ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Adjectives and Adverbs MCQ Exercise 2

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Explanations

1. The train is _____ crowded _____ it is impossible to find an empty seat.
✔ **C) so / that**
We use **so + adjective + that** to show a result: the train is very crowded, and the result is that nobody can find a seat. Not **as … as**, because that pattern compares two things.

2. Today I walked as _____ as the river and it was not necessary to walk any _____ than that.
✔ **A) far / farther**
As far as tells us the distance: I walked to the river. **Any farther** means 'any more distance'. Both words are about distance, so **far / farther** fits.

3. This is _____ building in the city.
✔ **C) the tallest**
We use the superlative **the tallest** to compare one building with all the others in the city. Not **the tallest of**, because 'of' is not followed by a group here; the sentence already says **in the city**.

4. Driving across the desert was _____ the journey.
✔ **E) the most boring part of**
We use the superlative **the most boring** to compare one part with all the other parts, and we say **the most boring part of the journey**. Not **from**, because we say **part of** something, not **part from** it.

5. In the summer one must _____ go to the seaside _____ climb mountains.
✔ **E) not only / but also**
The pair is **not only … but also**: **not only go to the seaside but also climb mountains**. Not **not only / and**, because **not only** must be followed by **but also**.

6. I almost fell asleep while watching the play. It was the _____ play I have ever seen.
✔ **C) most boring**
The clue is **I almost fell asleep**, so the play was very dull. With **the … I have ever seen** we need a superlative: **the most boring**.

7. Who's cooking in the kitchen? Something smells _____.
✔ **A) great**
After **smell** we use an adjective, not an adverb: **It smells great**. There is no comparison here, so we don't need **better** or **best**.

8. I've had a _____ day. Everything went _____ at work and there was an accident on the freeway so I was _____ getting home.
✔ **A) terrible / wrong / late**
The day had problems: everything **went wrong** and there was an accident, so I was **late** getting home. All of this makes it a **terrible** day. (**Freeway** is American English for 'motorway'.)

9. He is probably the most _____ person you will ever meet.
✔ **E) unusual**
After **the most** we need the plain adjective: **the most unusual person**. **Happiest** and **oddest** are already superlatives, so **the most happiest** and **the most oddest** are wrong.

10. A: "I met both of the new teachers at the school today."
B: "How many did you say there were?"
A: "_____."
✔ **B) two**
Both means 'the two of them', so there were **two** teachers. B asks **How many**, so A should answer with a number. **Both**, **some**, **several** and **many** don't give the number.

11. Tim has a _____ personality but you have to be careful of his temper. It's _____ at times.
✔ **B) fantastic / uncontrollable**
But shows a contrast: Tim's personality is good (**fantastic**), but his temper is a problem. An **uncontrollable** temper is one he cannot control. Not **terrific / good**, because a **good** temper is not something to be careful of.

12. The new evening university system will make getting an education more _____ and _____ for the university students.
✔ **E) economical / convenient**
With long adjectives we make the comparative with **more**: **more economical and convenient**. **Economical** means 'cheap, saving money'. Not **economic**, which means 'connected with the economy'. Never use **more** together with **easier** or **cheapest**.

13. This is the _____ I can do at the moment.
✔ **D) best**
The best I can do is a fixed phrase. It means this is as much as I am able to do now. **Best** is the superlative of **good**, and it follows **the**.

14. The _____ embarrassing situation I have ever been in occurred _____ night.
✓ **C) most / the other**
The most embarrassing … I have ever been in needs a superlative. **The other night** means 'a few nights ago'. Not **more / one**, because **the more embarrassing** is not a superlative.

15. The doctor described him as an _____ child who had never had any _____ love given to him.
✓ **D) unfortunate / motherly**
Unfortunate means 'unlucky'. It starts with a vowel sound, so it goes after **an**. **Motherly love** is the love and care a mother gives. Not **neglected**, because we would say **a neglected child**, not **an**.

16. _____ explanations just waste time and energy.
✓ **D) unnecessary**
Unnecessary means 'not needed'. Explanations that are not needed **waste time and energy**. **Required** explanations are needed, so they don't waste time.

17. I'm sure that this is probably the _____ audience this cast has played to.
✓ **E) most attentive**
After **the** and before a noun (**audience**) we need an adjective. Here it is in the superlative: **the most attentive**, meaning the audience that listened most carefully. Not **attentively**, because that is an adverb.

18. She is the _____ girl I have ever seen.
✓ **E) prettiest**
Short adjectives ending in **-y** make the superlative with **-iest**: **pretty → the prettiest**. Not **most prettiest**: never use **most** and **-est** together.

19. My _____ jacket was extremely expensive, but the first time I saw it I decided that it was just what I needed.
✓ **C) brown, leather**
Adjective order puts colour before material: **a brown leather jacket**. Not **leather, brown**, because material words go right before the noun.

20. After the wedding, the newly _____ couple stayed in a _____ hotel. They were in the _____ suite on the _____ floor.
✓ **A) married / five-star / bridal / fifth**
After a wedding the couple is **newly married**. A **five-star hotel** is a very good hotel. The **bridal suite** is a room for a new couple, and floors use ordinal numbers: **the fifth floor**. Not **four**, because we say **the fourth floor**.

21. Farmers in this area would rather use _____ fertiliser than the _____ types on the market.
✓ **C) organic / chemical**
Organic fertiliser comes from natural materials. **Chemical** fertiliser is made in factories. These are the two contrasting types. **Would rather** is followed by **than**: **would rather use X than Y**.

22. My parents were very _____ because I failed to pass the exam.
✓ **D) disappointed**
Parents feel **disappointed** (sad because something they hoped for didn't happen) when their child fails an exam. **Happy** and **satisfied** don't fit a bad result.

23. He was reading a _____ novel last night and the _____ storm outside frightened him even more.
✓ **C) horror / thunder**
The clue is **frightened him even more**: the book was already scary, so it was a **horror** novel. A **thunder** storm outside made it worse. Not **romance**, because romance novels are not scary.

24. I have just purchased a pair of _____ shoes.
✓ **E) new, brown, Spanish**
The usual order of adjectives is age, then colour, then origin: **new brown Spanish shoes**. Not **Spanish, new, brown**, because the origin adjective goes nearest to the noun.

25. This is the _____ pizza I've ever tasted.
✓ **A) worst**
Bad is irregular: **bad – worse – the worst**. With **the … I've ever tasted** we need the superlative **worst**. **Baddest** and **most bad** are wrong.

26. Igloos are traditional _____ houses built in the Arctic.
✓ **C) snow**
A noun can describe another noun and say what something is made of. **Snow houses** are houses made of snow, and igloos are made of snow. Not **snowy**, which means 'covered with snow'.

27. He is quite an _____ student. He gets involved in all types of sports and at the same time, he maintains his _____ grades.
✓ **E) active / high**
He does **all types of sports**, so he is an **active** student. **Maintains his high grades** means his marks stay good. Not **happy / best**, because we need **an** before the first word, and **happy** starts with a consonant.

28. The _____ body of _____ cat caused the children to cry.
✓ **B) lifeless / their**
The children cried, so the cat was dead. **Lifeless** means 'dead, with no life'. **Their** shows the cat belonged to the children: **their cat**. A sleeping or healthy cat would not make them cry.

29. I had _____ any time to study for the test.
✓ **E) scarcely**
Scarcely (= hardly) is an adverb meaning 'almost not'. **Scarcely any time** means very little time. Not **scarce**, which is an adjective, and not **hard**, which doesn't mean 'almost not'.

30. I could not understand why he made a decision like that. In my opinion, it is _____ to try to repair an _____ circuit without training of some type.
✓ **C) senseless / electrical**
Senseless means 'foolish, with no good reason', which matches **I could not understand why**. **Electrical** describes the circuit, and it starts with a vowel sound, so it fits after **an**. Not **silly / electricity**, because **electricity** is a noun.

31. His _____ achievements were rewarded with a scholarship to one of the _____ universities in the world.
✓ **C) academic / best**
Academic achievements are successes in study. **One of the + superlative + plural noun** is a fixed pattern: **one of the best universities**. Not **school / good**, because **one of the** needs a superlative.

32. The _____ circumstances he found himself in caused him to despair.
✓ **D) unhappy**
Despair means losing all hope, so the circumstances (situation) must be bad: **unhappy circumstances**. **Happy** or **great** circumstances would not cause despair.

33. The teacher's _____ attitude about the behaviour of the students caused problems when the _____ headmaster saw their behaviour.
✓ **E) casual / strict**
A **casual** attitude means the teacher didn't care much about the bad behaviour. A **strict** headmaster demands good behaviour, so this caused problems. The contrast between **casual** and **strict** is the clue.

34. Although the doctor promised that the injection would be _____, we could not persuade the _____ child to lie still.
✓ **B) painless / frightened**
Although shows a contrast. The doctor promised the injection would be **painless** (it would not hurt), but the child was still **frightened** (afraid) and would not lie still. Not **frightening**: an -ing adjective describes what causes fear, and an -ed adjective describes how someone feels. Not **calm**, because a calm child would lie still.

35. Don't believe what she said. She is very _____.
✓ **B) dishonest**
Don't believe her tells us she doesn't tell the truth, so she is **dishonest**. **Unhonest** is not a word: the opposite of **honest** is **dishonest**.

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