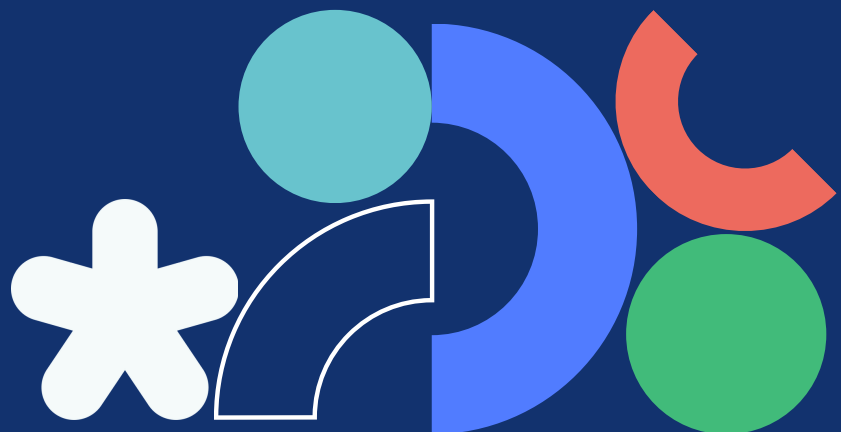




THE 200 MUST-KNOW PTE COLLOCATIONS

Bonus download for Video 4: PTE Reading 2026: Collocations & Academic Vocabulary

Curated from Pearson's 2,469-entry Academic Collocation List for the PTE Academic 2026 format. Organised by collocation type, with example sentences and a note on which PTE section each one most commonly appears in.





HOW TO USE THIS LIST

1. **Don't try to learn all 200 at once.** The Journal Method (5 per day for 21 days) is built into this PDF - use it.
2. Focus on **recognising word pairs**, not memorising definitions.
3. Use the **Fill in the Blanks workbook** at the end to test yourself.
4. Re-visit this PDF every week - collocation recall improves with spaced repetition.

PTE section abbreviations used below:

- **R** = Reading Fill in the Blanks (drag-and-drop)
- **RW** = Reading & Writing Fill in the Blanks (dropdown)
- **W** = Essay / Summarize Written Text
- **S** = Describe Image / Retell Lecture
- **L** = Summarize Spoken Text / Write from Dictation



SECTION 1 - ADJECTIVE + NOUN (50 collocations)

Most common collocation type in PTE Reading FIB. Watch for near-synonym traps.

#	Collocation	Example sentence	Common in
1	significant impact	The policy had a significant impact on poverty rates.	RW, W
2	growing concern	There is growing concern about data privacy.	R, W
3	widespread belief	There is a widespread belief that exercise improves mood.	RW
4	crucial role	Bees play a crucial role in pollination.	RW, S
5	key factor	Education is a key factor in economic mobility.	R, RW
6	fundamental principle	Equality is a fundamental principle of democratic societies.	W
7	major challenge	Climate change poses a major challenge for coastal cities.	RW, W
8	potential benefits	Researchers highlighted the potential benefits of AI in medicine.	RW
9	extensive research	Extensive research has linked sleep to memory consolidation.	RW, W
10	robust evidence	There is robust evidence that smoking causes lung disease.	R



SECTION 1 - ADJECTIVE + NOUN (50 collocations)

#	Collocation	Example sentence	Common in
11	common practice	Recycling has become a common practice in modern cities.	RW
12	urgent need	There is an urgent need for investment in public transport.	W, S
13	comprehensive review	The report provides a comprehensive review of the sector.	RW
14	broad consensus	There is a broad consensus among scientists on this issue.	R
15	substantial increase	The data showed a substantial increase in solar installations.	S, RW
16	rapid growth	The region has seen rapid growth in its technology sector.	S, RW
17	critical issue	Water scarcity is a critical issue in arid regions.	W
18	vital importance	Sleep is of vital importance for cognitive performance.	W, S
19	complex process	Protein synthesis is a complex process.	RW
20	long-term effects	The study examined the long-term effects of early education.	W
21	short-term gains	Short-term gains often come at the cost of long-term stability.	W



SECTION 1 - ADJECTIVE + NOUN (50 collocations)

#	Collocation	Example sentence	Common in
22	primary source	Solar energy is a primary source of renewable power.	R, RW
23	secondary source	Journal articles are secondary sources in historical research.	R
24	central argument	The central argument of the paper is well-supported.	RW, W
25	leading cause	Smoking is a leading cause of preventable death.	RW, S
26	distinct advantage	Electric vehicles offer a distinct advantage in emissions.	RW
27	inherent risk	There is an inherent risk in any new technology.	W
28	remarkable achievement	The telescope's launch was a remarkable achievement.	RW, S
29	lasting impact	The reforms had a lasting impact on public education.	W, S
30	immediate consequences	The storm had immediate consequences for local infrastructure.	W
31	valuable insights	The report offered valuable insights into consumer trends.	RW
32	reasonable explanation	The researcher provided a reasonable explanation for the results.	W



SECTION 1 - ADJECTIVE + NOUN (50 collocations)

#	Collocation	Example sentence	Common in
33	plausible hypothesis	The plausible hypothesis is that temperature drives migration.	R
34	compelling argument	The author makes a compelling argument for reform.	W
35	severe limitations	The study had severe limitations in sample size.	RW
36	notable exception	Denmark is a notable exception to this European trend.	RW
37	striking contrast	There is a striking contrast between urban and rural outcomes.	S, RW
38	significant challenge	Retention of older workers remains a significant challenge.	W
39	relevant information	The report contains all the relevant information.	R
40	accurate data	The analysis requires accurate data from multiple sources.	RW
41	sustainable development	Sustainable development balances growth with environmental care.	W, RW
42	valuable insights	The report offered valuable insights into consumer trends.	RW
43	academic performance	Sleep quality is linked to academic performance.	RW, W



SECTION 1 - ADJECTIVE + NOUN (50 collocations)

#	Collocation	Example sentence	Common in
44	economic growth	Economic growth has slowed in several advanced economies.	S, RW
45	cultural diversity	Cultural diversity is a strength of modern universities.	W
46	global trade	Global trade patterns have shifted since 2020.	RW
47	social inequality	Social inequality remains a pressing concern.	W
48	public awareness	Campaigns aim to raise public awareness of recycling.	RW
49	human behaviour	Human behaviour is shaped by both genetics and environment.	W
50	natural resources	Many economies depend heavily on natural resources.	RW, W



SECTION 2 - VERB + NOUN (50 collocations)

Classic trap territory. Note which verb pairs with each noun.

#	Collocation	Example sentence	Common in
51	conduct research	The team conducted research on deep-sea ecosystems.	RW, S
52	raise awareness	The initiative aims to raise awareness of mental health.	RW
53	reach a consensus	The committee reached a consensus after long debate.	RW
54	reach a conclusion	The researchers reached a conclusion after three years.	RW, W
55	draw a conclusion	We cannot yet draw a firm conclusion from limited data.	RW
56	draw attention	The study draws attention to inequality in healthcare.	RW, S
57	provide evidence	The fossil record provides evidence of rapid evolution.	RW
58	provide insight	The research provides insight into consumer decision-making.	RW
59	play a role	Language plays a role in shaping cultural identity.	RW, S
60	pose a threat	Invasive species pose a threat to local biodiversity.	RW, W
61	pose a challenge	Aging populations pose a challenge for healthcare systems.	W



SECTION 2 - VERB + NOUN (50 collocations)

#	Collocation	Example sentence	Common in
62	take action	Governments must take action on climate change.	W
63	take measures	The company took measures to reduce emissions.	RW
64	make progress	The team has made significant progress on the project.	RW
65	make a decision	Investors must make a decision based on available information.	RW
66	make a contribution	She made a major contribution to the field.	W
67	express an opinion	Participants were invited to express an opinion.	W
68	carry out a study	Researchers carried out a study on urban sleep patterns.	RW. S
69	gather information	The survey gathered information from 5,000 households.	R
70	obtain permission	Researchers obtained permission before contacting participants.	W
71	launch a campaign	The charity launched a campaign to improve literacy.	RW
72	implement a policy	The city implemented a policy to reduce plastic waste.	RW
73	adopt an approach	The school adopted a new approach to assessment.	W



SECTION 2 - VERB + NOUN (50 collocations)

#	Collocation	Example sentence	Common in
74	achieve a goal	Most students struggle to achieve this goal without support.	W
75	meet a target	The company failed to meet its emissions target.	RW
76	meet demand	Supply could not meet demand during the peak season.	RW
77	meet a need	The new service aims to meet a growing need.	RW
78	overcome obstacles	Startups often have to overcome significant obstacles.	W
79	tackle a problem	Policymakers must tackle the problem of affordable housing.	W
80	address an issue	The report addresses the issue of workplace stress.	RW
81	face challenges	Rural hospitals face particular challenges with staffing.	W, S
82	solve a problem	Technology alone cannot solve this problem.	W
83	ask a question	The journalist asked a direct question.	R
84	answer a question	The spokesperson refused to answer the question.	R
85	raise a question	These results raise important questions about the method.	RW



SECTION 2 - VERB + NOUN (50 collocations)

#	Collocation	Example sentence	Common in
86	give an example	Let me give an example of how this works in practice.	S
87	set an example	The CEO wanted to set an example through her actions.	W
88	follow a pattern	The migration follows a predictable seasonal pattern.	RW
89	break a record	The athlete broke the world record in 2023.	RW
90	save time	Using templates can save time during preparation.	W
91	save money	Switching suppliers could save the business money.	W
92	spend time	They spend time reviewing every submission.	W
93	gain experience	Interns gain valuable experience during placement.	W
94	gain access	Only authorised staff gain access to the database.	RW
95	lose interest	Students lose interest when lessons are not engaging.	W
96	pay attention	Drivers must pay attention to road conditions.	W
97	take responsibility	Managers should take responsibility for their decisions.	W



SECTION 2 - VERB + NOUN (50 collocations)

#	Collocation	Example sentence	Common in
98	take advantage	Some companies take advantage of tax loopholes.	W
99	take risks	Successful entrepreneurs take calculated risks.	W
100	meet expectations	The film failed to meet audience expectations.	RW



SECTION 3 - NOUN + NOUN (25 collocations)

Compound nouns that function as single concepts. Very common in PTE Reading.

#	Collocation	Example sentence	Common in
101	climate change	Climate change is reshaping coastal ecosystems.	RW, W, S
102	population growth	Population growth places pressure on urban services.	RW, S
103	market demand	Market demand for electric vehicles is rising quickly.	S, RW
104	consumer behaviour	Consumer behaviour has shifted since the pandemic.	W
105	policy framework	A robust policy framework is essential for implementation.	RW, W
106	research findings	The research findings were published in Nature.	RW
107	data analysis	The report includes detailed data analysis.	RW
108	supply chain	Global supply chains were disrupted during the crisis.	S, RW
109	income inequality	Income inequality has widened in many developed economies.	W
110	gender equality	Gender equality remains a key policy objective.	W
111	human rights	Human rights principles underpin the convention.	W



SECTION 3 - NOUN + NOUN (25 collocations)

#	Collocation	Example sentence	Common in
112	public opinion	Public opinion has shifted on this issue.	RW
113	government policy	Government policy has strongly favoured renewable energy.	W
114	market value	The company's market value has doubled since 2022.	RW, S
115	job opportunity	The region offers many job opportunities in technology.	W
116	life expectancy	Life expectancy has risen steadily in most countries.	S, W
117	risk factor	Smoking is a major risk factor for heart disease.	RW
118	case study	The report includes a case study of Copenhagen.	RW
119	time frame	The project has a tight time frame.	W
120	role model	Teachers serve as role models for young students.	W
121	peer pressure	Peer pressure strongly influences adolescent behaviour.	W
122	quality control	Strict quality control is essential in manufacturing.	RW
123	customer service	Good customer service builds brand loyalty.	W



SECTION 3 - NOUN + NOUN (25 collocations)

#	Collocation	Example sentence	Common in
124	family background	Family background influences educational outcomes.	RW
125	decision-making	Decision-making under uncertainty is a core skill.	W



SECTION 4 - ADVERB + ADJECTIVE (25 collocations)

Amplifiers and qualifiers. Common in academic prose.

#	Collocation	Example sentence	Common in
126	highly effective	The intervention was highly effective.	RW, W
127	highly controversial	The policy remains highly controversial.	W
128	widely recognised	Her work is widely recognised in the field.	RW
129	widely accepted	The theory is widely accepted among biologists.	RW
130	deeply rooted	The tradition is deeply rooted in local culture.	W
131	deeply concerned	Residents are deeply concerned about flooding.	W
132	closely linked	The two variables are closely linked.	RW, S
133	closely related	These species are closely related.	R
134	extremely important	Early detection is extremely important.	W
135	extremely difficult	Quitting smoking can be extremely difficult.	W
136	fundamentally different	The two models are fundamentally different.	RW



SECTION 4 - ADVERB + ADJECTIVE (25 collocations)

#	Collocation	Example sentence	Common in
137	fundamentally changed	The internet has fundamentally changed how we communicate.	W, S
138	significantly higher	Rural infection rates were significantly higher.	S, RW
139	significantly lower	The new design has significantly lower energy use.	S, RW
140	perfectly suited	The soil is perfectly suited to vineyards.	RW
141	entirely dependent	The region is entirely dependent on seasonal tourism.	W
142	partly responsible	Industrial emissions are partly responsible for smog.	W
143	directly involved	The CEO was directly involved in the negotiations.	RW
144	strongly influenced	The painter was strongly influenced by Impressionism.	RW
145	strictly prohibited	Smoking is strictly prohibited in all public buildings.	RW
146	relatively stable	The economy has remained relatively stable	S, RW
147	remarkably similar	The two languages are remarkably similar.	RW
148	increasingly popular	Electric bikes are becoming increasingly popular.	RW, S



SECTION 4 - ADVERB + ADJECTIVE (25 collocations)

#	Collocation	Example sentence	Common in
149	readily available	Information is now readily available online.	W
150	universally acknowledged	The threat is universally acknowledged by experts.	W



SECTION 5 - ADJECTIVE + PREPOSITION (20 collocations)

The preposition is often the blank. You must know the pair - logic won't save you.

#	Collocation	Example sentence	Common in
151	aware of	Investors should be aware of the risks.	RW
152	consistent with	The data is consistent with earlier studies.	RW, W
153	responsible for	Local councils are responsible for waste collection.	W
154	subject to	All applications are subject to review.	RW
155	dependent on	The economy is dependent on seasonal tourism.	W
156	opposed to	Many residents are opposed to the new proposal.	RW
157	relevant to	These findings are relevant to urban planners.	W
158	similar to	This method is similar to previous approaches.	RW
159	essential to	Good sleep is essential to cognitive function.	W, S
160	vulnerable to	Coastal cities are vulnerable to flooding.	W, S
161	capable of	The new device is capable of measuring at nano-scale.	RW



SECTION 5 - ADJECTIVE + PREPOSITION (20 collocations)

#	Collocation	Example sentence	Common in
162	typical of	This behaviour is typical of the species.	R
163	critical of	The report was critical of current regulations.	RW
164	familiar with	Students should be familiar with the format.	W
165	different from	This approach is different from traditional methods.	RW
166	compatible with	The software is compatible with most systems.	RW
167	accessible to	The service is accessible to everyone.	W
168	beneficial to	Exercise is beneficial to both body and mind.	W
169	suitable for	This material is suitable for outdoor use.	RW
170	proud of	The team is proud of their achievement.	W



SECTION 6 - VERB + PREPOSITION (20 collocations)

Another preposition-trap zone. Learn as fixed pairs.

#	Collocation	Example sentence	Common in
171	contribute to	Regular exercise contributes to mental health.	RW, W
172	result in	The policy resulted in lower emissions.	RW, W
173	rely on	Many communities rely on seasonal rainfall.	RW, W
174	depend on	The outcome depends on cooperation.	W
175	account for	This factor accounts for most of the variation.	RW, S
176	focus on	The chapter focuses on industrial policy.	W
177	refer to	The author refers to several classic studies.	RW
178	deal with	The book deals with environmental law.	W
179	cope with	Families struggle to cope with rising costs.	W
180	benefit from	Students benefit from small class sizes.	W
181	suffer from	Many elderly people suffer from chronic loneliness.	W



SECTION 6 - VERB + PREPOSITION (20 collocations)

#	Collocation	Example sentence	Common in
182	participate in	Students participate in weekly discussions.	RW
183	engage in	Children engage in creative play naturally.	W
184	agree with	The critics largely agree with the conclusion.	W
185	apply for	Candidates must apply for a visa in advance.	W
186	consist of	The team consists of five researchers.	RW
187	succeed in	The startup succeeded in entering the market.	W
188	interfere with	Noise can interfere with concentration.	W
189	specialise in	The firm specialises in renewable energy.	W
190	care for	The program cares for vulnerable children.	RW



SECTION 7 - NOUN + PREPOSITION **(10 collocations)**

Hugely common in data and comparison passages.

#	Collocation	Example sentence	Common in
191	an increase in	There was an increase in public investment.	S, RW
192	a decline in	The report showed a decline in readership.	S, RW
193	a rise in	A rise in global temperatures has been recorded.	S, RW
194	a fall in	A fall in employment followed the closures.	S, RW
195	approach to	The new approach to treatment shows promise.	W
196	access to	Equal access to education is a key objective.	W
197	demand for	Demand for sustainable products continues to grow.	RW, S
198	response to	The rapid response to the outbreak saved lives.	W
199	lack of	A lack of data hampered the investigation.	W
200	alternative to	Cycling is a healthy alternative to driving.	W



THE JOURNAL METHOD - DAILY TEMPLATE

Pick 5 collocations per day for 21 days. Copy this template into your notebook and fill it in.

Date: _____

Collocation 1: _____

Type (Adj+N, V+N, etc.): _____

Sentence from an article: _____

My OWN sentence (about my life): _____

Collocation 2: _____

Type: _____

Sentence from an article: _____

My OWN sentence: _____

Collocation 3: _____

Type: _____

Sentence from an article: _____

My OWN sentence: _____

Collocation 4: _____

Type: _____

Sentence from an article: _____

My OWN sentence: _____

Collocation 5: _____

Type: _____

Sentence from an article: _____

My OWN sentence: _____

The personal sentence is the secret ingredient. Connecting a new phrase to your own life tags it as important in your memory and makes it stick.



FILL IN THE BLANKS PRACTICE WORKBOOK (30 questions)

Pick the word that makes the strongest collocation. Answers at the end.

Questions 1–10 (Adjective + Noun)

1. The new legislation had a _____ impact on recycling rates.
a) big b) significant c) strong d) heavy
2. There is _____ concern about declining bee populations.
a) rising b) growing c) increasing d) bigger
3. Vaccines play a _____ role in public health.
a) crucial b) very big c) main d) important
4. The scientist provided _____ evidence for the theory.
a) strong b) robust c) heavy d) thick
5. Climate change represents a _____ challenge for coastal cities.
a) big b) large c) major d) important
6. The article offers _____ insights into consumer behaviour.
a) valuable b) precious c) expensive d) nice
7. The approach shows _____ promise in early trials.
a) great b) considerable c) heavy d) strong
8. A _____ consensus has emerged on this issue.
a) wide b) broad c) big d) large
9. The region has seen _____ growth in clean energy.
a) quick b) rapid c) speedy d) swift
10. There is an _____ need for affordable housing.
a) urgent b) immediate c) quick d) fast



FILL IN THE BLANKS PRACTICE WORKBOOK (30 questions)

Questions 11–20 (Verb + Noun)

11. The team will _____ research on marine ecosystems.
a) do b) make c) conduct d) perform
12. The charity aims to _____ awareness of homelessness.
a) make b) create c) raise d) build
13. We cannot yet _____ a firm conclusion from the data.
a) make b) reach c) take d) do
14. The government must _____ action on air pollution.
a) make b) take c) do d) have
15. Invasive species _____ a threat to native wildlife.
a) pose b) make c) have d) bring
16. The report _____ attention to workplace inequality.
a) brings b) pulls c) draws d) calls
17. Small businesses often struggle to _____ targets.
a) reach b) meet c) achieve d) hit
18. The school _____ a new approach to language learning.
a) took b) adopted c) had d) took on
19. Policymakers must _____ the problem of regional inequality.
a) fix b) repair c) tackle d) handle
20. New research _____ evidence of early agriculture in Asia.
a) gives b) shows c) provides d) makes



FILL IN THE BLANKS PRACTICE WORKBOOK (30 questions)

Questions 21–30 (Prepositions and mixed)

21. The findings are consistent _____ earlier studies.
a) to b) with c) of d) at
22. Local councils are responsible _____ waste collection.
a) for b) of c) with d) on
23. All applications are subject _____ review.
a) to b) of c) with d) for
24. Good sleep is essential _____ cognitive function.
a) of b) for c) to d) with
25. The outcome depends _____ the weather.
a) of b) at c) on d) from
26. Exercise contributes _____ overall wellbeing.
a) for b) to c) with d) in
27. There was a sharp increase _____ online shopping in 2020.
a) of b) in c) for d) at
28. The team specialises _____ marine biology.
a) on b) at c) in d) for
29. Demand _____ renewable energy has risen steadily.
a) of b) for c) to d) with
30. These species are closely _____.
a) linked b) related c) connected d) paired



FILL IN THE BLANKS PRACTICE WORKBOOK (30 questions)

ANSWERS

1. b) significant impact
2. b) growing concern
3. a) crucial role
4. b) robust evidence
5. c) major challenge
6. a) valuable insights
7. b) considerable promise (also "show great promise" is fine, but "considerable" is the stronger collocation)
8. b) broad consensus
9. b) rapid growth
10. a) urgent need
11. c) conduct research
12. c) raise awareness
13. b) reach a conclusion
14. b) take action
15. a) pose a threat
16. c) draws attention
17. b) meet targets
18. b) adopted
19. c) tackle
20. c) provides
21. b) with (consistent with)
22. a) for (responsible for)
23. a) to (subject to)
24. c) to (essential to)
25. c) on (depends on)
26. b) to (contributes to)
27. b) in (increase in)
28. c) in (specialises in)
29. b) for (demand for)
30. b) related (closely related - all are possible, but "closely related" is the fixed academic collocation)



YOUR 3-WEEK ROADMAP

Week 1 - Foundation (Days 1-7)

- Day 1: Section 1, collocations 1-5 (Journal Method)
- Day 2: Section 1, collocations 6-10
- Day 3: Section 1, collocations 11-15
- Day 4: Section 1, collocations 16-20
- Day 5: Section 1, collocations 21-25
- Day 6: Section 1, collocations 26-30
- Day 7: Section 1, collocations 31-35 + re-read all

Week 2 - Building (Days 8-14)

- Day 8: Section 1, 36-40
- Day 9: Section 1, 41-45
- Day 10: Section 1, 46-50 + Section 2, 51-55
- Day 11: Section 2, 56-65
- Day 12: Section 2, 66-75
- Day 13: Section 2, 76-85
- Day 14: Section 2, 86-100 + re-read all

Week 3 - Completing (Days 15-21)

- Day 15: Section 3, 101-125 (Noun+Noun - these come quickly)
- Day 16: Section 4, 126-150 (Adverb+Adjective)
- Day 17: Section 5, 151-170 (Adjective+Preposition) - HIGH PRIORITY
- Day 18: Section 6, 171-190 (Verb+Preposition) - HIGH PRIORITY
- Day 19: Section 7, 191-200 (Noun+Preposition)
- Day 20: Fill in the Blanks workbook (30 questions)
- Day 21: Re-read weak-spot collocations, re-do workbook



KEEP GOING

You now have the 200 collocations that turn PTE Reading Fill in the Blanks from a coin flip into a skill-based task.

Pair this with the other videos in the series (SWT, SST, and Describe Image + Retell Lecture) for your full 2026 preparation set.

You can do this! 💪



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