ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

4000 Essential English Words 1 Unit 15: The Big Race

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Explanations

1. **Choose the right word for the given definition.**
something of value that is given to the winner
✓ **B) prize**
A **prize** is something good, like money or a cup, that the winner gets. **The winner got a prize.**

2. lucky
✓ **C) fortunate**
Fortunate means lucky. **I was fortunate to find my keys.**

3. to eat
✓ **A) consume**
To **consume** means to eat or drink something. **The rabbit consumed some grass.**

4. the feeling of being afraid
✓ **B) fear**
Fear is the feeling you have when you are afraid.

5. to do by chance
✓ **D) happen**
To **happen** to do something means to do it by chance, without planning. **I happened to see her at the shop.**

6. how long something is
✓ **A) length**
Length is how long something is. **The race was ten kilometers in length.**

7. to let air in and out of your body
✓ **B) breathe**
To **breathe** means to take air in and let it out of your body.

8. something you did wrong
✓ **C) mistake**
A **mistake** is something you did wrong. **I made a mistake on my test.**

9. up to this point
✓ **D) yet**
Yet means up to now. **He hasn't won yet.**

10. to understand
✓ **A) realize**
To **realize** means to understand or suddenly know something. **He realized his mistake.**

11. **Check the sentence with the bolded word that makes better sense.**

a. Being tall is a **characteristic** of many trees.

b. I was **fortunate** because I received some useless gifts.
✓ **A)**
A **characteristic** is a typical quality, so sentence A makes sense. Sentence B is wrong: getting useless gifts is not lucky (**fortunate**).

12. a. Because he left work early, Carl had an **opportunity** to go to the concert.

b. I could feel the **length** of the air outside.
✓ **A)**
An **opportunity** is a chance to do something, so A makes sense. In B, air has no **length** you can feel.

13. a. Angela felt **fear** when she got a good grade on her test.

b. Our team won. We were **fortunate**.
✓ **B)**
Winning is lucky, so **fortunate** fits B. In A, a good grade makes you happy, not afraid (**fear**).

14. a. Jeremy thought his hair was just the right **length**.

b. Michelle left her **characteristic** at my house.
✓ **A)**
Hair can be long or short, so **length** fits A. A **characteristic** is a quality, not a thing you can leave at a house.

15. a. Theresa found an **opportunity** on the ground outside.

b. Billy feels **fear** when he has to talk in front of people.
✓ **B)**
Many people feel **fear** when they speak in front of others, so B makes sense. An **opportunity** is a chance, not a thing you find on the ground.

16. **What is this story about?**
✓ **A) A race between a rabbit and a turtle**
The whole story tells about **a race between the rabbit and the turtle**: how it starts, how the rabbit sleeps and how the turtle wins.

17. **What did the duck do for the other animals?**
✓ **D) He sold tickets to them.**
The duck says, **"I just sold them tickets to a race."** Not "He gave them a prize": the duck gave the prize only to the turtle.

18. Why did the dog think the turtle had no opportunity to win the race?
✓ C) Being fast was not a characteristic of turtles.
Paragraph 4 says: **Being fast was not a characteristic of turtles.** So the dog thought the rabbit would win easily.

19. What did the rabbit do after he woke up?
✓ B) He realized his mistake.
After the loud sound woke him, **the rabbit realized his mistake**. Not "He consumed some grass": he ate grass before he went to sleep.

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