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PLAY

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The next word in our vocabulary boost series is PLAY. PLAY is a high frequency verb that can be used as a synonym of *pretend, behave, compete or participate in*. There are numerous collocations and phrasal verbs that are formed using PLAY.

As recommended in our START method ([HERE](#)), you should always learn vocabulary as a short phrase and relate new words to synonyms and use them. Click ([HERE](#)) and ([HERE](#)) for advice on how to learn more vocabulary and [HERE](#) for an example of a great strategy to learn new words.

Collocations:

To learn new collocations and word patterns you should create phrases using them and also do exercises ([HERE](#))

Play for a team

Play inside

Play outside

Play with someone

Play well

Play badly

Play an instrument

Play the piano

Play the flute



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Play the guitar

Play tennis

Play rugby

Play badminton

Play football

Play for fun

Play a board game

Play in a group

Spend time at play

To stop play



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Phrasal verbs:

The learning of phrasal verbs is best done using this method ([HERE](#))

Play up - misbehave

The kids are playing up at the minute

Play up – exaggerate

My sister always plays up her troubles at work

Play away - have an affair

I fear my boyfriend is playing away

Play out - end in a certain way

Aston Villa and Albacete played out a draw last week

Play against – compete

Aston Villa play against Wolves this weekend

Play along – pretend to agree to something for the common good

At work, I just play along and do as the boss asks

Play at – pretend to do something

I was playing at revising for my exam, but I was really on YouTube

Play down – make something seem less important than it is

I played down my injury because I wanted to continue