ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Advanced Grammar MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 15

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Explanations

1. He _____ out of the window for a moment and then went on working.
✓ **A) glanced**
To **glance** is to look somewhere quickly and briefly, often followed by a preposition: **glance out of the window**, **glance at the clock**. Not **glimpsed**: to **glimpse** means to see something only for a moment, and it takes a direct object (**I glimpsed her in the crowd**), not **out of the window**. **Viewed** and **regarded** describe looking carefully or considering, not a quick look.

2. It's the _____ in this country to go out and pick flowers on the first day of spring.
✓ **B) custom**
A **custom** is a traditional practice shared by a society: **It's the custom in this country to…** Not **habit**: a habit belongs to one person (**his habit of biting his nails**), not to a whole country. **Use** and **normal** don't fit this pattern; **normal** is an adjective, not a noun here.

3. He made a swift _____ from his illness.
✓ **D) recovery**
We say someone **makes a recovery from** an illness, and **a swift/quick/full recovery** is a common collocation. Not **relief**: **relief** is the feeling when pain or worry stops, and we don't say **make a relief from**. **Repair** is for objects, and **survival** doesn't collocate with **make … from**.

4. It gave me a strange feeling of excitement to see my name in _____.
✓ **B) print**
In print means printed and published in a book, newspaper, etc.: **to see my name in print**. Not **press**: we would need the article, **in the press**, and it refers specifically to newspapers. **News** and **publication** don't form this fixed phrase.

5. You'd better add it up. I am no good at _____.
✓ **D) figures**
Figures here means numbers and arithmetic, so **I'm no good at figures** means I'm bad at doing calculations. The clue is **add it up**. **Counters**, **characters** and **summaries** have nothing to do with calculating.

6. Our main concern is to raise the voters' _____ of living.
✓ **A) standard**
Standard of living is a fixed collocation meaning the level of wealth and comfort people have: **raise the standard of living**. Not **condition**: we say **living conditions**, not **condition of living**. **Capacity** and **degree** don't collocate with **of living**.

7. I'd like to take _____ of this opportunity to thank you all for your cooperation.
✓ **C) advantage**
The fixed expression is **take advantage of an opportunity**, meaning to make good use of it. Not **benefit** or **profit**: we say **benefit from** or **profit from** something, not **take benefit/profit of**. **Occasion** doesn't fit this pattern either.

8. He _____ to hit me if I didn't do as he said.
✓ **C) threatened**
Threaten to do something means to say you will do something harmful if someone doesn't obey: **He threatened to hit me if…** Not **warned**: **warn** is used with an object (**He warned me not to…**) and usually gives advice about danger; it doesn't mean announcing your own intention to hurt someone.

9. He does not feel like playing tennis because he's _____.
✓ **A) out of condition**
Out of condition means not physically fit, usually because of lack of exercise: **I'm out of condition, so I get tired quickly.** The other phrases do not exist; the opposite is **in good condition** or **fit**, not **out of fitness**.

10. He's been working too hard and he's _____. He needs a rest.
✓ **C) run down**
Run down (adjective) means tired and slightly ill because of overwork or stress; the clue is **working too hard** and **needs a rest**. Not **broken up**: **break up** means end a relationship or fall into pieces. **Run over** means to hit someone with a vehicle.

11. We went to the station to _____.
✓ **B) see them off**
See someone off means to go with someone to the station, airport, etc. to say goodbye as they leave. Not **see them out**: that means to walk a guest to the door of your home or office. **Goodbye them** and **say them goodbye** are ungrammatical; we say **say goodbye to them**.

12. New problems are always _____ in the factory.
✓ **D) coming up**
Come up means to arise or appear, often unexpectedly: **Problems keep coming up.** Not **raising**: **raise** needs an object (**raise a problem**); without one we use **arising**. **Going up** means increasing, and **waking up** is about sleep.

13. In this series of questions, three words have the same sound but one does not. Choose the one that does not.

✓ A) spear
Wear, **dare** and **prayer** all have the /eə/ sound, as in **hair**. **Spear** has the /ɪə/ sound, as in **ear** and **near**, even though it is spelled like **wear**.

14. In this series of questions, three words have the same sound but one does not. Choose the one that does not.

✓ D) bead
Spread, **tread** and **bread** all have the short /e/ sound, as in **bed**. **Bead** has the long /iː/ sound, as in **bee**, even though it has the same **ea** spelling.

15. In this series of questions, three words have the same sound but one does not. Choose the one that does not.

✓ B) allow
Blow, **owe** and **sew** all have the /əʊ/ sound, as in **go**. **Allow** has the /aʊ/ sound, as in **now** and **how**. Note that **sew** sounds like **so**, not like **new**.

16. In this series of questions, three words have the same sound but one does not. Choose the one that does not.

✓ A) goose
Prose, **flows** and **knows** all end in the sound /əʊz/, so they rhyme with **nose**. **Goose** has the /uː/ vowel and ends in /s/: /guːs/.

17. In this series of questions, three words have the same sound but one does not. Choose the one that does not.
✓ B) limb
Crime, **climb** and **rhyme** all have the /aɪ/ sound, as in **time** (the **b** in **climb** is silent). **Limb** has the short /ɪ/ sound, as in **him**; its **b** is silent too.

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