ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

4000 Essential English Words 6 Unit 30: The Mad Hatter

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Explanations

1. **Choose the answer that best fits the question.**
Where does a columnist work?
✔ **B) At a newspaper**
A **columnist** writes regular articles, called columns, for a newspaper or magazine, so a columnist works **at a newspaper**.

2. Which of the following might a liberal person do?
✔ **B) Learn new ideas**
A **liberal** person is open to new ideas and respects other people's freedom, so they would happily **learn new ideas**. The other options describe the opposite: limiting freedom and supporting harsh control.

3. What animal pecks?
✔ **C) A bird**
To **peck** means to hit or pick at something quickly with a beak. Only birds have beaks: **The bird pecked at the seeds.**

4. What is stored in a reservoir?
✔ **A) Water**
A **reservoir** is a natural or man-made lake where **water** is stored for a town or city to use.

5. Which of these animals has a long streak on its body?
✔ **A) A skunk**
A **streak** is a long, thin line or mark of a different colour. A **skunk** is black with a long white streak down its back.

6. **Choose the one that is similar in meaning to the given word.**
columnist
✔ **B) journalist**
A **columnist** is a writer who regularly writes a column in a newspaper or magazine, so the closest word is **journalist**.

7. cricket
✔ **A) grasshopper**
A **cricket** is a small jumping insect that makes a loud chirping sound at night. It looks very like a **grasshopper**.

8. maze
✔ **D) puzzle**
A **maze** is a confusing set of paths in which it is hard to find your way, so it is a kind of **puzzle**: **The children got lost in the hedge maze.**

9. gravel
✔ **B) rock**
Gravel is a mass of small pieces of **rock**, often used to cover roads and paths. Not **boulder**, because a boulder is one very large rock.

10. haunt
✔ **C) terrorize**
To **haunt** means to frighten or trouble someone again and again, like a ghost or a bad memory, so the closest meaning is **terrorize**. **Calm** and **soothe** mean the opposite.

11. They had three minutes to find their way out of the _____.
✔ **C) maze**
You **find your way out of** a **maze**, a confusing network of paths. That is why only **maze** fits this sentence.

12. They had to get out before the time _____.
✔ **A) expired**
When time **expires**, it comes to an end. After **before the time** we need a verb, and **expired** is the only verb among the options.

13. Jessica had the carpet in her house replaced with _____ tiles.
✔ **E) granite**
Granite is a very hard grey or pink stone often used for floors and kitchen tops, so **granite tiles** is a natural phrase.

14. The tiles had lovely designs on them and also pieces of _____.
✔ **C) amber**
Amber is a hard, yellow-brown material made from old tree resin and used for decoration. **Pieces of amber** could be set into decorative tiles.

15. Gene squeezed the bottle and got a _____ of ketchup on his shirt.
✔ **E) streak**
A **streak** is a long, thin mark, and the article **a** before the gap needs a singular noun. **A streak of ketchup** describes the line of sauce on his shirt.

16. The _____ host was nice enough to get him a new shirt.
✔ **B) courteous**
Courteous means polite and kind to others. An adjective is needed before **host**, and getting someone a new shirt is a courteous thing to do.

17. There was a pile of _____ near the water.
✔ **D) pebbles**
Pebbles are small, smooth stones often found near water. **A pile of** needs a plural noun, so **pebbles** fits.

18. They had been washed up from the bottom of the _____.
✓ **A) reservoir**
A **reservoir** is a large lake where water is stored. The pebbles came from the bottom of this body of water.

19. We walked down the road and passed many trees covered in _____.
✓ **D) moss**
Moss is a soft green plant that grows on trees, rocks and walls in damp places, so trees can be **covered in moss**.

20. It was dark already, and all that could be heard were the _____.
✓ **B) crickets**
Crickets are insects that make a chirping sound, especially at night. The clue is **dark** and **heard**.

21. **Lucas's thoughts about the house across the reservoir haunted him.**
✓ **A) TRUE**
Paragraph 3 says that Lucas didn't know what a mad hatter was, but **the image of a scary man haunted him**. His thoughts about the cottage across the water troubled him, so the statement is true.

22. **Lucas collected crickets and moss while he walked through the forest.**
✓ **B) FALSE**
Paragraph 4 says he collected pieces of **amber and granite**. He only **looked at** the moss on the trees, and the crickets are heard later at the cottage.

23. **The bird was pecking at the maze.**
✓ **B) FALSE**
The passage says the bird pecked **at the ground**. The **maze** is only a comparison: the forest was **like a maze**.

24. **Lucas got a streak of blood on his shirt and pebbles in his skin from falling down.**
✓ **A) TRUE**
Paragraph 5 says that he fell and then **had a streak of blood on his shirt and some pebbles stuck in his skin**. So the statement is true.

25. **The man's house smelled like food that had expired.**
✓ **B) FALSE**
The house **smelled like charcoal**, not old food. The word **expired** is used about the medicine, which was old but **not expired**.

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