

## Collocations using the prepositions ‘by’ and ‘from’

Collocations are phrases with two or more words that always go together, and can be made in a variety of ways:

- **with prepositions:** ‘at first’ ‘on closer inspection’ ‘without doubt’
- **verb + noun:** ‘take a break’ ‘see a doctor’
- **adjective + noun:** ‘complete support’ ‘a close call’
- **verb + verb:** ‘try to relax’ ‘allowed to use’
- **adverb + adjective:** ‘absolutely fabulous’ ‘utterly hopeless’

For example, only one preposition collocates with certain words or phrases:

<b>By what</b> I’m told, I am a terrible leader.	X
<b>On what</b> I’m told, I am a terrible leader.	X
<b>From what</b> I’m told, I am a terrible leader.	✓

## Practice questions

1. **Choose from either ‘by’ or ‘from’ to complete each of these phrases.**

i) \_\_\_\_\_ *now on*

ii) \_\_\_\_\_ *far*

iii) \_\_\_\_\_ *the start*

iv) \_\_\_\_\_ *accident/mistake*

v) \_\_\_\_\_ *time to time*

**2. Use the collocations you have created to complete the gaps in the response below. This is an example of the type of task you could get in the IELTS General Training Writing test.**

*You have a problem in your job and are not sure how to fix it. Write a letter to a colleague telling them about the problem, what you need to have fixed and how you would like them to help.*

Dear Alex,

Congratulations on your recent promotion, you really deserved it, well done! I'm not sure if your new manager has informed you yet, but you and I are required to work together <sup>(A)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ . At the moment I'm working on a project for the marketing team and unfortunately, I've come across a small problem and as you are <sup>(B)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the most experienced computer user in our department, I would appreciate it if you could provide me with some feedback to help me out.

When I changed the system over I deleted the original <sup>(C)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ and I don't know how to recover it. <sup>(D)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ I will make sure to keep backups of every stage, which will stop this from happening in the future, but I'm not sure how to go back in the system to find the original, and I need both versions.

If you would like to review the situation from my computer, then <sup>(E)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ please feel free to visit my office at any time. I really should have consulted with you <sup>(F)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, but I thought it was a pretty straightforward job and I wanted to give you time to settle into your new position.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Regards,  
Terry

**Answers**

1. from now on, by far, from the start, by accident/mistake, by all means, from time to time.

2. A. from time to time B. by far C. by accident / by mistake D. from now on E. by all means F. from the start