







## Answers

1. b) apologized for
2. a) refused
3. d) recommended
4. d) says
5. a) promised
6. d) denied
7. a) tell
8. b) threatened
9. a) speaks
10. a) suggested
11. d) offered
12. c) talking
13. c) admitted
14. c) explained
15. c) on
16. c) claimed
17. b) tell
18. b) agreed
19. b) complained
20. d) speaking



# Explanations

## 1. “apologized for” (b)

When someone says sorry for something they did, the best reporting verb is 'apologize for + -ing'. 'Admitted' and 'confessed' focus on guilt, not on saying sorry.

## 2. “refused” (a)

'Refuse to do something' means to say no to a request. 'Deny' means to say something is not true. 'Reject' does not take 'to + infinitive' in this way.

## 3. “recommended” (d)

Both 'suggest' and 'recommend' take '-ing', but 'recommend' is the better answer here. The phrase 'I really think you should' expresses strong personal advice based on conviction, which matches 'recommend'. 'Suggest' is more neutral and tentative ('Why don't you...?', 'How about...?').

## 4. “says” (d)

'Say' is used for written words on signs, notices, and documents: 'The notice says...'. We don't use 'tell', 'speak', or 'talk' for written messages.

## 5. “promised” (a)

'Promise to do something' means to give your word. 'Offer' means to volunteer willingly. Here, the speaker explicitly says 'I promise', so 'promised' is the best choice.

## 6. “denied” (d)

'Deny + -ing' means to say that something is not true. 'She denied cheating' means she said she did not cheat. 'Refuse' means to say no to a request — different meaning.

## 7. “tell” (a)

'Tell a story' is a fixed expression. 'Tell + person + something' is the correct pattern: 'told us stories'. 'Say us stories' is grammatically incorrect.

## 8. “threatened” (b)

'Threaten to do something' means to warn that you will do something harmful. The speaker is making a negative warning, so 'threatened' is correct. 'Promise' implies a positive commitment.

## 9. “speaks” (a)

'Speak' is the only correct verb when talking about language ability: 'speak Spanish, speak Portuguese'. None of the other verbs can be used with languages.

## 10. “suggested” (a)

'Suggest + -ing' is used when someone proposes an idea for a group activity. 'Let's...' is a suggestion, so 'suggested going' is the natural match.

## 11. “offered” (d)

'Offer to do something' means to volunteer help without being asked. The speaker is kindly volunteering, which is an offer — not a promise or agreement.

## 12. “talking” (c)

'Talk loudly' describes the ongoing activity of conversation with emphasis on noise level. 'Talk' is the natural choice for describing the manner of conversation.

**13. “admitted” (c)**

'Admit + -ing' means to accept that something is true, often reluctantly. 'Confess to + -ing' is also close in meaning but typically implies a more serious wrongdoing. Here 'admitted' fits the straightforward acknowledgement.

**14. “explained” (c)**

'Explain that...' is used when giving reasons or making something clear. 'Said that' and 'told someone that' are more neutral. Here, the focus is on providing a reason, so 'explained' is best.

**15. “on” (c)**

'Insist on + -ing' is the correct pattern. The officer firmly demanded to see the documents. 'Insist' can also take a 'that' clause: 'insisted that he see the documents'.

**16. “claimed” (c)**

'Claim that...' is used when someone states something that may be doubtful or controversial. The statement about the Earth being flat is clearly a debatable claim.

**17. “tell” (b)**

'Tell + person + wh-clause' is the correct pattern for requesting information: 'tell me where/how/what'. 'Say me' is incorrect. 'Speak' and 'talk' don't fit this pattern.

**18. “agreed” (b)**

'Agree to do something' means to say yes to something that was asked or proposed. The speaker is accepting a request with a condition, which is an agreement.

**19. “complained” (b)**

'Complain about something' is used when someone expresses dissatisfaction. The speaker is clearly unhappy and criticizing, which is a complaint.

**20. “speaking” (d)**

'Strictly speaking' is a fixed phrase meaning 'if we follow the rules exactly'. Like 'generally speaking' and 'broadly speaking', it always uses 'speaking'.