ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Amount or Number Quiz: 20 Questions with Answers

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Explanations

1. In careful writing: we were amazed by the ___ of people at the concert.
✔ **C) number**
People is a plural countable noun (How many people?), so we say the number of people. The amount of people is common in speech but is marked wrong in careful writing.

2. You only need a small ___ of sugar for this cake.
✔ **D) amount**
Sugar is uncountable (How much sugar?), so we use amount.

3. A number of students ___ asked for more time to finish the project.
✔ **C) have**
A number of means several, so the verb is plural: a number of students have asked.

4. The number of cars on the roads ___ growing every year.
✔ **C) is**
The number of is one figure, so the verb is singular: the number of cars is growing.

5. How ___ money did your school trip cost?
✔ **B) much**
Money is uncountable, so we ask How much money? That is also why we say the amount of money.

6. The ___ of homework we get has gone up this term.
✔ **D) amount**
Homework is uncountable in English, so it takes amount.

7. Which sentence is correct?
✔ **C) A large amount of money was spent on the new library.**
Money is uncountable, so we say amount, and the amount of takes a singular verb (was).

8. Please pay the full ___ before you leave.
✔ **A) amount**
The full amount is a fixed phrase for the whole sum of money that is owed.

9. Grandad gave each of us a small ___ of money for our birthdays.
✔ **B) sum**
A sum of money is another way of saying an amount of money. Number, few and many need a countable noun.

10. Mum counted the ___ of coins in the jar: there were 120.
✔ **B) number**
Coins are countable (How many coins?), so we use number.

11. An increasing number of families ___ choosing to cycle to school.
✔ **A) are**
An increasing number of works like a number of: it means more and more families, so the verb is plural.

12. It takes a huge ___ of effort to learn a musical instrument.
✔ **D) amount**
Effort is uncountable, so we say a huge amount of effort.

13. The shop orders a large ___ of eggs and flour every week.
✔ **A) quantity**
Quantity works with both countable eggs and uncountable flour. Number doesn't fit flour, and many and much need a plural or an uncountable noun straight after them.

14. "Come and tidy your room! I've lost count of the ___ of times I've asked you!"
✔ **B) number**
Times (occasions) is a countable noun, so we say the number of times.

15. Our bill at the café ___ to £35.
✔ **A) amounted**
To amount to means to add up to a total. The crowd numbered 2,000 is possible, but numbered is not followed by to.

16. Swallows come back to our village in large ___ every spring.
✔ **B) numbers**
In large numbers is a fixed phrase for countable things such as birds. Much, deal and many can't follow large here.

17. There are any ___ of ways to solve this puzzle.
✔ **D) number**
Any number of means very many, and it goes with a plural countable noun such as ways.

18. The hotel has had ___ complaints about the noise from the bar.
✔ **C) numerous**
Numerous is the adjective from number and means many. Number and amount are nouns, so they can't describe complaints.

19. The builders next door made a great ___ of noise this morning.
✔ **D) deal**
A great deal of goes with uncountable nouns such as noise. Number, many and few need countable nouns.

20. She didn’t pay in small amounts; she paid the whole bill as one lump ___.
✔ **B) sum**
A lump sum is one payment of money instead of several smaller ones. It is a fixed phrase with sum.

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