ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

4000 Essential English Words 3 Unit 17: The Magic Cup

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Explanations

1. **Choose the answer that best fits the question.**
Which of the following means that something is not important?
✔ **B) Dismiss**
To **dismiss** something means to decide that it is not important and not think about it any more: **She dismissed his idea as silly.**

2. What is the power that causes things to happen?
✔ **D) Fate**
Fate is the power that some people believe makes things happen and controls our lives: **Fate brought them together.**

3. What is the hot liquid from a volcano called?
✔ **D) Lava**
Lava is the very hot liquid rock that comes out of a volcano. Not **ash**, which is the grey powder left after something burns.

4. What is something that a volcano does?
✔ **B) Erupt**
When a volcano **erupts**, it suddenly throws out smoke, ash and lava: **The volcano erupted last year.**

5. What is it called to have belief in something magical?
✔ **A) Superstition**
A **superstition** is a belief in magic or luck that is not based on facts, e.g. that black cats bring bad luck.

6. **Choose the word that is a better fit for each blank.**
The _____ _____ from Europe and was brought to North America.
✔ **B) superstition / originated**
After **The** we need a noun, **superstition** (a belief in magic or luck). Then we need a verb in the past: **originated from** means 'started in' a place.

7. The _____ quickly _____ his idea as being too unrealistic to be of any use.
✔ **A) agency / dismissed**
After **The** we need a noun: an **agency** is a business or organisation. Then a past verb: **dismissed** means decided the idea was not important or useful.

8. Their house is built on a _____. There is great concern that _____ from a nearby volcano will destroy the house easily.
✔ **A) slope / lava**
A house can be built on a **slope** (ground that goes up or down). Hot **lava** comes from a volcano and can destroy a house.

9. When he learned of his _____, he was frightened. It made his entire body _____ uncontrollably.
✔ **B) fate / vibrate**
His is followed by a noun: **fate** (what will happen to him). After **made his body** we need a verb: **vibrate** means shake quickly.

10. Please, _____ your _____ to someone who really needs it.
✔ **B) confine / sympathy**
After **Please** we need a verb: **confine** something **to** means keep it only for that person or place. After **your** we need a noun: **sympathy** is the feeling of being sorry for someone.

11. A gray cloud of _____ _____ from the tailpipe of the car that had not been started in three years.
✔ **A) ash / erupted**
A cloud of is followed by a noun: **ash** (grey powder from burning). Then a past verb: **erupted** means came out suddenly and strongly.

12. I felt _____ all evening. Perhaps I caught a virus when I had to _____ the missing sheep from the heavy rainstorm.
✔ **B) miserable / retrieve**
Felt is followed by an adjective: **miserable** means very unhappy or unwell. After **had to** we need a verb: **retrieve** means go and bring something back.

13. I have great _____ for those who do exciting things. When I was young, I would often _____ the countryside just for fun.
✔ **B) affection / wander**
Great is followed by a noun: **affection** is a feeling of liking someone. After **would often** we need a verb: **wander** means walk around without a fixed plan.

14. We sent the youngsters home while the _____ of the group crossed the _____ but fast-moving stream.
✔ **A) remainder / shallow**
The remainder of means the rest of the group. Before **stream** we need an adjective: **shallow** means not deep, which contrasts with **fast-moving** (**but**).

15. It was a difficult trip, but we managed to _____ our way through the wilderness in a trip that _____ five days.
✔ **B) navigate / spanned**
After **managed to** we need the base verb: **navigate** means find your way. Then a past verb: **spanned five days** means lasted five days.

16. The trip to find the magic cup was very easy.
✓ **B) FALSE**
The passage says they were **miserable**, had to cross rivers and climb **difficult slopes**, and the journey **spanned many days**. So the trip was not easy.

17. The boys dismissed their mother's advice before they left for the trip.
✓ **A) TRUE**
Paragraph 3 says their mother told them to work together, but **they dismissed that idea**.

18. The boys were confined to a hilltop by the lava after the volcano erupted.
✓ **A) TRUE**
After the volcano erupted, both brothers climbed a hill, and **they were confined to the hill until the lava cooled down**.

19. A superstition said that anyone who retrieved the cup would become the leader of the agency.
✓ **B) FALSE**
The superstition said that anyone who retrieved the cup **would have their wish come true**, not that they would become the leader. Becoming leader was only the brothers' own wish.

20. The boys had more affection and sympathy for each other after the trip.
✓ **A) TRUE**
On the hill they **felt more sympathy and affection for each other than ever before**, and the trip **taught them to work together and love each other**.

21. After the volcano erupted, there was ash in the sky and lava on the ground.
✓ **A) TRUE**
The passage says: **Ash filled the sky and lava covered everything.**

22. Why didn't the boys travel together?
✓ **D) They wanted to travel alone.**
Paragraph 3 says that **each wanted to travel alone**. Not 'different places': their trips **originated from the same house**.

23. Why were the boys always fighting?
✓ **D) They both wanted to be leaders of the agency.**
The first paragraph says they fought all the time because **they both wanted to be leaders of the agency**.

24. Why did fate bring the boys together?
✓ **B) So they could complete the remainder of the trip together**
After **fate had brought them together**, the brothers **left to finish the remainder of the trip together**.

25. What was surprising about the cup?
✓ **A) It was only an ordinary cup.**
The last paragraph says the cup didn't make wishes come true: **It was only an ordinary cup.**

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