Verb Collocations Worksheet

Fill in the blanks (one word each). (A few hints are given for the more difficult items.)

1. He is very gentle when he’s sober, but a couple of glasses of alcohol will ________ out the beast in him.
2. I left the kids alone at the breakfast table for five minutes, but when I returned they had ________ such a mess with their cereals that I had to clean the table and the floor as well.
3. Our daughter is only three and she can already ________ the time. So we have put an old-fashioned clock on her bedroom wall.
4. The police think they have finally cracked the _________. They are now convinced the murder was committed by the victim’s mother-in-law.
5. It took James Bond just a couple of seconds to put on his trousers, ________le his belt and escape via the balcony.
6. Despite last week’s defeat, the coach has decided not to ________ any changes to his team for tonight’s match.
7. My brother is much better at sciences than I am. He’s actually planning to ________ a degree in physics.
8. As he was released from prison, he promised he was going to make a b_________ with his past. From now on he would be a law-abiding citizen, he said.
9. Enrique Iglesias has followed in his father’s ___________ps and is now an international star as popular as his father used to be.
10. When you’re feeling anxious, a session of yoga can really ________ wonders for you.
11. For the cooking time to be right, you should first bring the water to the ________l and only then add the pasta.
12. The protesters ________ a lot of damage to shop windows they passed on their march.
13. She very much fancies Billy, but she doesn’t like the company he ________.
14. Our head of department is very competent. We all ________ her in high esteem.
15. People in unhappy marriages sometimes ________ solace in work.
16. Before she went to Hollywood, she first made a n________ for herself as a stage actress.

Sound repetition (especially alliteration, i.e. the repetition of word-initial consonants) plays a part in the formation of word partnerships.
Fill in the blanks (one word each). (A few hints are given for the more difficult items.)

1. He is very gentle when he's sober, but a couple of glasses of alcohol will bring out the _________ in him.

2. I left the kids alone at the breakfast table for five minutes, but when I returned they had made such a _________ with their cereals that I had to clean the table and the floor as well.

3. Our daughter is only three and she can already _________ the _________ . So we have put an old-fashioned clock on her bedroom wall.

4. The police think they have finally _____cked the case. They are now convinced the murder was committed by the victim's mother-in-law.

5. It took James Bond just a couple of seconds to put on his trousers, buckle his _________ and escape via the balcony.

6. Despite last week's defeat, the coach has decided not to make any _________ to his team for tonight's match.

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9. Enrique Iglesias has ________________ in his father's footsteps and is now an international star as popular as his father used to be.

10. When you're feeling anxious, a session of yoga can really work _________ for you.

11. For the cooking time to be right, you should first __________ the water to the boil and only then add the pasta.

12. The protesters did a lot of __________ge to shop windows they passed on their march.

13. She very much fancies Billy, but she doesn’t like the _________ny he keeps.

14. Our head of department is very competent. We all hold her in _________ esteem.

15. People in unhappy marriages sometimes seek _________ce in work.

16. Before she went to Hollywood, she first m________ a name for herself as a stage actress.