

Collocations: Leadership & Influence

Upper-Intermediate (B2-C1)



WARM UP

Part 1. Discuss the following questions.

1. What qualities do you think make a good leader?
2. Can you think of a leader (in business, politics, sport, or history) who inspired you? Why?
3. Do you find it easy to make decisions, or do you prefer to follow others?
4. How important is collaboration in effective leadership?

COLLOCATION MATCHING

Part 1. Match the verbs with the correct nouns to form a collocation.

Credibility	Confidence	Influence	Responsibility
Tasks	Decisions	Collaboration	An example

1. Take _____
2. Inspire _____
3. Make _____
4. Set _____
5. Delegate _____
6. Exert _____
7. Build _____
8. Foster _____

SENTENCE GAP-FILL

Part 1. Complete the sentences using the correct collocations.

Build credibility

Inspire confidence

Exert influence

Take responsibility

Delegate tasks

Make decisions

Foster collaboration

Set an example

1. A strong leader must be willing to _____ for the team's mistakes.
2. Managers often need to _____ quickly in difficult situations.
3. Good communication helps leaders _____ among their followers.
4. Instead of trying to control everything, leaders should learn how to _____.
5. He worked hard to _____ by always keeping his promises.
6. The director wanted to _____ by arriving early and working hard.
7. Politicians often try to _____ through speeches and media.
8. Modern workplaces encourage leaders to _____ rather than compete.



SENTENCE TRANSFORMATION

Part 1. Rewrite the following sentences using the target collocations so that the meaning stays the same.

Build credibility

Inspire confidence

Exert influence

Take responsibility

Delegate tasks

Make decisions

Foster collaboration

Set an example

1. She accepted the blame for the project's failure.
2. The coach made the players believe in themselves.
3. The president had to choose quickly during the crisis.
4. The teacher behaved in a way that students should copy.
5. The manager asked her assistant to complete part of the project.
6. The speaker managed to have an effect on the committee's decision.
7. Over time, he earned respect and trust in the industry.
8. The CEO wanted to create a culture of teamwork.

TENSE CHALLENGE

Part 1. Use the correct form of the collocation in brackets to complete each sentence.

1. By next year, the company _____ (foster collaboration) across all departments.
2. She _____ (take responsibility) for the error during yesterday's meeting.
3. The committee _____ (make decisions) without consulting the staff, which caused frustration in the workplace.
4. The new director _____ (set an example) by staying calm during the crisis.
5. He _____ (delegate tasks) more effectively since taking management training.
6. If they _____ (inspire confidence), the project would have been more successful.
7. The consultant _____ (build credibility) in the field over the last decade.
8. By the end of the week, the politician _____ (exert influence) on the vote.

SPEAKING

Part 1. Answer the questions using the target collocations.

1. Can you describe a time when you had to **take responsibility** for something important?
2. Who is someone that **inspires confidence** in you? Why?
3. Do you find it easy or difficult to **make decisions** under pressure?
4. How can leaders **set an example** in everyday work?
5. Have you ever had to **delegate tasks** to others? How did it go?
6. Do you think it's possible to **exert influence** without having power?
7. How do people **build credibility** in their careers?
8. Why is it important for leaders to **foster collaboration**?

