ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Advanced Dictionary Skills Quiz: Usage Labels, Corpus, Thesaurus

English Vocabulary Tests · 15 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
https://englishtestsonline.com/advanced-dictionary-skills-quiz-usage-labels-corpus-thesaurus/

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Explanations

1. A dictionary marks stingy (= not generous with money) as ___: the word criticises the person it describes.
✔ **A) disapproving**
Disapproving means the word criticises. Approving is the opposite, dated is about age, and technical is about experts' words.

2. Words that insult a person or a group are labelled ___ or offensive.
✔ **B) derogatory**
Derogatory words insult; they are stronger than disapproving ones. Humorous, dialect and dated say nothing about insults.

3. Swear words carry the strongest warning label of all: ___.
✔ **C) taboo**
Taboo words shock many people; recognise them, but don't use them at work. Disapproving is a milder warning, and formal and dated are about register and age.

4. Dictionaries label "my trusty steed" (an old poetic phrase for a faithful horse, said here about an old bicycle) ___: people use it to be funny.
✔ **D) humorous**
Humorous means the word or phrase is used as a joke, often an old grand word for an ordinary thing. It doesn't insult, shock or belong to experts.

5. "Myocardial infarction" is the doctors' ___ term for a heart attack.
✔ **A) technical**
A technical (in Cambridge, specialized) term is used by experts in their field. A dialect word belongs to an area, and a variant is another form of the same word.

6. "Lass", for a girl or young woman, is ___ from Scotland and northern England.
✔ **B) dialect**
Dialect is the English of one area. Lass is not another spelling (variant), an expert term or a shocking word.

7. The small box in the entry for fun explains that a good party is fun, not funny. It is a ___.
✔ **C) usage note**
A usage note explains a trap inside the entry. A cross-reference sends you to another entry, and a thesaurus and a concordance are separate tools.

8. To find which adjectives usually go with smell, look in a ___.
✔ **D) collocation dictionary**
A collocation dictionary lists a word's partners by group. A thesaurus gives similar words, not partners, and the other two don't show partners at all.

9. "Pitch-black" (= completely dark) ___ with nights and rooms, but not with coffee.
✔ **A) collocates**
Collocate (verb) means appear together often; spelt with double l. Collocations is a noun, and collate means collect and arrange papers.

10. Dictionary writers search a ___ of millions of real texts to see how a word is really used.
✔ **B) corpus**
A corpus is a huge searchable collection of real texts. A corpse is a dead body; a thesaurus lists similar words; a cross-reference points to another entry.

11. The search showed thirty lines, each with deeply in the middle and its partners on both sides: a ___.
✔ **C) concordance**
A concordance shows many lines with the search word in the middle. The others are parts of a dictionary entry.

12. Stars or a key symbol next to a headword in some learner's dictionaries show the word's ___.
✔ **D) frequency**
Frequency is how often a word appears; the most frequent words get a mark. Variants, dialect and register are shown in other ways.

13. To see whether writers really say "a big rain", type it in quotation marks: an ___.
✔ **A) exact-phrase search**
An exact-phrase search finds only those words in that order. The other word orders are not used.

14. Her ___ listed slim and skinny as synonyms, but they are only ___: one praises, one can criticise.
✔ **B) thesaurus … near-synonyms**
A thesaurus lists similar words; most are near-synonyms that differ in feeling, strength or partners. Variants are forms of the same word.

15. "Yoghurt" and "yogurt" are ___ spellings, and the entry for yogurt has a ___ that sends you to yoghurt.
✔ **C) variant … cross-reference**
A variant is another accepted form of the same word, and a cross-reference sends you to another entry.