ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

400 Must Have Words for the TOEFL LESSON 40 – Risky Fashions Vocabulary Test

400 Must Have Words for the TOEFL · 12 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
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1	**D**	2	**C**	3	**A**	4	**B**	5	**E**	6	**B**	7	**A**	8	**B**	9	**B**	10	**A**
11	**C**	12	**A**																

Explanations

1. Find the word or phrase that is closest in meaning to the opposite of each word below.

capricious
✓ **D) predictable**
Capricious means changing suddenly and without reason, like a person who changes their mind all the time. The opposite is **predictable**, which means you know what will happen. Example: **The weather here is capricious: sunny one minute, stormy the next.**

2. exotic
✓ **C) ordinary**
Exotic means unusual and exciting, often because it comes from a faraway place. The opposite is **ordinary**, meaning normal and common. Example: **exotic fruits** vs **ordinary apples**.

3. inhibit
✓ **A) encourage**
To **inhibit** means to hold someone back or stop something from happening. The opposite is **encourage**, meaning to help or push someone to do something. Example: **Fear can inhibit learning, but praise can encourage it.**

4. minimum
✓ **B) maximum**
Minimum is the smallest possible amount. Its opposite is **maximum**, the largest possible amount. Example: **a minimum of fabric and a maximum of skin**.

5. vulnerable
✓ **E) well protected**
Vulnerable means easy to hurt, attack or influence. The opposite is **well protected**, meaning safe from harm. Example: **Young children are vulnerable to infections.**

6. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

The _____ of his sweater made him look fatter than he really was.
✓ **B) bulk**
Bulk means large size or thickness. A thick, heavy sweater has a lot of bulk, which is why it made him look fatter. Not **trend**, which is a popular style and does not describe size.

7. Some analysts see a relationship between fashion _____ and the ups and downs of the economy.
✓ **A) trends**
Fashion trends are the styles that become popular for a time. Trends rise and fall, just like the **ups and downs** of the economy. **Vanity** (too much pride in your looks) does not collocate with **fashion** here.

8. The outfits worn by firefighters are _____ and heavy.
✓ **B) cumbersome**
Cumbersome means large, heavy and difficult to move in or carry, which fits **and heavy**. Not **vulnerable**: firefighters' outfits are designed to protect, not to be easily harmed.

9. Her necklace was especially _____ because of the diamonds it contained.
✓ **B) striking**
Striking means very attractive and easy to notice. Diamonds make a necklace catch people's eye. Not **cumbersome**, because diamonds make a necklace beautiful, not heavy or awkward.

10. _____ led my grandfather to dye his hair and to dress like someone 40 years younger.
✓ **A) Vanity**
Vanity is too much pride in your own appearance. Wanting to look 40 years younger by dyeing his hair shows vanity. **Bulk** (large size) makes no sense as the cause of this behaviour.

11. *(Question with a long text: see the questions PDF.)*
✓ **C) capricious**
The author says the industry turns a natural desire into a **capricious**, impractical, and expensive rush from one style to another. The abrupt change from tiny outfits to huge ones in one year shows how unpredictable fashion is. **Striking** describes a new style, and **vulnerable** describes the people, not the industry.

12. What is one reason people buy the latest fashions, according to the author?
✓ **A) Because they want to feel like they are part of the group.**
The passage says it is natural for humans to use clothing **as a mark of belonging to a group** and to keep up with trends. So people buy new fashions because they want to feel part of the group. The passage never says people enjoy spending money or that old clothes no longer fit.