

COLLOCATIONS: REVIEW.

The importance of taking that first step...

Sally ran home **1.** (*very quickly*) _____. She was absolutely livid!!! What the deuce had made Fiona act so foolishly? She seemed to have changed **2.** (*completely, radically*) _____! How could she give credit to **3.** (*people she had just met*) _____ rather than listen to HER, her best friend! She knew that Sally would never do anything to put them **4.** (*at serious risk*) _____ so she should **5.** (*rely on her judgement*) _____ and **6.** (*be very grateful for*) _____ Sally's advice! After all, they had known each other **7.** (*for a very long time*) _____!!! Needless to say, the two of them were **8.** (*completely different*) _____, but hey! when had that ever been a problem??? Ok... she needed to calm down... breathe in... breathe out... count to ten...! Right! A long, relaxing shower would probably **9.** (*be sufficient*) _____!

Half an hour later she was **10.** (*nice and clean*) _____ and felt ready to talk it over with her mum. It was **11.** (*perfectly clear*) _____ that she was right! She was sure her mother would see things as she did. Except that she didn't. Well, **12.** (*to be really accurate*) _____, she DID, but she also pointed out that Sally shouldn't have **13.** (*lost her temper*) _____ as she usually did and that she needed to **14.** (*improve her ability to communicate effectively with others*) _____. She had even added that SHE should call Fiona and apologise!!!! Well! Really!!! Steaming and fuming Sally started counting again... to a hundred, this time...! The argumentative teenager in her felt **15.** (*she really wanted to*) _____ to **16.** (*protest strongly*) _____ but she did NOT want to **17.** (*start an argument on purpose*) _____ with her mum. On the other hand why should SHE apologise??? It was all Fiona's fault, not hers... but her mum kept nagging her till Sally **18.** (*had no other choice*) _____ and **19.** (*gave in though not convinced*) _____.

While she was reluctantly speed-dialling Fiona, she had a **20.** (*brilliant idea*) _____: she WOULD apologise for her temper BUT she would ask Fiona what SHE would have done if she had been in Sally's place!!! After all, it WASN'T her fault at all!!! Still, she had to admit that there were **21.** (*good excuses*) _____ for Fiona's behaviour... Both James and Gary were really drop dead gorgeous... so there was **22.** (*a very small possibility*) _____

that Fiona might find the right excuse but forgiving her would be **23.** *(a very difficult task)* _____ for Sally in any case.

When Fiona answered the phone Sally found it really difficult to speak to her because there was **24.** *(a continuous loud sound)* _____ in the background! What was happening??? How could Fiona survive in that racket? It would certainly **25.** *(infuriate her)* _____. The two girls had grown up together and been friends since Sally could remember but though their families had always **26.** *(had a friendly relationship)* _____ there was definitely **27.** *(a huge difference)* _____ between their backgrounds. THIS was probably **28.** *(something which helped)* a _____ to their falling-out if not the **29.** *(main reason)* _____ of what had happened.

For the first time in their life-long friendship Sally found herself tongue-tied: she didn't know how to **30.** *(start talking about the topic)* _____ without sounding like a complete ninny and the din at the back wasn't making things any easier! There was actually only a **31.** *(gambling chance)* _____ that Fiona would actually be able to hear anything!!!

The conversation risked becoming a(n) **32.** *(total failure)* _____ so **33.** *(remembering)* _____ how important Fiona was for her and how **34.** *(desperately alone and disoriented)* _____ she'd be without her, Sally realised that she didn't want to **35.** *(become involved in an argument)* _____ with her. Their friendship counted more than any clash they might have had. That's when, **36.** *(contrary to what she thought was best)* _____, she decided to make a **37.** *(timid proposal)* _____ which **38.** *(made her feel very worried)* _____ but was certainly **39.** *(hard to do but with good results)* _____. It all depended on Fiona, now: would she accept?

40. *(Totally unexpectedly)* _____ Sally's suggestion had **41.** *(the result wished for)* _____! Fiona was feeling just as bad as Sally so a phone-call which Sally had almost **42.** *(said no without giving explanations)* _____ to make and which had **42.** *(caused worry or panic)* _____ in her, had become a **44.** *(something with a good effect)* _____!!!

What would have happened if Sally hadn't taken that first step...?

ANSWERS

1. at a blistering pace
2. beyond all recognition
3. casual acquaintances
4. in grave danger
5. trust her implicitly
6. greatly appreciate
7. since forever
8. polar opposites
9. do the trick
10. spotlessly clean
11. blatantly obvious
12. strictly speaking
13. flown off the handle
14. hone her social skills
15. strongly inclined
16. kick up a fuss
17. pick a fight
18. was left with little alternative
19. bowed to pressure.
20. stroke of genius
21. extenuating circumstances
22. a slim chance
23. an uphill struggle
24. incessant noise
25. drive her crazy
26. been on good terms
27. a world of difference
28. contributing factor
29. root cause
30. broach the subject
31. remote possibility
32. unmitigated disaster
33. bearing in mind
34. hopelessly lost
35. be drawn into an argument
36. against her better judgement
37. tentative suggestion
38. filled her with dread
39. worth the effort
40. against all odds
41. the desired effect
42. refused point-blank
42. sparked fears
44. force for good