



英語學術素養中心  
Center for Academic Literacy

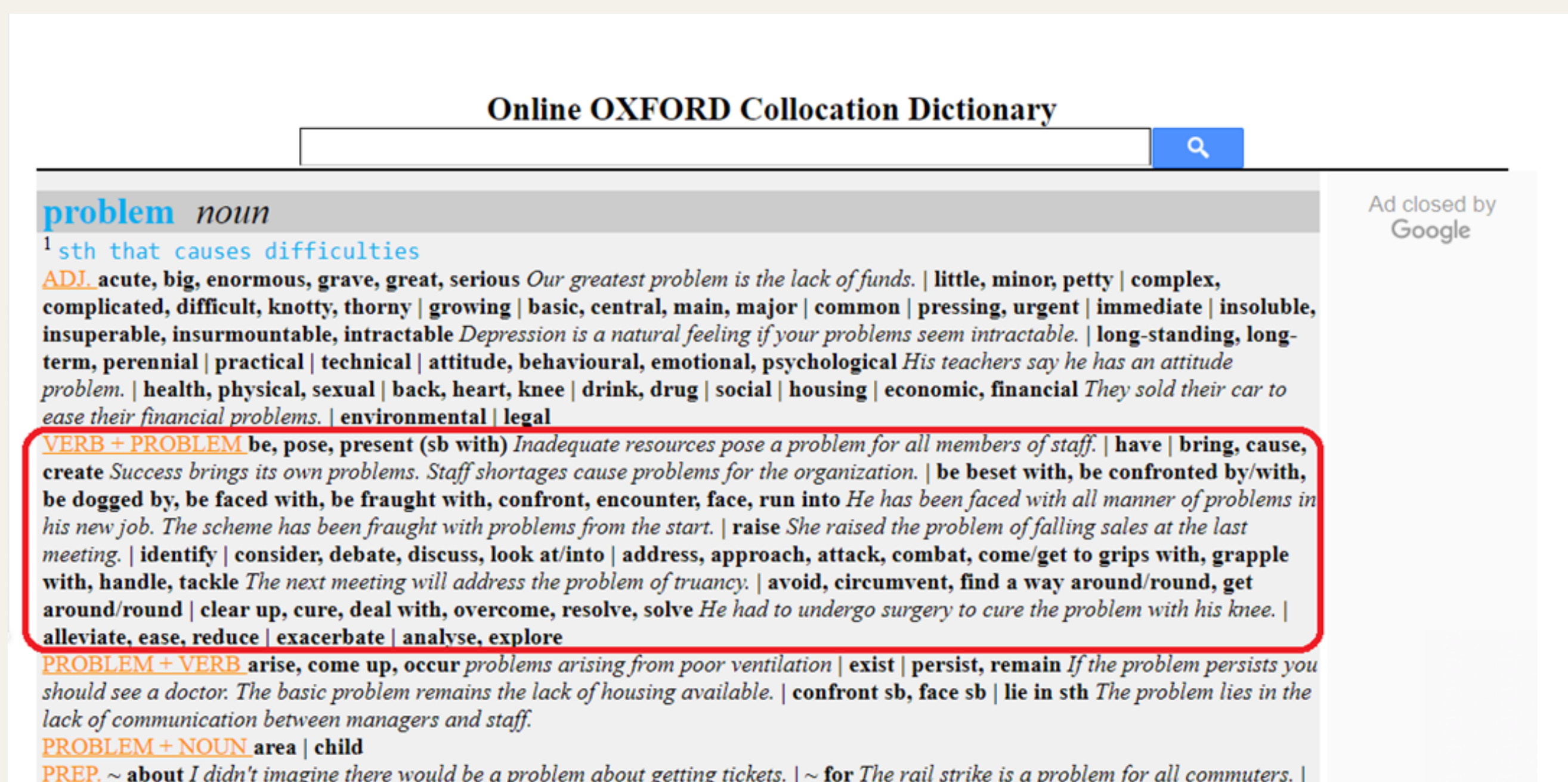
# Online Oxford Collocation Dictionary

 <http://www.freecollocation.com/> 

一般英語詞典可以協助我們了解單字的定義與解釋，但對學習詞彙搭配的幫助仍較有限，這時我們就可以利用「搭配詞典」來彌補一般詞典的不足。以下介紹的搭配詞典網站是Oxford Collocations Dictionary for Students of English的線上版(免費使用)，是以語料庫為基礎，收錄了9,000個名詞、動詞、形容詞詞條的150,000組搭配詞，和超過50,000個具有語境(context)的例句。

## 使用方式

假設我們想用英文表達「改善問題」，許多人直覺地就會依照中文的搭配方式寫成improve problem，但這樣是正確的英文詞彙搭配嗎？為了驗證這個問題，我們就可以利用線上搭配詞典查詢。因為語料庫檢索通常是以名詞為中心，向兩側展開前後的搭配字詞，我們在檢索行輸入名詞problem，再點選右方搜尋符號，便可得到以下圖一的結果。此檢索結果是按照詞性分類，再進一步按照詞義的相近程度分成不同組別。以「改善問題」為例，它是「動詞+名詞」的組合，我們就先找到「VERB+PROBLEM」，並檢視其相近詞義的搭配詞組，發現並沒有improve problem的搭配，也就是說並沒有這種字詞的搭配形式。(如圖一)



The screenshot shows the search results for 'problem' on the Online OXFORD Collocation Dictionary website. The word 'problem' is listed as a noun with the definition 'sth that causes difficulties'. Below the definition, there are several categories of collocations:

- ADJ.** acute, big, enormous, grave, great, serious. Examples: 'Our greatest problem is the lack of funds.' Collocations: little, minor, petty | complex, complicated, difficult, knotty, thorny | growing | basic, central, main, major | common | pressing, urgent | immediate | insoluble, insuperable, insurmountable, intractable. Example: 'Depression is a natural feeling if your problems seem intractable.' Collocations: long-standing, long-term, perennial | practical | technical | attitude, behavioural, emotional, psychological. Example: 'His teachers say he has an attitude problem.' Collocations: health, physical, sexual | back, heart, knee | drink, drug | social | housing | economic, financial. Example: 'They sold their car to ease their financial problems.' Collocations: environmental | legal
- VERB + PROBLEM** be, pose, present (sb with). Example: 'Inadequate resources pose a problem for all members of staff.' Collocations: have | bring, cause, create. Example: 'Success brings its own problems. Staff shortages cause problems for the organization.' Collocations: be beset with, be confronted by/with, be dogged by, be faced with, be fraught with, confront, encounter, face, run into. Example: 'He has been faced with all manner of problems in his new job. The scheme has been fraught with problems from the start.' Collocations: raise. Example: 'She raised the problem of falling sales at the last meeting.' Collocations: identify | consider, debate, discuss, look at/into | address, approach, attack, combat, come/get to grips with, grapple with, handle, tackle. Example: 'The next meeting will address the problem of truancy.' Collocations: avoid, circumvent, find a way around/round, get around/round | clear up, cure, deal with, overcome, resolve, solve. Example: 'He had to undergo surgery to cure the problem with his knee.' Collocations: alleviate, ease, reduce | exacerbate | analyse, explore
- PROBLEM + VERB** arise, come up, occur. Example: 'problems arising from poor ventilation' Collocations: exist | persist, remain. Example: 'If the problem persists you should see a doctor. The basic problem remains the lack of housing available.' Collocations: confront sb, face sb | lie in sth. Example: 'The problem lies in the lack of communication between managers and staff.'
- PROBLEM + NOUN** area | child
- PREP.** ~ about. Example: 'I didn't imagine there would be a problem about getting tickets.' ~ for. Example: 'The rail strike is a problem for all commuters.'

圖一：搜尋 problem 的結果

解決這個問題的方法就是從搜尋結果中找出與problem搭配的動詞中，有哪些是最接近「改善(問題)」的原義，例如：address, approach, attack, combat, come/get to grips with, grapple with, handle, tackle這組動詞都是和「處理(問題)」有關，而clear up, cure, deal with, overcome, resolve, solve是與「解決(問題)」有關，或是alleviate, ease, reduce則和「減輕(問題)」有關，都可以視情境來決定使用其中哪一個動詞，但是就不能用improve。(如圖二)

**VERB + PROBLEM** be, pose, present (sb with) *Inadequate resources pose a problem for all members of staff.* | have | bring, cause, create *Success brings its own problems. Staff shortages cause problems for the organization.* | be beset with, be confronted by/with, be dogged by, be faced with, be fraught with, confront, encounter, face, run into *He has been faced with all manner of problems in his new job. The scheme has been fraught with problems from the start.* | raise *She raised the problem of falling sales at the last meeting.* | identify | consider, debate, discuss, look at/into | address, approach, attack, combat, come/get to grips with, grapple with, handle, tackle *The next meeting will address the problem of truancy.* | avoid, circumvent, find a way around/round, get around/round | clear up, cure, deal with, overcome, resolve, solve *He had to undergo surgery to cure the problem with his knee.* | alleviate, ease, reduce | exacerbate | analyse, explore

圖二：檢視 "VERB+PROBLEM"的部分

我們也可在此線上搭配詞典上找到相關的例句如下：

- The next meeting will **address the problem** of truancy.  
下次會議將**處理曠課的問題**。
- He had to undergo surgery to **cure the problem** with his knee.  
他必須接受手術來**解決膝蓋的問題**。

因此如果我們想表達「改善曠課的問題」或是「改善膝蓋的問題」，就不能用improve the problem of truancy或是improve the problem with his knee，而是應使用address the problem of truancy或cure the problem with his knee的搭配形式。

## 動手練習

(1)「製造問題」的英文是make problem嗎？請檢索找出正確的搭配詞彙和例句。

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(2) 用英文表達「改善壞習慣」可寫成improve bad habit嗎？請檢索找出正確的搭配詞彙和例句。

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※參考答案及操作方式請見CAL的YouTube頻道影片

(網址：中文版 <https://youtu.be/fRkaVhxjb8k> 英文版 <https://youtu.be/69oAK293Hu0>)。

※參考文獻：廖柏森 (2019)。《英文系最受歡迎的線上語料庫：用20個網站學習英文句型與詞彙搭配》。台北：眾文出版社。