ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

4000 Essential English Words 5 Unit 20: Microchips

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Explanations

1. **Choose the answer that best fits the question.**
Where would you find a microchip?
✔ **B) In a laptop**
A **microchip** is a tiny electronic part that stores and processes data. Computers such as a **laptop** are full of them. Salads, chairs and stones contain no electronics.

2. What is found at a quantum level?
✔ **B) Atomic particles**
Quantum refers to the smallest level of matter and energy, the level of **atomic particles** such as electrons. Comets and scales are far too large to be quantum-level objects.

3. What does a magnet attract?
✔ **A) Metal**
A **magnet** is an object that pulls certain **metals**, such as iron, toward it. It does not attract wood, water or plastic.

4. What is an example of a ratio?
✔ **C) Two to one**
A **ratio** compares two numbers or amounts, for example **two to one** (2:1). The other options are pairs of things or qualities, not numbers.

5. What is the equivalent of 60 minutes?
✔ **A) One hour**
Equivalent means equal in value or amount. Sixty minutes is equal to **one hour**.

6. The doctors just found out that the infection is _____.
✔ **C) viral**
The gap needs an adjective after **is**. **Viral** means caused by a virus, as in **a viral infection**.

7. Since a virus is not a bacterium, it cannot be treated with a (an) _____.
✔ **D) antibiotic**
An **antibiotic** is a medicine that kills bacteria. It does not work against viruses. The clue is the contrast between a virus and a bacterium. **Immune** and **prevalent** are adjectives, so they cannot follow **an**.

8. He looked at the information that was stored in the _____.
✔ **B) database**
A **database** is an organized collection of information stored on a computer. The clue is **information that was stored in**.

9. After comparing the data, he expressed the results in a _____.
✔ **B) ratio**
A **ratio** shows the relationship between two amounts, e.g. **3:1**. Results of comparing data are often **expressed in a ratio**.

10. The process of building the house is in the final _____.
✔ **D) phase**
A **phase** is one stage in a process. **The final phase** means the last stage of building the house.

11. The last step is putting in a staircase in the shape of a _____.
✔ **A) spiral**
A **spiral** is a shape that winds around and around a center point. A **spiral staircase** curves around as it goes up.

12. We learned what metals are attracted to a _____.
✔ **E) magnet**
A **magnet** pulls certain metals, such as iron, toward it. The clue is **attracted to**.

13. We fed our results into the computer as _____.
✔ **A) input**
Input is information that is put into a computer. **Fed our results into the computer** is the clue.

14. In this country, polio is not _____.
✔ **C) prevalent**
Prevalent means common or widespread. **Polio is not prevalent** means few people get it in this country.

15. It is highly uncommon because most people are _____ thanks to vaccines.
✔ **E) immune**
Immune means protected from a disease. Vaccines make people immune, so the disease is uncommon.

16. **Choose C if the italicized word is used correctly. Choose I if the word is used incorrectly.**
The *microchip* was damaged when she spilled water on the computer.
✔ **A) C**
A **microchip** is a tiny electronic part inside a computer. Water can damage it, so the word is used correctly.

17. *Quantum* mechanics deals with planets and stars.
✔ **B) I**
Quantum mechanics studies the tiniest particles, such as atoms and electrons. It does not deal with planets and stars, so the word is used incorrectly.

18. People with fast *metabolisms* are usually thin and in good shape.
✔ **A) C**
Metabolism is the way the body turns food into energy. People with a fast metabolism burn energy quickly, so the word is used correctly.

19. I *compressed* the sponge into a little ball.
✔ **A) C**
To **compress** something means to press it into a smaller space. Squeezing a sponge into a little ball fits this meaning, so the word is used correctly.

20. You should *pinch* your homework if you want to get it turned in on time.
✔ **B) I**
To **pinch** means to squeeze something tightly between your finger and thumb. Pinching homework makes no sense, so the word is used incorrectly.

21. I was amazed by the *aggregate* total of donated gifts and money.
✔ **A) C**
Aggregate means formed by adding many things together, a total. **The aggregate total of donated gifts and money** is a correct use.

22. The children played all day on the *circuit*.
✔ **B) I**
An electrical **circuit** is the path that electricity flows through. Children cannot play on it all day, so the word is used incorrectly here.

23. Dressing and pepper *complemented* the tasty salad.
✔ **A) C**
To **complement** something means to go well with it and make it better. Dressing and pepper improve a salad, so the word is used correctly. Don't confuse it with **compliment**, which means to say something nice.

24. *Intimate* friends should not tell lies about each other.
✔ **A) C**
Intimate means very close and personal. **Intimate friends** are very close friends, so the word is used correctly.

25. This tuba is the *equivalent* of a set of drums.
✔ **B) I**
Equivalent means equal in value, amount or meaning. A tuba and a set of drums are different instruments and are not equal, so the word is used incorrectly.

26. **Microchips are made up of compressed electrical circuits.**
✔ **A) TRUE**
Paragraph 1 says microchips **are made up of compressed electrical circuits**. The statement is true.

27. **Chips express the aggregate number of immune and intimate cells in a ratio.**
✔ **B) FALSE**
Paragraph 3 says chips find **the aggregate number of immune and infected cells**. It does not mention **intimate** cells, so the statement is false.

28. **Chips detect viral infections and problems with people's metabolism.**
✔ **A) TRUE**
Paragraph 3 says chips **can find problems with the person's metabolism** and **can also detect viral infections**. The statement is true.

29. **A doctor pinches the skin and cuts a hole with a tool shaped like a spiral.**
✔ **A) TRUE**
Paragraph 2 says **the doctor pinches a piece of skin and cuts a tiny hole with a tool shaped like a spiral**. The statement is true.

30. **Putting antibiotics in humans is becoming more prevalent.**
✔ **B) FALSE**
The last paragraph says that putting **chips** in humans is becoming more **prevalent**, not putting antibiotics in humans. The statement is false.

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