

# Quiznet

Adjective and noun collocations



# BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH



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**Quiz topic: Adjective and noun collocations**

1. Which of the following adjective – noun collocations is NOT possible?
  - a) A strong exam
  - b) A strong woman
  - c) A strong cheese
  - d) A strong cigarette
  
2. Which of the following adjective – noun collocations is NOT possible?
  - a) A heavy smoker
  - b) Heavy rain
  - c) Heavy metal
  - d) A heavy problem
  
3. Which of the following adjective – noun collocations is NOT possible?
  - a) fair hair
  - b) A fair decision
  - c) A fair beer
  - d) A fair result
  
4. Which is NOT correct? They always drank \_\_\_\_\_ wine with their dinner.
  - a) red
  - b) pink
  - c) white
  - d) sweet
  
5. Which of the following adjective – noun collocations is NOT possible?
  - a) A rich company
  - b) A rich dessert
  - c) A rich car
  - d) A rich text file
  
6. Which of the following adjective – noun collocations is NOT possible?
  - a) A tough decision
  - b) A tough steak
  - c) Tough drink
  - d) A tough woman

**Answers:**

1. Which of the following adjective – noun collocations is NOT possible?

- e) **A strong exam**
- f) A strong woman
- g) A strong cheese
- h) A strong cigarette

**If an exam is difficult you can say ‘a hard exam’.**

A strong woman might be referring to her physical strength or her personality.

A strong cheese has lots of flavour.

A strong cigarette might make you cough.

2. Which of the following adjective – noun collocations is NOT possible?

- e) A heavy smoker
- f) Heavy rain
- g) Heavy metal
- h) **A heavy problem**

A heavy smoker smokes a lot.

If it's pouring with rain you can describe it as heavy rain, or you can say it's raining heavily.

Heavy metal is a type of rock music.

**A problem can be serious but not heavy.**

3. Which of the following adjective – noun collocations is NOT possible?

- e) fair hair
- f) A fair decision
- g) **A fair beer**
- h) A fair result

'Fair hair' describes hair which is not dark.

A fair decision is one which is balanced and just.

**If you order a fair beer the barman will not understand; ask for a pint of lager!**

A fair result is when the outcome of a sporting event is justified, e.g. That was a fair result, the best team won

4. Which is NOT correct? They always drank \_\_\_\_\_ wine with their dinner.
- e) red
  - f) **pink**
  - g) white
  - h) sweet

'Red wine' is correct English

**'Pink wine' is not correct English; you say 'Rose wine' (but remember to pronounce the 'e' at the end - it's not a flower!)**

'White wine' is correct English.

'Sweet wine' is correct English, the opposite of dry wine.

5. Which of the following adjective – noun collocations is NOT possible?
- e) A rich company
  - f) A rich dessert
  - g) **A rich car**
  - h) A rich text file

A rich company is one with a lot of money

Toffee pudding and ice-cream is a rich dessert – if you eat too much you feel sick.

**You might be rich and have an expensive car, but the car can't be rich.**

A rich text file is a type of document format you can use when you write something on your computer – very technical!

6. Which of the following adjective – noun collocations is NOT possible?
- e) A tough decision
  - f) A tough steak
  - g) **Tough drink**
  - h) A tough woman

A tough decision is a difficult decision.

A tough steak is difficult to chew.

**If a drink is very alcoholic we call it a 'strong' drink**

If you have to face a lot of difficulties in life, it can make you tough.

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