

**promise**  
[ˈprɒmɪs]e.g.: *Promise that you'll be back by the end of September.***swear**  
[swɛə]e.g.: *I swear to God that I hadn't borrowed your car!***oath**  
[əʊθ]e.g.: *The Hippocratic oath obliges doctors to save lives of other people regardless of the circumstances.***hold to sth**e.g.: *Whatever my arguments were, she held to Her opinion.***go back on**e.g.: *Although they had promised to lend us the money, they went back on their word.*

The verb to **promise sth to sb / sb sth** means to tell sb that you will definitely do or not do sth, or that sth will definitely happen, or to make sth seem likely to happen. Consequently, a **promise (to do sth / that...)** is a statement that tells sb that you will definitely do or not do sth. A **promise** is also used to refer to a sign that sb/sth will be successful. A **promise of sth** is a sign, or a reason for hope that sth good may happen. In informal language. An **oath** is a formal promise to do sth. The noun **oath** is also used to refer to a formal statement that sth is true. The verb to **swear** means to make a serious promise to do sth. To **swear (at sb/sth)** also means to use offensive language. The phrasal verb to **hold to sth** means to keep to something (e.g. a promise) or to follow sth exactly. If you **go back on sth**, on the other hand, it means that you change your mind and don't do something that you had earlier promised to do.

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WHEN WE REFER TO SOMEONE AS E.G. A PROMISING ARTIST, WHAT DOES THE WORD PROMISE INDICATE?

DO YOU THINK I WOULD MAKE A PROMISING COMEDIAN?

IMAGINE YOU BELONGED TO AN ORGANISATION AND YOU WERE BOUND BY A SOLEMN OATH NEVER TO REVEAL THE SECRETS OF THE ORGANISATION, AND ONE DAY YOU FOUND OUT THAT IT'S INVOLVED IN SOME ILLEGAL ACTIONS. WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

WHEN PRIOR TO GIVING EVIDENCE A WITNESS IN COURT IS PUT UNDER OATH, WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

IF THE GOVERNMENT PROMISED TO REDUCE TAXES, AND LATER ON FAILED TO KEEP THE PROMISE, WHAT MIGHT BE THE CONSEQUENCES?