

CAE – COLLOCATIONS AND IDIOMS

a thing of the past
above and beyond
above board
above reproach
across the board
act your age
adrenalin buzz
against all odds
all but
all ears (to be)
all in
all in all
all or nothing
all out
all-time high
any other business
anyone who was anyone
apple of sb's eye
apple-pie order
as easy as ABC
at a conservative estimate
at a loss
at ease
at odds with
at your earliest convenience

back to basics
back to the drawing board
barking up the wrong tree
bang your head against a brick wall
be a dab hand at
bear the brunt
beat about the bush
be given to exaggeration
be held accountable
be up to it
been there and done that
beside oneself with rage
bits and pieces
black and blue
blind to
bolster your prospects
bone of contention
boom years
breakneck speed
bridge the gulf (between)
burn oneself out
by and by

chequered history
child's play
(a) cold war
colour-blind
colour-coded
colour-conscious
come to a standstill
come what may
common sense
conflict of interests
cradle-to-grave
crocodile tears
(a) cut above
cut costs
(the) cutting edge of

(the) daily grind
dance attendance on sb
(the) dawn of mankind
dawn to dusk
deaf to
deep down
disposable income
do the legwork
down and out
drive to distraction
driving force

ebb and flow
emphatic reply
extra-curricular
eye contact
eye level

fair or foul
fall by the wayside
family status
fashion statement
(the) fickle finger of fate
fight tooth and nail
first impressions
for dear life
for free
for goodness' sake
for some reason or other
for thrills and spills
free of charge
free speech
frenzied activity
from rags to riches

game of chance
get even
get off scot-free
get on like a house on fire
get the hang of sth
get your own back
give and take
give of your best
give you the edge
go the way of
go-getting
good listener
(a) good night out
(the) great outdoors
grin and bear it
grind to a halt
group loyalty
grow in leaps and bounds
guinea pig

half-price
halo effect
hanging onto sb's every word
hard-driving obsessives
have a bee in your bonnet
have a go at sth
have less/no/some say in
have the edge
have the upper hand
high and low
(the) highest bidder
hit and miss
hit the ceiling/roof
hustle and bustle

in a nutshell
in a word
in keeping with
in other words
indulge in idle fantasies
industrial relations
ins and outs of sth
it hit me (suddenly)
it never rains but it pours

keep an eye on sb/sth
keep in touch
keep your options open
kick up a fuss

land a job
laughing stock
least said soonest mended
left to chance
(the) leopard doesn't/can't
change its spots
let off steam
like water off a duck's back
like-minded
line of work
(in the) long term
look at the big picture
loss leader
luck holds out

make a bad/good impression
make a go of sth
make a point
make ends meet
make or break
make the best of
make the big time
make the most of
make time for
medium-term
meet sb half-way
mind your p's and q's
much of a muchness

needless to say
newly qualified
(a) nip in the air
nip sth in the bud
no mean feat
no sweat
not for the faint-hearted
nothing succeeds like success

odds and ends
on the basis of
on edge
on the move
on the open market
on the up and up
one-hit-wonder
opposites attract
out of sight out of mind
over and above
over the top

paint the town red
part and parcel

pay a dividend
pen-pushing
pick and choose
(a) picture is worth a thousand
words
pleased as punch
poker face
population shift
positive aspect
profit and loss
pure genius
purpose-built

rack one's brains
rain or shine
rave reviews (to receive)
reach for the sky
read a person like a book
recipe for success
recommended dosage
(the) rest is history
rock and roll
rough and ready
roundly accuse sb
ruffle sb's feathers
run smoothly

safe and sound
seal sb's fate
see eye to eye
see the light of day
see red
self-employed
self-service
send up a red flag
set to rocket
shady character
shed light on
(the) shop floor
short-term
single-minded resolution
slip of the tongue
(the) sky is the limit
smile expectantly
sorely tempted/tried
speak volumes
special offer
spoiled for choice
spring in my step
stand sb up
stand the test of time
stand to attention

staying power
steps will be taken
stop and start
straight from the horse's mouth
streetwise kid
substantial reward
success story
suffer in silence
supply and demand

tailor-made
take a dim view of
take a hint
take turns
(the) task in hand
think nothing of
through thick and thin
to and fro
top to toe
toss and turn
touch and go
track record
two heads are better than one

unresponsive to treatment
up to the mark (not quite)
up to scratch
up-market

veiled hint
vivid imagination (to have a)

wait on sb hand and foot
walk of life
waste not want not
wear and tear
wear thin
weather a storm
well and truly
whet your appetite
willy nilly
win or lose
(a) winning streak
within earshot
wolf in sheep's clothing

zero in on
zoom in on