

CAE Collocations Worksheet

Part 1 — Matching

Match each collocation (1–11) with its correct meaning (a–k). Write the correct letter in the gap.

1. place the blame on _____
 2. break down in tears _____
 3. be under new management _____
 4. be under the impression _____
 5. little did he know _____
 6. hesitate to call _____
 7. get the message across _____
 8. result in chaos _____
 9. on the lookout for _____
 10. reach the wrong conclusion _____
 11. make a point of _____
- a. suddenly start crying
 - b. think something is true (possibly wrongly)
 - c. clearly communicate an idea
 - d. make a deliberate effort to do something regularly
 - e. cause disorder and confusion
 - f. blame someone for something
 - g. actively search for something
 - h. misunderstand and decide incorrectly
 - i. used to introduce a surprising fact
 - j. encourage someone to contact you if needed
 - k. be run by different people now

Part 2 — Gap Fill

Complete each sentence with a suitable collocation from the list. You may need to change the form of the verbs.

1. Although he presented several strong arguments, he still struggled to _____ to a highly critical audience.
2. Upon hearing the final verdict, she completely _____, unable to speak for several minutes.
3. I was _____ that the meeting had been postponed, which is why I didn't attend.
4. Since the company has been _____, a number of significant policy changes have been introduced.
5. Any delay in addressing these issues could _____ chaos across the entire system.
6. Instead of admitting his mistake, he attempted to _____ his colleagues.
7. _____ he knew that what seemed like a minor decision at the time would later prove to be disastrous.
8. She always _____ double-checking her work before submitting it.

9. Having only partial information, he _____ and reacted unnecessarily.

10. The organisation is constantly _____ talented individuals with innovative ideas.

11. Should you require any further clarification, please do not _____.

Part 3 — Sentence Production

Write one original sentence for each collocation. Your sentences should clearly show the meaning of the expression and be grammatically correct.

1. place the blame on _____

2. break down in tears _____

3. be under new management _____

4. be under the impression _____

5. little did he/she know _____

6. hesitate to call _____

7. get the message across _____

8. result in chaos _____

9. on the lookout for _____

10. reach the wrong conclusion _____

11. make a point of _____