

## ***Almost Absolute Collocations***

We have absolute collocations

In compliance with

How can we hold an almost absolute collocation

Transmission line

The pieces of the transmission line the walls.

If we know that line is a verb, we can block access to the collocation.

Energy Australia sold the transmission line.

GM sold the automatic transmission line to DAF.

We want to access the collocation only when we are sure the meaning is appropriate. Energy Australia owns transmission lines of the electric kind, so the meaning works. We could have it in the dictionary, and have it jumped over when looking for absolute collocations – have it marked in some way.

We have an object – a “dust cover”.

Several inches of dust cover the artifacts. – a plural subject somewhere

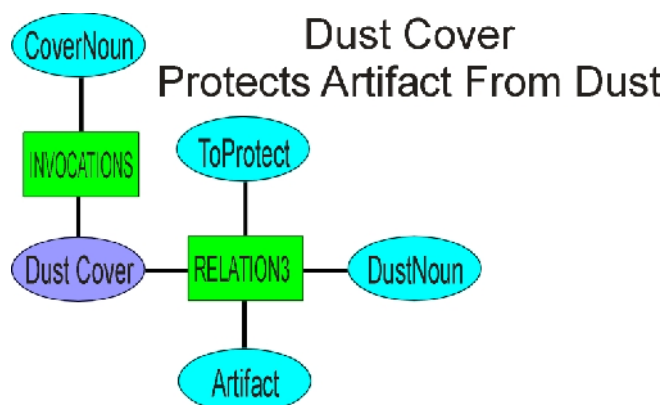
He let the dust cover the artifacts. – an infinitive

The dust cover was about six centimetres. (cover of dust)

An example of why we need meaning, not just two nouns.

He fitted the dust cover to the engine. (a rubber boot)

We have a DustNoun and a CoverNoun, and Dust Cover is an object accessible from those nouns.



Some almost collocations:

Bus stop – a location where a bus stops  
Time delay  
Solid state – as in solid state electronics  
Transmission line  
Stop line  
Piped music – “piped” is adjectival participle  
Concrete surface

The nodes are present in the structure – but accessible through meaning, and by direct access in the dictionary (but not as an absolute collocation, in the way that “in accordance with” is an absolute collocation). The almost collocations appear with a different symbol – “bus stop”:



This will bump up the dictionary size quite a bit.