Activity Type
Reading, spelling and speaking activity, group work

Language Focus
Collocations

Aim
To guess words that make collocations

Preparation
A list of run-on collocations

Level
Elementary and above

Time
20 minutes

Introduction
This useful vocabulary game can be used to help students practice collocations.

Procedure
Write the first and last word of your run-on collocations in a ladder on the board, leaving empty rungs for the words in between.

Example:
express—service—charge—take—away—go—home—stay—behind

express
________
________
________
behind

Explain that each word on the ladder makes a collocation with the word next to it and that the collocations can be read up or down.

Divide the class into two teams (A and B).

Team A chooses either the top or bottom rung of the ladder.

Write the first letter of the word on their chosen rung.

For example, if Team A chose the top rung, you add 's'.

Team A then tries to guess the word from the collocation, e.g. express s...

If Team A gets the word wrong, Team B chooses the top or bottom rung and another letter is added and so on.

If a team correctly guesses the word, they score one point and play again.

The team with the most points at the end of the game wins.