ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

400 Must Have Words for the TOEFL LESSON 11 – Illness Vocabulary Test

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1	E	2	A	3	C	4	D	5	B	6	C	7	E	8	A	9	D	10	B
11	C	12	B																

Explanations

1. Choose the word that is closest in meaning to the underlined part of each sentence.

He sustained a serious injury in the war, so he was sent home immediately.
✔ **E) wound**
A **wound** is an injury to the body, especially a cut or hole in the skin caused by a weapon, so it fits an injury received in a war: **He suffered a deep wound to his arm.** Not **disease**, because a disease is an illness, not damage caused by an attack or accident.

2. Her sickness was so rare, doctors weren't certain how to treat it.
✔ **A) disease**
A **disease** is an illness or sickness, so it can replace **sickness** here: **a rare disease**. **Prognosis** is related to illness, but it means a prediction about how an illness will develop, not the illness itself.

3. His motto was to keep trying, no matter what happened.
✔ **C) persist**
To **persist** means to keep trying or to continue doing something even when it is difficult: **She persisted until she found a solution.** None of the other options is a verb that means 'continue'.

4. The medical staff could not know for sure whether the treatment would work, but they made a confident prediction that the patient would recover.
✔ **D) prognosis**
A **prognosis** is a doctor's prediction about how an illness will develop and whether the patient will recover: **The prognosis is good.** The clue is the medical context: the staff predicted that the patient would recover.

5. The airplane crash was tragic, killing many people immediately and inflicting injuries on others that would eventually prove deadly.
✔ **B) fatal**
Fatal means causing death, so it is a synonym of **deadly**: **a fatal injury**. The phrase **prove fatal** means 'turn out to cause death'. Not **wound**, which is a noun for the injury itself, not an adjective.

6. Choose the word that most closely fits the definition below.

the science involved in solving crimes
✔ **C) forensics**
Forensics is the use of scientific methods to investigate crimes, for example by studying fingerprints, blood or DNA: **Forensics experts examined the crime scene.**

7. a vessel for carrying blood
✔ **E) vein**
A **vein** is a tube in the body that carries blood, specifically back to the heart: **The nurse put the needle into a vein in his arm.**

8. to make worse
✔ **A) aggravate**
To **aggravate** means to make a problem, illness or situation worse: **Smoking aggravated his breathing problems.** In informal English it can also mean 'annoy', but its basic meaning is 'make worse'.

9. unable to be cured
✔ **D) terminal**
A **terminal** illness cannot be cured and will cause death: **terminal cancer**. Not **fatal**, which means 'causing death'. It is not one of the options here, but learners often confuse the two words.

10. in very bad condition
✔ **B) decrepit**
Decrepit means old and in very bad condition. It is used for people, buildings or objects: **a decrepit old house**, **a decrepit old man**.

11. Why does the author mention a **wound**?
✔ **C) It was suspicious.**
Paragraph 2 calls it an **unlikely wound**. It says the wound could easily have been made by someone giving medicine . . . or **poison**. So the wound made the specialists suspect that the death was not natural. Not 'The wound caused the death': the passage says the poison, travelling through the veins, caused the death, and the wound only showed how the poison may have entered the body.

12. In the passage, the word **inherit** is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **B) gain**
To **inherit** means to receive money or property from someone after they die. Paragraph 3 says the relatives **stood to inherit large sums from the old man's estate**, which means they would **gain** money when he died. Not **earn**, because earning means getting money in return for work.