ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

4000 Essential English Words 4 Unit 3: The Young Man and the Old Man

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Explanations

1. **Choose the word that is the better fit for each blank.**
I had the _____ of going with them or staying home. I felt like an _____ for the choice I made.
✔ **B) option / idiot**
An **option** is a choice you can make, so **I had the option of going or staying**. An **idiot** is a very stupid person, so **I felt like an idiot** means you think your choice was foolish.

2. Because he liked to _____ the kitten by pouring water on it, the boy's mother _____ him for his cruel behavior.
✔ **B) torment / admonished**
Torment means to make a person or animal suffer on purpose, like pouring water on a kitten. **Admonished** means warned or scolded someone for bad behavior, which is what the mother did.

3. It was difficult to _____ the dog's location because its cries _____ off of the hills.
✔ **B) pinpoint / echoed**
Pinpoint means to find the exact place of something. The cries **echoed**: the sound bounced back off the hills, so the dog's location was hard to find.

4. My sister likes to _____ about how my mother and father think her behavior is _____.
✔ **A) brag / perfect**
Brag means to talk proudly about yourself, and it comes after **likes to**. **Perfect** is an adjective meaning without any mistakes, so it fits after **her behavior is**.

5. When you _____ the machine on, you need to _____ because the machine is dangerous.
✔ **B) switch / beware**
Switch on means to turn a machine on. **Beware** means be careful because something is dangerous.

6. All of the accidents at the swimming pool led to the _____ closing of it and the end of a favorite summer _____.
✔ **A) eventual / pastime**
Eventual is an adjective meaning happening at the end, after some time, so it fits before the noun **closing**. A **pastime** is an activity you enjoy in your free time, like swimming in summer.

7. The king wanted people to think that his power was _____. He would put people in jail if they _____ with him.
✔ **B) awesome / disagreed**
Awesome here means very great and a little frightening, so it describes the king's power. **Disagreed with** means had a different opinion from someone.

8. Even though the little girl was trying to sneak up on her parents, her _____ steps made her parents _____ of her.
✔ **A) audible / conscious**
Audible means loud enough to be heard, so it describes her steps. **Conscious of** means aware of something, so her parents knew she was there.

9. An _____ tree fell across the road, forcing the travelers to take a more _____ route through the countryside.
✔ **A) immense / indirect**
Immense means very big, so it describes the tree. An **indirect** route does not go straight to a place; it is longer.

10. The police could not find a single clue to the crime, which gave a _____ as to how _____ the thief had been.
✔ **A) hint / thorough**
A **hint** is a small sign or clue about something, and the article **a** needs a noun. **Thorough** means very careful and complete: the thief left no clues.

11. You should **beware** _____.
✔ **B) of the hole in the bridge**
We say **beware of** something dangerous. **Beware of the hole in the bridge** means be careful of it.

12. My favorite **pastime** _____.
✔ **E) is listening to music**
A **pastime** is something you enjoy doing in your free time. The sentence needs a verb, so **My favorite pastime is listening to music**.

13. The doctor did a **thorough** check _____.
✔ **A) of the sick man's health**
Thorough means very careful and complete. A doctor does a **thorough check of** someone's health.

14. The two friends **disagreed** _____.
✓ **A) about which game was better**
We **disagree about** something when we have different opinions on it. **The two friends disagreed about which game was better**. Not **how good she is at sports**, because **disagree** needs **about** before this kind of phrase.

15. She **switched** the bag _____.
✓ **D) from her left hand to her right**
Switch means to change or move something from one place to another. **She switched the bag from her left hand to her right**.

16. His proud sister **brags** _____.
✓ **E) about how good she is at sports**
Brag about means to talk proudly about yourself. A proud sister **brags about how good she is at sports**.

17. An **immense** pile of garbage _____.
✓ **D) was the reason for the bad smell**
Immense means very big. The sentence needs a verb, so **An immense pile of garbage was the reason for the bad smell**.

18. The **indirect** route _____.
✓ **B) took an hour more to drive**
An **indirect** route does not go straight to a place, so it takes longer. That is why it **took an hour more to drive**.

19. The **awesome** storm caused _____.
✓ **C) fear that his home would be damaged**
Awesome here means very powerful and frightening. A powerful storm can cause **fear that his home would be damaged**.

20. She **admonished** the student _____.
✓ **C) for talking during the test**
Admonish means to warn or scold someone. We **admonish someone for** doing something wrong, like **talking during the test**.

21. He couldn’t sleep at night _____.
✓ **E) because bad dreams tormented him**
Torment means to make someone suffer. He couldn't sleep **because bad dreams tormented him**.

22. We knew he broke his leg when he fell _____.
✓ **E) because the sound of the bone breaking was audible**
Audible means loud enough to be heard. They knew his leg was broken **because the sound of the bone breaking was audible**.

23. He had to choose the blue car _____.
✓ **C) because there weren’t any other options**
An **option** is a choice. He had to choose the blue car **because there weren't any other options**.

24. The hiker always carried a compass and map, _____.
✓ **D) so he could pinpoint his location in the wild**
Pinpoint means to find the exact place of something. A compass and map help a hiker **pinpoint his location in the wild**.

25. She didn’t eat good food and didn’t exercise, _____.
✓ **A) and it led to her eventual illness**
Eventual means happening at the end, after some time. Bad food and no exercise **led to her eventual illness**.

26. The students had to answer all the questions correctly _____.
✓ **C) if they wanted to get a perfect grade**
Perfect means with no mistakes. You must answer every question correctly **if you want to get a perfect grade**.

27. The captain did not see the ship approaching behind him, _____.
✓ **D) but he was conscious of the other boats**
Conscious of means aware of something. He didn't see one ship, **but he was conscious of the other boats**.

28. She thought someone was calling to her from the other cliff, _____.
✓ **B) but it was just the echo of her voice**
An **echo** is a sound that bounces back off a surface such as a cliff. She thought someone was calling, **but it was just the echo of her voice**.

29. He knew his friends were having a surprise party for him _____.
✓ **B) because they gave him so many hints**
A **hint** is a small clue that helps you guess something. He knew about the party **because they gave him so many hints**.

30. If you can’t tie your own shoes by the time you’re twelve years old, _____.
✓ **A) then people might think you’re an idiot**
An **idiot** is a very stupid person. The **if** sentence needs a result: **then people might think you're an idiot**.

31. **The young man decided to hike in the national parks.**
✓ **A) TRUE**
Paragraph 1 says that he heard about people hiking in the national parks and **decided to try it** for himself. So the statement is true.

32. **The young man disagreed with the old man.**
✓ **A) TRUE**
The passage says **the young man disagreed with the old man** and bragged about his knowledge of the park. So the statement is true.

33. **The young man believed that his knowledge of the park’s trails was thorough.**
✓ **A) TRUE**
The young man says, **I believe I have a thorough knowledge of these trails.** So the statement is true.

34. **When the young man had an option of two trails, he always chose the easier one.**
✓ **B) FALSE**
The passage says he **always chose the more difficult option**, not the easier one. So the statement is false.

35. **The young man was tormented by the thought of the eventual storm.**
✓ **A) TRUE**
The passage says, **The thought of the eventual storm tormented the young man.** So the statement is true.

36. When the young man got home, he knew that the old man had acted like an idiot.
✓ B) FALSE
The last paragraph says the young man knew that **he** had acted like an idiot, not the old man. So the statement is false.

37. What did the young man choose as his new pastime?
✓ D) Hiking in parks
Paragraph 1 says he was looking for a new pastime, heard about people **hiking in the national parks**, and decided to try it.

38. Why did the old man admonish the young man?
✓ B) The young man bragged that he was perfect.
The young man **bragged that he had a perfect understanding of the park**, and the old man **admonished him for his pride**. Not his difficult trails, because he chose those later, after the talk.

39. Why did the young man become lost?
✓ A) He was not conscious of where he went.
The passage says he **was not conscious of which direction he was going** and his route was so indirect that he had no idea where he was. Not the map option, because he **could not pinpoint** his location.

40. Which of the following gave a hint of an eventual storm?
✓ A) The sudden strong winds
The passage says **sudden strong winds gave a hint that it might rain**. The clouds were **immense**, not sparse, and the passage does not mention lightning or colder weather.

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