



Vocabulary Using Cobuild

The Collins Cobuild English Dictionary is a store of information and is the dictionary recommended for use in the Final Exam, both for the Essay and the Translation. However, the best dictionary in the world is not much good if you don't know how to use it.

This sheet has a variety of tasks and is intended as a kind of introduction to using the dictionary. The latest edition is *Collins Cobuild Advanced Learner's English Dictionary*, 4th edition, Glasgow 2003. There is a copy in my Semesterapparat.

Part (1)

Choose what you think is the right answer – quite spontaneously – without a dictionary.

(1) A friend told me that when she heard she had won a free flight to Sydney she

- passed out?
- fainted?
- swooned?
- lost consciousness?

(2) She had a wonderful trip, but unfortunately it had to be cut short because of

- a death in the family?
- death in the family?

(3) Later she went to Africa to hunt for

- a game?
- game?

(4) In which case are you saying “No“

if you impose sanctions on something
if you sanction something

(5) In which of the following did the man end up in the police station?

She turned him off
She turned him on
She turned him in
She turned him out
She turned him down

(6) What is the difference between “a clap“ and “the clap“?

(7) Which of these could cause offence?

Almighty God
God Almighty

(8) On which syllable does the main stress go?

category
analysis
vary

(9) in America people would say that trains have

coaches?
carriages?
cars?

(10) If you hate overcrowded trains you should avoid

to travel at weekends?
travelling at weekends?

(11) If your bus to the University has just been late for the fifth day running
would you probably be feeling

jumpy?
irritated?
nervous?

(12) British Rail announced that due to exceptional snowfalls masses of snow
had to be

shoveled?
shovelled?

away before trains could leave Inverness.

(13) Which of the following means “You need to think about it“ and which means “Don’t think about it any more“?

You have to stop to think about it
You have to stop thinking about it

(14) Which is / are correct?

When I was in Wales	I experienced that ...
	I made the experience that ...
	I found that ...

Part (2)

Which of the above questions would you expect to be able to solve with the help of an English-English dictionary?

Now use the **Collins Cobuild**. See if you can find a clear answer to the questions. If you haven’t got a copy of the Cobuild yet, you can use the one in my Semesterapparat.

Part (3)

So what kinds of information does the Cobuild give you?

Make a list here:

Part (4)

Do you know any meanings of the words “mum“ and “staggering“ and “corn“?

Look in the Cobuild, see if you can find the right meaning of these words in the following contexts:

Pumpkins are often used to decorate the front porches, along with colorful Indian corn and potted **mums**.

My **corn** is absolutely killing me.

England does not have the sensible Scottish custom of **staggering** holidays and having different times for different cities.

Part (5)

How would you say the following in English? Use the Cobuild to help you.

Wann schreiben wir den Test?
Ich bin gern in der Natur.
Das Buch ist nicht im Regal.

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