

**Match the words and phrases to the sentences and write them into the gaps in the correct form:**

keep one's own counsel   rather than   integrity   commence   embark   outspoken   blunt  
back someone/something up   conversely   upfront   sincerity   home truths   claim   frank  
aggravate   supportive

- 1) Giving his first speech as the domestic spy agency's director general, Ken McCullum focused on risks from hostile states, including undermining "the \_\_\_\_\_ of UK research" on a coronavirus vaccine. (\_\_\_\_\_)
- 2) "I must say in all \_\_\_\_\_ that the silence of the representatives of the colossal Made-in-Italy brands left a lasting bitter and embarrassing impression," Jean said. (\_\_\_\_\_)
- 3) That global halt will, \_\_\_\_\_, hurt China's efforts to get back on track, creating a difficult economic puzzle for top leaders in Beijing. (\_\_\_\_\_)
- 4) Eleven new teams \_\_\_\_\_ on a journey around the world in Season 32 of this Emmy Award-winning series, competing for a \$1 million prize. (\_\_\_\_\_)
- 5) He offered \_\_\_\_\_ advice to older people who are often seen as easy marks for dubious dialers. (\_\_\_\_\_)
- 6) Judge insists he is \_\_\_\_\_ talking to Jones about his play, and doesn't sugar-coat anything. (\_\_\_\_\_)
- 7) Even with those she loves most, Ginny tends to \_\_\_\_\_. They know next to nothing. (\_\_\_\_\_)
- 8) The majority of Republicans, 83%, approve of Trump's overall job performance, fewer, 70%, are \_\_\_\_\_ of his handling of the pandemic. (\_\_\_\_\_)
- 9) An elderly woman with lung disease \_\_\_\_\_ she was removed from an Alaska Airlines flight over a face mask dispute. (\_\_\_\_\_)
- 10) I'll \_\_\_\_\_ if they don't believe you. (\_\_\_\_\_)
- 11) After the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the court's most \_\_\_\_\_ advocate for abortion rights... (\_\_\_\_\_)
- 12) Some activists struggled to forgive her for that but it was an early sign of her willingness to deliver unpalatable \_\_\_\_\_. (\_\_\_\_\_)
- 13) I'd recommend being \_\_\_\_\_ about the arrangement to avoid assumptions and hurt feelings. (\_\_\_\_\_)
- 14) She uses lemon \_\_\_\_\_ vinegar in her salad dressings. (\_\_\_\_\_)
- 15) The opponents say the Canadian tar sands oil that the new line would carry would \_\_\_\_\_ climate change, while threatening pristine waters in northern Minnesota where Native Americans harvest wild rice. (\_\_\_\_\_)
- 16) Tenured at M.I.T. by the time she was 36, she \_\_\_\_\_ a lifelong hunt for a second Earth. (\_\_\_\_\_)