

## Challenges and Opportunities

The following revision is taken from the dissertation of a Bahasa Indonesia-speaking student of Political Science

Original	Revisions
This essay covers attempts of NGOs to <b>perform</b> their challenges and opportunities in many activities involving conflict-resolution or humanitarian assistance	This essay covers attempts of NGOs to <b>face</b> their challenges and opportunities in many activities involving conflict-resolution or humanitarian assistance
	This essay covers attempts of NGOs to <b>meet</b> their challenges and <b>exploit</b> their opportunities in many activities involving conflict-resolution or humanitarian assistance

The phrase **challenges and opportunities** is a popular one in setting the titles of essays and projects in the Social Sciences, 'challenges' emphasising the aspects of a situation that present problems that must be solved, and 'opportunities' emphasising the possible benefits of that situation. When they are used together there is, however, the problem of which verb can collocate with both of them. Whatever that verb may be, it clearly cannot be **perform**. In my data **perform** is found with a variety of collocates, such as **abortion**, **duty**, **function**, **role**, **service**, and **task**, as illustrated by the following citations:

1. times by the secret police. Anyone caught **performing abortions** faced up to 15 years in jail. But, d
2. the Prison Service are to be expected to **perform** their **duties** diligently and efficiently. Treasury
3. "strategies" seem to negate the **function performed** by Potter's GP: He has so gently and carefully
4. erstand - that the two parliaments do not **perform** the same **role**. Other nations seem to have a clear
5. ing's high cynicism. But his tutor was to **perform** another signal **service** for Portillo within anothe
6. cade, is Sir Tim Bell. The PR man who has **performed** the same **task** with equal success for Wafic Said

However, there are no examples of **performing a challenge** or of **performing an opportunity** in my data, nor do such collocations appear likely. For **challenge** two common collocating verbs are **face** and **meet**:

7. to effect in schools in September 1995, **face** a strong **challenge** from English teachers outraged at c
8. now it seems that they will soon **face** an even tougher **challenge**. The new generation of genetically-
9. e greater political sophistication. They **face** another **challenge** to their authority - communications
10. MP for Caithness and Sutherland, is likely to **face** a **challenge** in his plan to succeed Charles Kenn
11. ther and what certificate to give a video - or **face** a **challenge** in the courts. Ministers argue that
12. nging phrases for their manifestos ('we must **face** the **challenge** of the future' - that always seems

13. chotherapy meant that it too had to grow, to **meet** the **challenge** of different constituencies asking  
 14. ica and Asia to the brink of extinction. To **meet** this **challenge**, it advocates a massive expansion i  
 15. ut badly in need of some renewed momentum to **meet** the **challenges** of enlargement and unemployment. C  
 16. guar were all staking claims. US attempts to **meet** the **challenge** were half-hearted. Detroit's appra  
 17. that now is the time to move on, to **meet** a new, tough **challenge** as a professional." He said that i  
 18. iating with the Government and **meeting** the commercial **challenge** posed by new vocational qualificati

Examination of the data shows also a couple of citations also for **face an opportunity** (see below), so that was the verb chosen for the first revision above.

19. emen, Australia's business leaders **face** many exciting **opportunities** in the region. The next few yea  
 20. At this moment, the Labour Party **faces** the best **opportunity** it has had since 1979. The opport

However, it may in such cases be better to choose separate verbs for each element of the combination. The second revision shows that strategy, with **meet** being used with **challenges**, and **exploit** being used with **opportunities**, as in the following citations:

21. dvance of this, the Republicans want to **exploit** every **opportunity** to raise Whitewater in the normal  
 22. up a \$1 billion (£640 million) Indian fund to **exploit opportunities** within the country's expanding  
 23. 4), in which the private sector starts to **exploit** the **opportunities** opened up by the first phase of  
 24. ls - many other businesses are seeking to **exploit** the **opportunities** being presented by the World Cu  
 25. romise from the Cabinet Office in June to **exploit** the **opportunities** provided by new technology to m  
 26. ngements that enabled British industry to **exploit** the **opportunities** created by trade liberalisation