ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

400 Must-Have Words for the TOEFL Lesson 26 (A Reasonable Doubt): Vocabulary Test

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Explanations

1. In a letter to the local newspaper, one resident openly ___ the factory owners, claiming that they had let waste flow into the river.
✔ **B) accused**
To accuse someone is to say that they have done something wrong. The resident made the charge in a letter; only a court can convict.

2. The man ___ took the paintings from the gallery at night, but the police have not yet been able to prove it.
✔ **C) allegedly**
Allegedly means that something is said to be true but has not been proved. The man is said to have taken the paintings, but there is no proof yet.

3. Disputes between neighbours over garden walls are usually ___ cases, not criminal ones, so no one is arrested.
✔ **D) civil**
Civil cases are legal disputes between private people or companies, such as quarrels over property. They are kept apart from criminal cases.

4. After hearing all the evidence, the jury voted to ___ the driver, and the judge will decide on the punishment next week.
✔ **B) convict**
To convict someone is to decide officially in a court that they committed a crime. Only after this does the judge choose a punishment.

5. In court, the defendant admitted that he was ___ and apologised to the shop owner for the damage.
✔ **C) guilty**
Guilty means having done something wrong or against the law. By admitting it, the defendant accepted responsibility for the damage.

6. In many countries, driving without insurance is a serious ___ that can lead to a heavy fine.
✔ **D) offense**
An offense is an act that breaks the law. Driving without insurance is against the law in many places. (British English: offence.)

7. In this system, a person charged with a crime is judged by a jury of their ___, ordinary citizens from the same community.
✔ **B) peers**
Your peers are people who are equal to you in age, rank or position. A jury of peers is made up of ordinary citizens like the person on trial.

8. The police released the ___ after his alibi was confirmed by two of his colleagues.
✔ **A) suspect**
A suspect is someone the police believe could be responsible for a crime. His alibi showed he was somewhere else, so he was let go.

9. The jury took three days to reach its ___, and the courtroom fell silent as it was read out.
✔ **D) verdict**
A verdict is the decision a jury or judge gives once a trial is over. It is announced in court.

10. The court heard from just one ___, a cyclist who had been waiting at the crossing and saw the van go through the red light.
✔ **B) witness**
A witness is someone who sees an event and can later describe it, often in court. The cyclist saw what the van did.

11. "The article accused the company of hiding the true cost of the project from its shareholders." In this sentence, the word "accused" is closest in meaning to
✔ **C) blamed**
To accuse is to blame someone openly for doing something wrong. The article said the company had hidden the real cost.

12. "The documents were allegedly stolen from the archive, although no one has been charged." In this sentence, the word "allegedly" is closest in meaning to
✔ **D) reportedly**
Allegedly means that people claim something happened, but it has not been proved. No one has been charged, so the theft is reported but not certain.

13. "She works as a civil lawyer, handling disputes over contracts, property and family matters." In this sentence, the word "civil" is closest in meaning to
✔ **C) non-criminal**
In law, civil describes cases between private people, not crimes. Civil can also mean polite, but contracts and property show the legal sense.

14. "After a six-week trial, the court convicted the former manager of fraud." In this sentence, the word "convicted" is closest in meaning to
✔ **D) judged responsible**
To convict is to decide officially in court that someone committed a crime. The trial ended with the manager judged responsible for the fraud.

15. "Camera footage showed that the driver was guilty, since his car was recorded going through the red light." In this sentence, the word "guilty" is closest in meaning to
✔ **B) to blame**
Guilty means having done something against the law. The footage proved the driver was to blame; innocent is the opposite.

16. "Dropping litter is a minor offense in most towns and is usually punished with a small fine." In this sentence, the word "offense" is closest in meaning to
✔ **A) crime**
An offense is a crime, from small ones like littering to serious ones. A fine shows that it breaks the law. (British English: offence.)

17. "Teenagers often care more about the opinions of their peers than about those of their parents." In this sentence, the word "peers" is closest in meaning to
✔ **B) people of the same age**
Peers are people of the same age or position as you. For teenagers, these are other teenagers, such as friends and classmates.

18. "The suspect was questioned for several hours before being released without charge." In this sentence, the word "suspect" is closest in meaning to
✔ **A) person believed responsible**
A suspect is a person thought to have committed a crime. The police questioned him but did not have enough to charge him.

19. "The judges announced their verdict after two hours, awarding first prize to the youngest choir." In this sentence, the word "verdict" is closest in meaning to
✔ **A) decision**
A verdict is a decision made after careful thought, in court or elsewhere. Here the judges of a competition decided the winner.

20. "Hundreds of people witnessed the eclipse from the hills above the town." In this sentence, the word "witnessed" is closest in meaning to
✔ **C) saw**
To witness something is to see it happen. The people on the hills watched the eclipse.

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