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 know 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.

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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 _____

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