence. ✎

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Write down one sentence with each collocation yourself. 📝

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_