

A Talking about thoughts

I honestly **think** we can win the match tonight. [NOT I ~~strongly~~ think]

I'm not sure if I want to invest in your business or not, but I'll **give it some thought**.

Bear in mind that there are often delays to flights during bad weather. [remember]

It's **common knowledge** that Jane is looking for a new job. [everyone knows]

My teenage son hasn't yet **grasped the importance of** revising for exams. [understood how important something is]

I **take the view** that we are all responsible for our own actions. [believe]

It's a **foregone conclusion** that Jaime will win the race. [absolutely certain]

I'm not quite sure what I'm going to do but I've got a **rough idea**. [general idea]

I don't **subscribe to the theory** that nature and nurture are of equal significance but it is now a **widespread belief**. [hold that opinion]; [generally held view]

Opinions are divided as to whether mothers of young children should go out to work or not, but it is my **firm conviction** that different things suit different families. [people hold different views]; [I am totally convinced]



We say I am **becoming aware** of the problem, NOT I am ~~getting~~ aware.

B Judging

collocation	example	meaning
judge someone harshly	Don't judge him too harshly . He really couldn't have done things differently.	be very critical of someone
poor judgement	Deciding to set up a business now shows poor judgement of the economic situation.	
pass judgement on	Di's quick to pass judgement on other people but she's far from perfect herself.	criticise
against your better judgement	I finally agreed to go out with him, against my better judgement .	despite the knowledge that something is a bad idea
a lack of judgement	His approach to his children showed a lack of judgement .	an inability to judge a situation wisely
an error of judgement	Promoting Alec was a serious error of judgement .	bad decision

C Metaphors of thinking

We can talk about **thinking laterally** [approaching a problem in an imaginative and original way rather than using a traditional approach]. We can say someone has a **fertile imagination** [one that produces lots of original and interesting ideas]. We can **wrestle with a problem** [struggle to find a solution] and we can have a **nagging doubt** [an unpleasant feeling of doubt that will not go away]. We can also talk about something **fuelling speculation** [encouraging people to consider that something may be true], and sometimes people **jump to conclusions** [guess the facts about a situation without having enough information].

Exercises

14.1 Look at A. Correct the collocation errors in these sentences.

1 Opinions are separated on the issue of single-sex schools and there are sound arguments on both sides of the case.

2 I believe that the government will win another term in office but my girlfriend takes a different opinion.

3 I strongly think that you'd be making a serious mistake if you took that job.

4 I don't believe it's a foregone fact that the larger company will win the contract.

5 People are gradually getting aware of the problem of climate change.

6 You should bear in thought that your visitors will be tired after their long flight.

7 I've got a raw idea of what I want to say in my essay but I haven't planned it properly yet.

8 Increasing numbers of people today subscribe for the theory that small is beautiful.

14.2 Complete the paragraph using words from the box.

error firm grasped laterally pass poor



Recent research shows that people who spend time meditating each day improve their mental abilities. It seems that meditation particularly enhances our ability to think in creative, unusual ways, in other words, to think 'outside the box' or think (1) It may, then, have been an unfortunate (2) of judgement on the part of the management at BNM and Co. to put a stop to the yoga classes that staff had organised for their lunch-breaks.

'It would seem that our managers have not yet (3) the importance of these classes,' explained yoga instructor Zandra, 'but it is not my place to (4) judgement on them. Their judgement may be (5) at the moment but it is my (6) conviction that as people come to understand yoga better, they will see how it could benefit the company as well as individual members of staff.'

14.3 Rewrite each sentence using the word in brackets.

- It's unwise to draw conclusions too quickly about people's motives. (JUMP)
- Everyone knows that Ellie has been taking money from the till. (COMMON)
- I agreed to help him though I knew it was wrong. (AGAINST)
- I'm afraid your decisions show you are unable to judge situations well. (LACK)
- We have to decide when to have the party. Can you think about it? (THOUGHT)
- I think you are being too critical of him. Remember he's only 18. (HARSHLY)
- Surprisingly, a large number of people believe left-handed people are more intelligent. (WIDESPREAD)

14.4 Use a dictionary to find frequent collocations with these words. Your collocations can use the words literally or metaphorically.



- 1 a fertile 2 to fuel 3 to wrestle with 4 a nagging

14.5 Use a dictionary or an online corpus (see Unit 4) to decide whether these are common collocations or not.



- 1 bear in memory 2 personal conviction 3 harshly treated 4 a rough belief

- 13.3** 1 stay the course 4 relieved of his duties
 2 get the sack 5 take industrial action / stage a strike
 3 a living wage 6 narrow the list down

13.4 *Author's answers:*

- 1 I suppose that copying materials and collating pages could be called menial work.
- 2 I certainly hope that it will.
- 3 As someone who does a lot of freelance work, I work a lot of unsocial hours. I get up early to work at my computer, for example. But it is my own choice and not imposed on me by an employer, so I don't mind it. The plus side is that I can have a long lunch with a friend whenever I want to.
- 4 When I was working at a language school, there was quite a high turnover of staff as teachers often used to go off and work in different countries.
- 5 When I was teaching in a language school, I often did overtime – taking students on excursions and so on. It was paid.
- 6 No, I haven't. I feel superstitious about it. I worry that if I pretend to be ill then I will soon become ill in reality.
- 7 I haven't taken industrial action but I think I might consider it if colleagues were being wrongly treated.
- 8 Yes, it is. Getting a book ready for publication is very much a team effort.
- 9 As a freelancer I sometimes have a heavy workload and sometimes I don't. It can be quite difficult to spread my work in a balanced way.

Unit 14

- 14.1** 1 Opinions are **divided** on the issue of single-sex schools and there are sound arguments on both sides of the case.
 2 I believe that the government will win another term in office but my girlfriend takes a different **view**. [or ... has a different opinion.]
 3 I **honestly/really** think that you'd be making a serious mistake if you took that job.
 4 I don't believe it's a **foregone conclusion** that the larger company will win the contract.
 5 People are gradually **becoming** aware of the problem of climate change.
 6 You should bear in **mind** that your visitors will be tired after their long flight.
 7 I've got a **rough** idea of what I want to say in my essay but I haven't planned it properly yet.
 8 Increasing numbers of people today subscribe to the theory that small is beautiful.
- 14.2** 1 laterally 2 error 3 grasped 4 pass 5 poor 6 firm
- 14.3** 1 It's unwise to **jump to conclusions** about people's motives.
 2 It's **common knowledge** that Ellie has been taking money from the till.
 3 I agreed to help him (though it was) **against my better judgement**.
 4 I'm afraid your decisions show a **lack of judgement**.
 5 We have to decide when to have the party. Can you **give it some thought**?
 6 I think you are **judging him too harshly**. Remember he's only 18.
 7 Surprisingly, there's a **widespread belief** that left-handed people are more intelligent.
- 14.4** 1 a fertile land / egg / soil / environment / mind / area
 2 to fuel resentment / a feeling of ... / a heating system / a vehicle (the verb is used mainly in the passive when referring to vehicles) / a debate / desire / gossip
 3 to wrestle with a decision / your conscience (Note that this verb collocates with only a small number of words.)
 4 a nagging fear / voice / pain / sense / feeling
- 14.5** The common collocations are *personal conviction* and *harshly treated*.