B2 First Reading and Use of English Part 1 - Adjective + noun collocations

A. Talk about Marilyn Monroe.



1. Why might a film star want to choose their own roles?

2. Can a public image hide someone's abilities?

3. Would you risk a successful career to have more freedom?

B. Complete the sentences by matching the collocation halves. Use A–L once.

1. ____ After the scandal, the star tried to improve her public ...	A. rain throughout the afternoon.
2. ____ The producer insisted on keeping creative ...	B. village far from the nearest city.
3. ____ Both sides agreed to work under favourable ...	C. image in the media.
4. ____ The critics loved her acting and gave it high ...	D. friend she had known since childhood.
5. ____ Filming outdoors was impossible because of heavy ...	E. experience for her next job.
6. ____ You could tell where he came from by his strong ...	F. praise in their reviews.
7. ____ The noise failed to wake her from a deep ...	G. sleep after the long journey.
8. ____ She shared her worries with a close ...	H. control over the final version.
9. ____ She hoped her bright ...	I. contrast to the sadness in her diary.
10. ____ She spent her childhood in a remote ...	J. accent whenever he spoke.
11. ____ Her cheerful letters were in sharp ...	K. terms in the new contract.
12. ____ She described her time on the film set as valuable ...	L. future would bring more interesting roles.

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C. Read the text and choose A, B, C or D for each gap. See example 0.

Marilyn Monroe takes on Hollywood

Although Marilyn Monroe had achieved international fame by the mid-1950s, commercial success brought surprisingly little (0) ..... to choose her roles. Her carefully managed public (1) ..... helped sell cinema tickets, yet restricted her to a (2) ..... range of characters. Determined to demonstrate abilities beyond comedy, she began questioning who should decide the direction of her career.

Setting up a production company with photographer Milton Greene was a bold (3) ....., particularly for someone under contract to a major (4) ..... Financial rewards were only part of the issue: Monroe sought greater creative (5) ..... over the films she appeared in. Her willingness to challenge the established system eventually helped her negotiate more favourable (6) ....., including influence over which projects she accepted.

The agreement gave her a chance to challenge audience expectations. In Bus Stop, she portrayed a singer whose ambitions were complicated by an uncertain future. The performance attracted (7) ..... praise from reviewers and provided a rare (8) ..... to be judged on her acting rather than her celebrity. Her struggle illustrates how popularity and professional independence do not necessarily develop together.

0	A release	B escape	Ⓒ freedom	D relief
1	A sight	B image	C scene	D display
2	A limited	B brief	C shallow	D short-lived
3	A motion	B distance	C transfer	D move
4	A workshop	B laboratory	C studio	D office
5	A knowledge	B control	C rule	D guidance
6	A terms	B rules	C laws	D instructions
7	A tall	B upper	C elevated	D high
8	A opportunity	B event	C incident	D appointment

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Answer Key

A. Answers will vary.

B. 1 C 2 H 3 K 4 F 5 A 6 J 7 G 8 D 9 L 10 B 11 I 12 E

C. 1 B 2 A 3 D 4 C 5 B 6 A 7 D 8 A

Glossary

bold move: An action or decision that shows courage and may involve risk.

bright future: A future that is likely to bring success or happiness.

close friend: Someone you know well, trust and care about.

creative control: The power to decide how an artistic work is made.

deep sleep: Sleep from which it is difficult to wake someone.

favourable terms: Conditions in an agreement that give someone an advantage.

freedom to choose: The ability to decide for yourself without being controlled by others.

heavy rain: Rain that falls in large amounts.

high praise: Very strong approval or admiration.

limited range: A small variety or selection of things.

major studio: A large, important company that produces films.

public image: The impression that people generally have of a person or organisation.

rare opportunity: A chance to do something that does not happen often.

remote village: A small settlement far from towns, cities or other busy places.

sharp contrast: A very clear difference between two things.

strong accent: A way of speaking that clearly shows where someone comes from.

valuable experience: Something you have done or lived through that teaches you useful things.

Photo: 'Marilyn Monroe, Korea, 1954', USMC Archives.
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