

## HINTS OR LANGUAGE TO PRETEACH

CAE or PTE Reading and Use of language Test 1

THEME History, Philosophy and Ancient civilizations

PAR1 1

**Stark** and **striking** both take very specific collocates in academic and descriptive English. Here is a clear, high-utility list you can use directly in CAE Use of English, writing tasks, or vocabulary training.

Used for contrast, warnings, severity, or something harsh/clear.

Common adjective–noun collocations

- stark contrast
- stark difference
- stark choice
- stark warning
- stark reality
- stark reminder
- stark example
- stark divide
- stark inequality
- stark truth

Common adverb–adjective patterns

- starkly different
- starkly opposed
- starkly divided
- starkly realistic

Typical contexts

- social issues: *a stark reminder of inequality*
- academic writing: *the data shows a stark contrast between groups*
- news: *a stark warning from scientists*

## Collocations with STRIKING

Used for something visually impressive, surprising, or attention-grabbing.

### Common adjective–noun collocations

- striking similarity
- striking contrast
- striking difference
- striking feature
- striking example
- striking image
- striking resemblance
- striking pattern
- striking improvement
- striking result

### Common adverb–adjective patterns

- strikingly beautiful
- strikingly similar
- strikingly different
- strikingly effective
- strikingly clear

### Typical contexts

- visuals: *a striking image of the ceremony*
  - academic: *a striking similarity between the two theories*
  - science: *striking results in the experiment*
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Consider how these words are used in academic English.

**Create** something (make it from nothing)

1e. God created light. The artist created a masterpiece.

**Shape** something (influence the way it evolves)

le. Shakespeare shaped the English language.

Sentences with shape (history + philosophy)

- Intellectual traditions from ancient Greece continue to shape modern debates about ethics and political authority.
  - The rise of nation-states in the nineteenth century shaped the way societies understood identity and collective memory.
  - Enlightenment thinkers shaped philosophical discussions about human reason, freedom, and the limits of government.
  - Archaeological discoveries often shape historians' interpretations of how early civilisations organised power and belief.
  - Competing historical narratives shape the philosophical question of who has the authority to define truth.
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Sentences with create (history + philosophy)

- The Industrial Revolution created new social conditions that forced philosophers to reconsider the nature of labour and inequality.
  - Shifts in religious thought during the Reformation created tensions that transformed political structures across Europe.
  - The emergence of written law codes created frameworks that influenced later theories of justice and moral responsibility.
  - Encounters between different cultures created intellectual exchanges that reshaped philosophical ideas about knowledge and reality.
  - The collapse of empires often creates periods of uncertainty in which new political philosophies can emerge.
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Consider these differences:

**Story** – general basic English

**Plot** - describe a movie outline or a plan ie. The plot to kill the king

**Narrative** - spoken story telling or stories that describe journeys. Frequent in academic English.

\*\*\*\* Test hint- sometimes you might find 2 grammatically and logically correct answers, in this case the one that fits the tone of the writing will be the actually correct answer. Often this will be the more academic or formal answer but check the tone and style.

## PART 2 – prepositional collocations

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### 1. SHORT NOTICE

**Core Meaning:** Very little time before something happens.

Collocation	Example Sentence	Notes
at short notice	The meeting was cancelled at short notice.	British common; implies inconvenience.
on short notice	She agreed to travel on short notice.	American common; implies inconvenience.
called in at short notice	He was called in at short notice to replace a colleague.	Urgency + flexibility.
arrange at short notice	It is difficult to book flights at short notice.	Used when planning is expected.
cancel at short notice	The event was cancelled at short notice.	Suggests disruption.

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### 2. BEHALF

**Core Meaning:** Representing someone.

<b>Collocation</b>	<b>Example Sentence</b>	<b>Notes</b>
on behalf of	I am writing on behalf of the committee.	Formal representation.
act on behalf of	The lawyer acted on behalf of her client.	Legal/official tone.
speak on behalf of	She spoke on behalf of the team.	Used in meetings/presentations.
negotiate on behalf of	He negotiated on behalf of the union.	Business/legal context.
intervene on behalf of	The ambassador intervened on behalf of the citizens.	Protective or diplomatic action.

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### 3. QUESTION

**Core Meaning:** Doubt, inquiry, or issue.

<b>Collocation</b>	<b>Example Sentence</b>	<b>Notes</b>
raise a question	The results raise serious questions.	Introduce doubt.
pose a question	The findings pose an ethical question.	More formal than “raise.”
call into question	The report calls his honesty into question.	Challenge or doubt strongly.
beyond question	Her expertise is beyond question.	Completely certain.
open to question	The decision is open to question.	Debatable.
in question	The policy in question was revised.	The specific one mentioned.
out of the question	A refund is out of the question.	Impossible.
without question	He is without question the best candidate.	Certainly.

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### 4. IMPRESSION

**Core Meaning:** Effect or perception.

<b>Collocation</b>	<b>Example Sentence</b>	<b>Notes</b>
make an impression	She made a strong impression.	Create an effect.
leave an impression	The speech left a lasting impression.	Effect remains over time.
give the impression	He gave the impression he was confident.	Suggests perception (possibly inaccurate).
under the impression	I was under the impression the exam was today.	Polite way to say "I believed."
false impression	The advert creates a false impression.	Misleading perception.
first impression	First impressions matter.	Initial perception.
lasting impression	The trip made a lasting impression.	Long-term effect.

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## 5. CONTRAST

**Core Meaning:** Difference.

<b>Collocation</b>	<b>Example Sentence</b>	<b>Notes</b>
in contrast to	In contrast to last year, profits increased.	Comparative phrase.
by contrast	The north is urban; by contrast, the south is rural.	Introduces opposing idea.
stark contrast	There is a stark contrast between wealth and poverty.	Extreme difference.
sharp contrast	His tone was in sharp contrast to hers.	Clear difference.
contrast sharply with	Her views contrast sharply with mine.	Verb form.
draw a contrast	The author draws a contrast between past and present.	Academic style.

Collocation	Example Sentence	Notes
in marked contrast	This stands in marked contrast to earlier research.	Formal academic tone.

## 6. TRANSITION

**Core Meaning:** Change from one state to another.

Collocation	Example Sentence	Notes
transition from...to	The country transitioned from dictatorship to democracy.	Movement between stages.
undergo a transition	The company is undergoing a transition.	Formal process of change.
smooth transition	The school ensured a smooth transition to university.	No disruption.
seamless transition	The update allowed a seamless transition.	Extremely smooth change.
gradual transition	There was a gradual transition to independence.	Slow change.
transition period	The economy is in a transition period.	Time between stages.
in transition	The organisation is currently in transition.	Actively changing.

## 7. CONTRAST + PREPOSITIONS

**Core Meaning:** Showing difference between ideas, people, or situations.

Structure / Collocation	Example Sentence	Notes / Explanation
in contrast to	In contrast to last year, profits increased.	Most common academic form. "To" introduces the comparison noun.

<b>Structure / Collocation</b>	<b>Example Sentence</b>	<b>Notes / Explanation</b>
in contrast with	Her early work, in contrast with her later research, was experimental.	Slightly more formal; less common than “to” but correct.
by contrast	The north is industrial. By contrast, the south is rural.	Used to introduce a contrasting clause. Not followed directly by a noun.
contrast with (verb)	His tone contrasts with hers.	Verb form must use “with,” not “to.”
contrast between X and Y	There is a stark contrast between wealth and poverty.	Used when naming two items explicitly.
in stark contrast to	This stands in stark contrast to earlier findings.	“Stark” = extreme difference. Strong academic tone.
in sharp contrast to	Her behaviour was in sharp contrast to his calm manner.	“Sharp” = clear and obvious difference.
in marked contrast to	The results are in marked contrast to previous data.	“Marked” = noticeable difference. Formal academic usage.
stand in contrast to	His actions stand in contrast to his words.	

### **PART 3**

#### **Word-family table (complete with adverbs)**

<b>Base Word</b>	<b>Verb</b>	<b>Noun</b>	<b>Adjective</b>	<b>Adverb</b>
<b>DEEP</b>	deepen	depth	deep	deeply
<b>CEREMONY</b>	— <i>(no verb form)</i>	ceremony	ceremonial	ceremonially
<b>SACRED</b>	consecrate <i>(make sacred)</i>	sacredness	sacred	sacredly
<b>RELIGION</b>	— <i>(no verb form)</i>	religion	religious	religiously
<b>ENDURE</b>	endure	endurance	enduring	enduringly
<b>ARCHEOLOGY</b>	excavate <i>(core verb in archaeology)</i>	archaeology / archaeologist	archaeological	archaeologically