ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

4000 Essential English Words 3 Unit 22: The Circus

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11	**A**	12	**B**	13	**A**	14	**B**	15	**A**	16	**B**	17	**A**	18	**A**	19	**B**	20	**B**
21	**A**	22	**B**	23	**A**	24	**A**	25	**B**	26	**B**	27	**C**	28	**A**	29	**D**	30	**D**

Explanations

1. **Choose the right word for the given definition.**
to have enough room
✓ **A) accommodate**
Accommodate means to have enough room or space for people or things: **The hotel can accommodate 200 guests.**

2. to change the color of something
✓ **B) dye**
Dye means to change the color of something, for example hair or clothes: **She dyed her hair red.**

3. a category of being either a boy or a girl
✓ **D) gender**
Gender is the category of being male or female, a boy or a girl: **The form asks for your name, age and gender.**

4. the title of a newspaper story
✓ **B) headline**
A **headline** is the title of a newspaper story, usually printed in large letters at the top.

5. to pay someone to do something
✓ **B) commission**
To **commission** someone means to pay them to do a special piece of work: **They commissioned an artist to paint the wall.**

6. **Choose the right definition for the given word.**
inquire
✓ **B) to ask about something**
To **inquire** means to ask about something: **He inquired about the price of the tickets.** Not "to pay someone for something", which is the meaning of **commission**.

7. steer
✓ **D) to control the direction of a car**
To **steer** means to control the direction of a car, boat or bike: **He steered the car into the parking lot.**

8. stripe
✓ **A) a line**
A **stripe** is a long line of color: **A tiger has black stripes on its fur.**

9. extent
✓ **B) how much**
Extent means how much, how big or how serious something is: **We didn't know the extent of the damage.**

10. coincide
✓ **A) to happen at the same time**
To **coincide** means to happen at the same time as something else: **My birthday coincided with the holiday.**

11. **Choose the word that is the better fit for each blank.**
The patient _____ if the doctor could help his shoulder pain. The doctor gave him a _____ of medication that would relieve the pain.
✓ **A) inquired / dose**
The first gap needs a verb meaning "asked": the patient **inquired**. The second gap follows **a**, so it needs a noun: **a dose of medication** (an amount of medicine).

12. The photographer _____ through the camera, but the picture didn't seem right. So he asked the people to _____ differently.
✓ **B) peered / pose**
The photographer **peered** (looked carefully) through the camera. After **asked the people to**, we need a base verb: **pose** (stay in a position for a photo).

13. Her grandfather gave her a _____ that was painted when he was a boy. Her grandfather's family had _____ a famous artist to do it.
✓ **A) portrait / commissioned**
After **a**, the first gap needs a noun: a **portrait** (a picture of a person). After **had**, we need a past participle: the family had **commissioned** (paid) an artist to paint it.

14. The day of the wedding _____ with an important baseball game. As a result, the hotels couldn't _____ the extra guests.
✓ **B) coincided / accommodate**
The wedding **coincided** with the game (happened at the same time). After **couldn't**, we need a base verb: the hotels couldn't **accommodate** (have room for) the extra guests.

15. The performers at the _____ had clothing that was _____ funny colors.
✓ **A) circus / dyed**
Performers work **at the circus** (a traveling show). Their clothes were **dyed** funny colors, meaning their color was changed.

16. They didn't understand the _____ of the damage until they saw the _____ that said that thousands of people had lost their homes in the storm.
✔ **B) extent / headline**
The extent of the damage means how much damage there was. People read a **headline** (the title of a news story) that said thousands had lost their homes.

17. The _____ carried the notes in a bag that had a long green _____ on the side.
✔ **A) messenger / stripe**
A **messenger** is a person who carries notes or news. The bag had a long green **stripe** (line) on the side.

18. The owner of the _____ had an _____ meeting with his employees to talk to them about the recent problems.
✔ **A) ranch / informal**
The owner of a **ranch** (a large farm with animals) had an **informal** meeting, meaning a relaxed, not official one. The adjective **informal** goes before the noun **meeting**.

19. I couldn't tell the _____ of the person _____ the car because it was dark outside.
✔ **B) gender / steering**
The gender of the person means whether the person was a man or a woman. **The person steering the car** is the person driving it.

20. The trainer _____ the _____ tiger with a treat, but the animal remained in his place.
✔ **B) tempted / tame**
The first gap needs a past verb: the trainer **tempted** the tiger, meaning he tried to make it want the treat. The second gap needs an adjective before **tiger**: a **tame** tiger is not wild.

21. Ben lived on a ranch near a small town.
✔ **A) TRUE**
Paragraph 1 says: **He lived on a ranch near a small town.**

22. Ben was tempted by money when he had his own circus.
✔ **B) FALSE**
The last paragraph says: **But he wasn't tempted by money.** He just wanted to make children happy.

23. The tigers had stripes and were tame.
✔ **A) TRUE**
Paragraph 3 says: **tame tigers with stripes on their fur did tricks.**

24. People with dyed hair of both genders danced all over the place.
✔ **A) TRUE**
Paragraph 3 says Ben saw people of both **genders** dance all around, and their hair was **dyed** many different colors.

25. Ben learned about the circus from a television advertisement.
✔ **B) FALSE**
Paragraph 1 says a **messenger** came and showed the **headline** in the town newspaper. It was not a television advertisement.

26. Ben was commissioned to paint informal portraits of people posing in front of a funny picture.
✔ **B) FALSE**
Paragraph 3 says people could commission a portrait while **an artist** quickly drew them. Ben was only a visitor; he did not paint the portraits.

27. Why did Ben like the circus to such an extent?
✔ **C) It made him feel special.**
Paragraph 5 says seeing the circus was like a dose of medicine: **He wasn't unhappy anymore. He felt special.** Not "He took a dose of special medicine": the passage only compares the circus to medicine.

28. What good news did the messenger bring?
✔ **A) The circus was coming.**
Paragraph 1 says the messenger showed the newspaper headline: **The circus was coming to the town.**

29. What did Ben's dad do on his birthday?
✔ **D) He steered around town looking for the circus.**
Paragraph 2 says **his father steered the car through the town** on the way to the circus. The other options are not in the passage.

30. Why wasn't Ben tempted by money?
✔ **D) He only wanted to make people happy.**
The last paragraph says he wasn't tempted by money because **he just wanted to make children happy**. Not "He was already very rich": people only told him that he **could be** very rich.

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