ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Adverbs Test Exercises – Multiple Choice Questions With Answers – Advanced Level 24

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Explanations

1. He can run _____ better than I do. He is a professional runner.
✔ **B) far**
Comparatives such as **better** are made stronger with **far**, **much** or **a lot**: **far better** means 'a lot better'. The clue **He is a professional runner** shows the difference is big. Not **very**: it cannot modify a comparative (**very better** is wrong). **A little better** is grammatical but suggests only a small difference, which does not fit the context.

2. He _____ committed the crime, but the evidence is not convincing.
✔ **B) probably**
Probably means 'it is likely but not certain'. That fits the second clause, **but the evidence is not convincing**: we think he did it, but we cannot prove it. **Undoubtedly** and **definitely** express certainty, which contradicts the weak evidence. **Hardly** means 'almost not' and cannot be used like this.

3. The teacher spoke _____ to me.
✔ **E) kindly**
The verb **spoke** needs an adverb of manner, and the adverb from **kind** is **kindly**: **She spoke kindly to me. Kind** and **kinder** are adjectives and **kindness** is a noun. **Generously** describes giving, not speaking.

4. He has been living _____ since the war started in his country.
✔ **E) abroad**
Abroad is an adverb meaning 'in or to a foreign country': **He has been living abroad.** It is not used with a preposition (not **in abroad**). **Nowhere** and **anywhere** do not make sense with **has been living** here.

5. Wait for me here. I'll _____ be back.
✔ **D) soon**
Soon means 'in a short time' and often goes between **will** and the main verb: **I'll soon be back. Recently** refers to the past, so it cannot go with **will**. **Now** and **then** do not fit in this position.

6. "I rarely go there" means I do not _____ go there.
✔ **B) frequently**
Rarely means 'not often', so **I rarely go there** = **I do not frequently go there**. Not **ever**: **I do not ever go there** means **I never go there**, which is stronger than **rarely**. Not **hardly**: it already has a negative meaning and is not used after **not**.

7. "He doesn't understand it yet" means the negative action of not understanding _____ continues.
✔ **C) still**
Yet in negative sentences shows that something expected has not happened up to now, so the situation **still** continues. **He doesn't understand it yet** = **He still doesn't understand it.**

8. "He _____ eats meat" means he doesn't eat meat at any time habitually.
✔ **C) never**
Never means 'at no time', so **He never eats meat** means he does not eat it at all. Not **rarely**: **rarely** means he eats it, but not often. **Hardly any** goes before a noun (**hardly any meat**), not before a verb.

9. "I have _____ 10 dollars" means I have just 10 dollars with me and no more.
✔ **E) only**
Only before a number means 'just this amount and no more', often suggesting it is not much: **I have only 10 dollars.** Not **almost**: **almost 10 dollars** means a little less than 10. **Hardly** is used with **any** (**hardly any money**), not directly before a number like this.

10. _____, he is a good runner, but I have never watched him run a race.
✔ **A) Apparently**
Apparently means 'according to what I have heard': the speaker repeats information without having seen it. The clue is **I have never watched him run a race**. **Luckily** and **Fortunately** express the speaker's feelings, which does not fit this contrast.

11. _____, we managed to reach the top of Mt. Everest.
✔ **C) Luckily**
Luckily shows that something good happened, perhaps thanks to good luck. **Managed to** tells us reaching the top was difficult but successful. Not **Unfortunately**: it introduces something bad, and reaching the summit is a success.

12. _____, he was the sort of man who was not suited for this job. He couldn't succeed.
✔ **A) Actually**
Actually introduces the real truth about a situation, often something negative or surprising: **Actually, he wasn't suited to the job. Happily**, **Luckily** and **Fortunately** introduce good news, which contradicts **He couldn't succeed**. Not **Surely**: it shows the speaker expects agreement and does not fit a plain statement of fact.

13. This room is not big _____ for both of us to study our lessons.
✔ **E) enough**
Enough comes after an adjective: **big enough**, often followed by **for somebody to do something**. **Not big enough for both of us to study** means the room is too small. **At all** would need to come after **big**, and the sentence would then need a different structure.

14. He is very punctual. He is _____ on time for school.
✔ **E) always**
A **punctual** person is never late, so he is **always** on time. **Often** and **sometimes** are too weak for **very punctual**, and **rarely** and **never** contradict it.

15. So, if this is the best that can be said for the liberty of opinion, that a man must tolerate his opponents because everyone has a “right” to say what he pleases, then we shall find that liberty of opinion is a luxury, safe only in pleasant times when men can be tolerant because they are not deeply and _____ concerned.
✔ **E) vitally**
Vitally means 'in a way that is extremely important, essential to life or interests'. **Deeply and vitally concerned** describes people whose most important interests are at stake, the opposite of the 'pleasant times' when tolerance is easy. **Unconsciously**, **fortunately** and **eventually** do not pair with **deeply** to describe the strength of concern.

16. _____ you go to the theatre is a matter of personal preference; some people go for the plays, others for the atmosphere.
✔ **D) Why**
A **wh-**clause can be the subject of a sentence: **Why you go there is your own business.** The second part (**some people go for the plays, others for the atmosphere**) gives reasons, so we need **Why**. Not **When** or **What time**: the sentence is about reasons, not about time.

17. You should give me _____ information about his identity in case I don't recognize him.
✔ **C) further**
Further can mean 'more' or 'additional', and **further information** is a common collocation: **For further information, call us.** Not **a few** or **many more**: **information** is uncountable. **Far** cannot go directly before a noun in this sense.

18. _____, the dog bit the stranger although it looked very friendly.
✔ **A) Unexpectedly**
Unexpectedly means 'in a way nobody predicted'. The clue is **although it looked very friendly**: a friendly-looking dog biting someone is a surprise. Not **Naturally**: it means 'as expected', which is the opposite. **Fortunately** does not fit a bad event.

19. What have you done _____?
✔ **C) recently**
Recently (= 'in the last short period') goes well with the present perfect: **What have you done recently?** **Nowadays** and **these days** describe general present situations and usually go with present tenses. **Up to date** means 'modern' or 'with the latest information' and is not a time adverb.

20. I can _____ remember his name; it's been years since I spoke to him last.
✔ **C) hardly**
Hardly means 'almost not': **I can hardly remember his name** = I can only just remember it. The reason given (**it's been years**) supports this meaning. Not **badly**: we say **I remember it badly / poorly**, not **I can badly remember**, and **quite** or **simply** do not fit the reason given.

21. The teacher punished him because he had _____ broken the classroom window.
✔ **B) deliberately**
Deliberately means 'on purpose, intentionally'. He was punished because he broke the window on purpose, not by accident. Not **unwillingly**: it means doing something you don't want to do, which would not be a reason for punishment. **Elaborately** means 'in a detailed, complicated way'.

22. Some people claim that it was not _____ possible to build the Pyramids with the tools of those times.
✔ **D) humanly**
Humanly possible is a fixed collocation meaning 'possible for people to do': **We did everything humanly possible.** It is very often used in the negative, **not humanly possible**. Not **miraculously**: a miracle is something beyond human ability, so **miraculously possible** makes no sense.

23. Our English teacher is like a walking dictionary: he _____ needs to look up a word in a dictionary.
✔ **C) scarcely**
Scarcely means 'almost never'. A **walking dictionary** is a person who knows a lot of words, so he almost never needs to check one: **he scarcely needs to look up a word**. **Frequently** and **regularly** say the opposite. **Gradually** means 'slowly, step by step' and does not fit.

24. It was _____ your fault that the children broke the window; you were the one who told them to play football in the garden.
✔ **B) precisely**
Precisely means 'exactly'. Here it emphasises that the fault belongs to this person and nobody else: **It was precisely your fault.** The second clause gives the reason. Not **complete**: it is an adjective, and the adverb would be **completely**. **Deliberately** describes an action, so **deliberately your fault** is not possible.

25. He explains the subject so _____ that you would need to be a professor in the field to understand him.
✔ **A) obscurely**
Obscurely means 'in a way that is unclear and difficult to understand'. The **so … that** result clause (**you would need to be a professor … to understand him**) shows his explanations are hard to follow. Not **directly**: a direct explanation is clear and simple, the opposite meaning. **Industriously** means 'hard-working' and says nothing about clarity.

26. _____, the committee is planning to finish and actualize the project by the end of this year.
✔ **C) Hopefully**
Hopefully as a sentence adverb means 'it is hoped that'. It expresses the speaker's hope about a future result: **Hopefully, it will be ready by December.** Not **Lately**: it means 'recently' and normally goes with the present perfect. **Willingly** describes how a person acts, not the speaker's attitude, and **Mourningly** is not a standard word.

27. The test results _____ leave no doubt that the bridge is unsafe. It will have to be closed for at least a year.
✓ **E) unfortunately**
Unfortunately is a comment adverb showing that the speaker sees the situation as bad or regrettable. An unsafe bridge that must close for a year is bad news. Not **luckily**: it introduces good news. **Deliberately** and **reluctantly** describe a person's intentions, and results cannot have intentions.

28. The criminal, according to the average man, is simply a scoundrel who has _____ chosen to break the law.
✓ **A) deliberately**
Deliberately means 'on purpose, after making a conscious decision'. It collocates naturally with **chosen**: the average man sees the criminal as someone who decided to break the law. Not **reluctantly**: it suggests he did not want to, which does not match **simply a scoundrel**. **Potentially** means 'possibly in the future' and does not fit a completed choice.

29. It is misleading to suppose there's any basic difference between education and entertainment; this distinction _____ relieves people of the responsibility of looking into the matter.
✓ **A) merely**
Merely means 'only, simply' and shows that something does nothing more than what is stated. The writer says the distinction **merely** gives people an excuse not to think about the matter. **Availability** is a noun, so it cannot modify the verb **relieves**. **Recently** and **extensively** do not express this 'nothing more than' idea.

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