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Say vs. Tell, Advice, and Promises: Communication Collocations

Easy | Hard | Medium | A2 | Elementary | Pre-intermediate | B1 | Intermediate | B2 | Upper Intermediate | Countable and uncountable | Indirect speech | Infinitive | Noun | Object | Past tense | Phrasal verb | Verb | Collocations

1. Choose the correct word to complete the sentence.

The patient decided to ___ the doctor's instructions and take the medication three times daily.

Select one.

- **A)** take
- **B)** follow
- **C)** accept
- **D)** receive

2. Help complete the restaurant owner's thoughts about customer feedback.

The customers always _____ me helpful advice about improving the menu. I really should _____ their advice more seriously. Last week, someone _____ me excellent advice about adding more vegetarian options. I'm glad I _____ that advice - sales have increased!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** give
- **B)** take
- **C)** make

Blank 2

- **A)** take
- **B)** follow
- **C)** accept

Blank 3

- **A)** gave
- **B)** offered
- **C)** told

Blank 4

- **A)** took
- **B)** followed
- **C)** accepted

3. Help Emma express her commitments correctly. Select ALL the sentences that use "promise" collocations properly.

Which sentences about promises use the correct collocations?

Select all that apply.

- **A)** I promise to call you tonight.
- **B)** She made a promise to study harder.
- **C)** He promised me that he would arrive early.
- **D)** They kept their promise about the surprise party.
- **E)** Can you promise me about not telling anyone?

4. Complete the story about wedding planning promises using the correct verb collocations.

Last month, Sarah _____ a promise to help plan her best friend's wedding. She successfully _____ that promise by organizing the entire reception. However, when the florist canceled, Sarah _____ her promise to arrange the perfect bouquet because she ran

out of time. Despite this setback, her friend was grateful that Sarah had _____ her main commitment to make the wedding special.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) made
B) kept
C) broke

Blank 2

A) kept
B) broke

Blank 3

A) broke
B) made

Blank 4

A) fulfilled
B) made

5. Help Maria complete her diary entry about a conversation with her best friend. Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

Yesterday, my friend _____ me about her new job. She _____ it was really exciting but challenging. I _____ her I was proud of her achievements.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) told
B) said
C) spoke

Blank 2

A) said
B) told
C) spoke

Blank 3

A) told
B) said
C) spoke

6. Help Tom choose the right expressions for his story about a misunderstanding with friends. Select ALL the correct communication collocations.

Which sentences use communication collocations correctly?

Select all that apply.

A) She refused to tell me the whole story.
B) He said me that everything was fine.
C) I should have asked for advice before making that decision.
D) They made a big argument in the cafeteria.
E) Can you promise not to say anything to anyone?

7. Complete this relationship counselor's notes about a couple's communication issues.

The couple frequently _____ arguments about money. Yesterday, they _____ their worst argument yet. The husband _____ his promise to discuss major purchases first. When I _____ them advice about better communication, the wife _____ she would try harder. She _____ her husband that they needed professional help.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) gets into
B) gets over
C) gets out of

Blank 2

- **A)** had
- **B)** made
- **C)** took

Blank 3

- **A)** broke
- **B)** kept
- **C)** made

Blank 4

- **A)** gave
- **B)** took
- **C)** made

Blank 5

- **A)** said
- **B)** told

Blank 6

- **A)** told
- **B)** said

8. Help Sophie complete her diary entry about her friendship troubles. Select ALL the sentences that use relationship collocations correctly to finish her story.

Sophie's Diary Entry:
"Today was really difficult with my best friend Emma. I need to write down what happened so I can figure out how to fix things..."

Which sentences correctly complete Sophie's diary entry?

Select all that apply.

- **A)** Emma broke her promise to meet me at the café after school.
- **B)** She gave me many advices about how to handle the situation with Jake.
- **C)** We almost had an argument about her canceling our plans again.
- **D)** I decided to make up with her by sending a heartfelt text message.
- **E)** I said her that I felt hurt and disappointed by her behavior.

9. Complete the conversation between two friends sharing news.

Maria wants to _____ her best friend about the surprise party, but she doesn't know how to _____ it without spoiling the fun. She decides to _____ him that everyone is planning something special, then _____ "You'll love what we have in store for you!"

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** tell
- **B)** say

Blank 2

- **A)** say
- **B)** tell

Blank 3

- **A)** tell
- **B)** say

Blank 4

- **A)** says
- **B)** tells

10. Help Maria choose the correct ways to complete her sentences about school gossip. Select ALL the options that are grammatically correct.

Which of these sentences use "say" and "tell" correctly?

Select all that apply.

- **A)** She told me a secret about the new teacher.
- **B)** She said me the truth about yesterday.
- **C)** Can you tell the difference between these two stories?
- **D)** They say that exams will be easier this year.
- **E)** Please tell that you understand the homework.

11. Complete the relationship coach's advice column about healthy communication. Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

When couples _____ good advice, they communicate better. If you _____ promises repeatedly, trust will suffer. Always try to _____ arguments calmly rather than letting them escalate.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** follow
- **B)** take
- **C)** use

Blank 2

- **A)** break
- **B)** destroy
- **C)** ruin

Blank 3

- **A)** settle
- **B)** solve
- **C)** end

12. Complete the story about roommate conflicts and resolutions.

Tom and his roommate _____ a terrible argument about cleaning duties last night. The argument _____ when Tom accused his roommate of never washing dishes. After shouting for an hour, they finally _____ the argument by creating a cleaning schedule. Now they rarely _____ arguments about household chores.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** had
- **B)** made
- **C)** got

Blank 2

- **A)** started
- **B)** finished
- **C)** ended

Blank 3

- **A)** settled
- **B)** started
- **C)** had

Blank 4

- **A)** get into
- **B)** get out of
- **C)** get over

13. Help the mediator complete her report about a workplace disagreement. Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

The two employees _____ a heated argument about the project deadline. They couldn't _____ their argument on their own. Fortunately, after our meeting, they managed to _____ future arguments by establishing clear communication rules.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** had
- **B)** made
- **C)** did

Blank 2

- **A)** settle
- **B)** solve
- **C)** fix

Blank 3

- **A)** avoid
- **B)** prevent
- **C)** stop

14. Choose the correct word to complete the sentence.

The career counselor will ___ you some valuable advice about job interviews.

Select one.

- **A)** give
- **B)** make
- **C)** do
- **D)** take

15. Complete the witness's statement about what happened during the meeting. Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

The manager _____ everyone that the project was behind schedule. Then she _____ that we needed to work overtime. Finally, she _____ us to submit our reports by Friday.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** told
- **B)** said
- **C)** spoke

Blank 2

- **A)** said
- **B)** told
- **C)** spoke

Blank 3

- **A)** told
- **B)** said
- **C)** spoke

16. Choose the correct word to complete the sentence.

I felt terrible when I had to ___ my promise to attend her birthday party.

Select one.

- **A)** destroy
- **B)** break
- **C)** ruin
- **D)** damage

17. Complete Tom's story about making commitments to his family. Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

Last week, I _____ a promise to my mom that I would call her every Sunday. She was happy when I _____ my promise and called yesterday. I never want to _____ a promise to someone I love.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** made
- **B)** gave
- **C)** did

Blank 2

- **A)** kept
- **B)** held
- **C)** maintained

Blank 3

- **A)** break
- **B)** destroy
- **C)** ruin

18. Choose the correct word to complete the sentence.

During the wedding ceremony, they ___ promises to love each other forever.

Select one.

- **A)** did
- **B)** gave
- **C)** made
- **D)** took

19. Complete the counselor's notes about giving guidance to students. Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

I always _____ advice to students who are struggling. Yesterday, a student _____ for advice about choosing a career. I suggested she _____ my advice and speak to professionals in different fields.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** give
- **B)** make
- **C)** do

Blank 2

- **A)** asked
- **B)** requested
- **C)** wanted

Blank 3

- **A)** take
- **B)** follow
- **C)** get

20. Choose the correct word to complete the sentence.

Sarah wanted to ___ her friends about the exciting news.

Select one.

- **A)** say
- **B)** tell
- **C)** speak
- **D)** talk

21. Complete the workplace communication scenario.

During the meeting, Sarah _____ her colleagues about the new project deadline. She _____ that everyone needed to work overtime. When her boss _____ her some advice about managing the team better, she decided to _____ that advice seriously. Later, she _____ a promise to improve communication, and so far, she has _____ that promise.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** told
- **B)** informed

Blank 2

- **A)** said
- **B)** mentioned

Blank 3

- **A)** gave
- **B)** offered

Blank 4

- **A)** take
- **B)** follow

Blank 5

- **A)** made
- **B)** created

Blank 6

- **A)** kept
- **B)** maintained

22. Choose the correct word to complete the sentence.

The teacher ___ that the test would be postponed until next week.

Select one.

- **A)** said
- **B)** told
- **C)** spoke
- **D)** talked

23. Complete Jake's conversation about career guidance. Select ALL the phrases that correctly go with "advice."

Which expressions with "advice" are correct?

Select all that apply.

- **A)** My teacher gave me some excellent advice.
- **B)** I received many advices from my parents.
- **C)** Could you offer me a piece of advice?
- **D)** She told me three different advices.
- **E)** I need to ask for advice about university applications.