

Colligation Matching Answer Key

Correct Matches

1. Rely ___ **on** (A)
2. Focus ___ **on** (A)
3. Apologize ___ **to** (D)
4. Approve ___ **of** (E)
5. Succeed ___ **in** (B)
6. Apply ___ **for** (J)
7. Complain ___ **about** (C)
8. Take ___ **responsibility** (G)
9. Break ___ **a promise** (H)
10. Keep ___ **a promise** (H)

Teacher Notes

- **Purpose of this activity:** Colligation highlights the natural *pairing of verbs with their grammatical partners*. Students see how verbs “demand” certain prepositions or nouns.
- **Trick item:** “Approve” was included intentionally. Students often confuse it (*approve of vs. approve in*). Use this as a teachable moment about accuracy in word partnerships.
- **Differentiation tip:** After matching, have students:
 1. Circle the *preposition-based pairs* (rely on, succeed in, complain about, etc.).
 2. Underline the *noun-based pairs* (take responsibility, break a promise, keep a promise).
- **Extension activity:** Students can create “error sentences” (e.g., *She relied in her friend*) and swap with a partner to correct.