ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

4000 Essential English Words 6 Unit 1: The North Star

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1	**A**	2	**C**	3	**B**	4	**E**	5	**D**	6	**A**	7	**B**	8	**C**	9	**E**	10	**D**
11	**B**	12	**A**	13	**A**	14	**B**	15	**A**	16	**B**	17	**B**	18	**A**	19	**A**	20	**A**
21	**B**	22	**A**	23	**B**	24	**A**	25	**A**										

Explanations

1. When the heat was turned off, we became quite _____.
✓ **A) frantic**
Frantic means very worried, scared or upset, so you cannot think or act calmly. Losing the heat suddenly would make people panic: **we became quite frantic**. Not **volatile**, which describes someone whose mood changes suddenly and unpredictably, often towards anger.

2. When it finally came back on, our concerns and fears were _____.
✓ **C) soothed**
To **soothe** means to make someone calmer or to make a bad feeling less strong. When the heat came back, the worries became calmer: **our fears were soothed**. The gap needs a past participle after **were**, and **soothed** is the only verb form among the options.

3. The iceberg caused severe damage to the ship's _____.
✓ **B) hull**
The **hull** is the main body of a ship, the part that sits in the water. An iceberg would hit and damage it: **damage to the ship's hull**. The possessive **ship's** needs a noun after it, and **hull** is the only part of a ship among the options.

4. The motor stopped working, and the ship became _____.
✓ **E) stranded**
Stranded means stuck in a place with no way to leave. A ship with a broken motor cannot move, so it **became stranded**. Not **frantic**, because that describes how a person feels, not the state of a ship.

5. When he has too much to drink, he can become quite _____.
✓ **D) volatile**
Volatile describes a person whose mood can change suddenly and unpredictably, especially towards anger. Drinking too much can make someone like this: **he can become quite volatile**. **Frantic** would mean very worried or panicked, which does not fit drinking as well.

6. His unpredictable behavior is not dangerous, but he is a _____.
✓ **A) nuisance**
A **nuisance** is a person or thing that is annoying or causes small problems. The clue **not dangerous, but** shows his behaviour is only annoying. The article **a** also tells us the gap needs a singular noun.

7. During our journey, we arrived at the wrong _____.
✓ **B) latitude**
Latitude is the distance of a place north or south of the equator, measured in degrees. On a journey you can arrive at the wrong position: **we arrived at the wrong latitude**. None of the other nouns is a position or a place.

8. I suppose our calculations were _____.
✓ **C) erroneous**
Erroneous means wrong or containing mistakes. Arriving at the wrong place suggests the calculations had mistakes: **our calculations were erroneous**. Not **volatile**, which describes sudden changes, not mistakes.

9. When the ship came in, I was surprised at the number of _____.
✓ **E) mariners**
Mariners are sailors, the people who work on ships. When a ship comes in, you see the people on it, so **the number of mariners** makes sense. Not **multitude**: it already means a large number, so **the number of multitude** is not possible.

10. I thought there would only be a few sailors, but there was a _____.
✓ **D) multitude**
A **multitude** is a very large number of people or things. The contrast with **only a few sailors** shows there were very many: **there was a multitude**. Not **mariners**, because **a** needs a singular noun.

11. **Choose C if the italicized word is used correctly. Choose I if the word is used incorrectly.**
She loves to *improvise* peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for lunch.
✓ **B) I**
To **improvise** means to make or do something without planning, using whatever is available. Making the same simple sandwich you love is a normal, planned activity, not improvising, so the word is used incorrectly. Correct use: **We forgot the tent, so we had to improvise a shelter.**

12. Ice packs are sometimes used to *alleviate* headaches.
✓ **A) C**
To **alleviate** means to make pain or a problem less serious. Ice packs can reduce the pain of a headache, so **alleviate headaches** is used correctly.

13. This math book is full of *equations* for students to practice.
✔ **A) C**
An **equation** is a mathematical statement showing that two amounts are equal, such as **2x + 3 = 7**. A math book with equations for practice makes sense, so the word is used correctly.

14. The expert in *astrology* went to work every day to study rocks and soil.
✔ **B) I**
Astrology is the belief that the positions of the stars and planets affect people's lives. The study of rocks and soil is **geology**, so the word is used incorrectly. Learners often confuse it with **astronomy**, the science of stars and planets.

15. This math problem is tricky, so be careful not to *err*.
✔ **A) C**
To **err** means to make a mistake. With a tricky math problem, you should be careful not to make mistakes, so **be careful not to err** is used correctly.

16. The *permanence* of the flood was gone in a couple of days.
✔ **B) I**
Permanence is the state of lasting forever or for a very long time. A flood that is **gone in a couple of days** is temporary, so the word is used incorrectly.

17. After months of planning, the *inadvertent* decision to sell the company was carried out.
✔ **B) I**
Inadvertent means done by accident, without meaning to. A decision made **after months of planning** is deliberate, not accidental, so the word is used incorrectly. Correct use: **an inadvertent mistake**.

18. The Earth and other planets *revolve* around the sun.
✔ **A) C**
To **revolve** means to move in a circle around a central point. The Earth and other planets travel in circles around the sun, so **revolve around the sun** is used correctly.

19. Two flat tires *disrupted* our drive to the countryside.
✔ **A) C**
To **disrupt** means to stop something from continuing normally by causing a problem. Two flat tires would interrupt a drive, so **disrupted our drive** is used correctly.

20. What *differentiates* Dan from his brother is Dan's unmatched love of sports.
✔ **A) C**
To **differentiate** means to show or see the difference between people or things. Dan's love of sports is what makes him different from his brother, so the word is used correctly.

21. **Even today, sailors opt to improvise by using Polaris on clear nights.**
✔ **B) FALSE**
Paragraph 3 says **Even today, sailors sometimes opt to navigate by using Polaris on clear nights.** The statement replaces **navigate** with **improvise**. Using Polaris is a planned way of finding direction, not improvising, so the statement is false.

22. **A ship could become stranded if a captain erred and made an inadvertent wrong turn.**
✔ **A) TRUE**
Paragraph 3 says a captain **could err and make an inadvertent wrong turn**, and then **the ship could become stranded at sea**. The statement matches the passage, so it is true.

23. **People who are lost can be alleviated by gazing up at a frantic sky.**
✔ **B) FALSE**
The last paragraph says that people's **problems can be alleviated by looking at the sky**. The passage does not say that people themselves are alleviated, and it never describes the sky as **frantic**, a word that describes worried people. So the statement is false.

24. **Volatile storms were more than nuisances because they disrupted entire journeys.**
✔ **A) TRUE**
Paragraph 3 says **volatile storms and dark clouds were more than nuisances. They could disrupt entire journeys by blocking the view of Polaris.** The statement gives the same reason, so it is true.

25. **It is not difficult to differentiate Polaris from the multitude of other stars in the universe.**
✔ **A) TRUE**
The last paragraph begins **It's not difficult to differentiate Polaris from other stars**. The first paragraph places Polaris **among the multitude of stars in the universe**. The statement matches the passage, so it is true.

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