ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Barron's 1100 Words You Need to Know (MCQ Test + PDF) Week 16 – Day 2

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1	B	2	E	3	A	4	D	5	C	6	A	7	C	8	E	9	B	10	D

Explanations

1. *(Question with a long text: see the questions PDF.)*
✓ **B) prolific**
Prolific means producing a lot, such as many books, ideas or children. A novelist who is **usually prolific** writes many books, so it is surprising and frustrating when she cannot think of a plot. The passage uses the same word for the queen bee, who lays up to one million eggs. Not **sedentary**: it describes an inactive lifestyle, not how much a writer produces.

2. **Len, the gregarious twin, was the _____ of Lon, the reticent one.**
✓ **E) antithesis**
Antithesis means the exact opposite. **Gregarious** (sociable, outgoing) and **reticent** (quiet, reserved) are opposite personalities, so Len is **the antithesis of** Lon. In the passage, the hard-working worker bee is **the antithesis of the lazy drone**.

3. **The typist shook off the fetters of her _____ life and joined a mountain climbing expedition.**
✓ **A) sedentary**
Sedentary means largely inactive and involving a lot of sitting. A typist sits at a desk all day, so she escapes her **sedentary life** by doing something very active: mountain climbing. In the passage, the drone is **sedentary** because he does no work.

4. **_____ shoppers occasionally badger supermarket managers for bargains.**
✓ **D) frugal**
Frugal means thrifty, careful not to waste money. **Frugal shoppers** want to save money, so they ask managers for bargains. In the passage, the **frugal** worker bee collects and stores honey carefully. Not **prolific**: shopping for bargains is about saving, not producing.

5. **Some feel that the United States should be a _____ to the inchoate democracies around the world.**
✓ **C) bulwark**
A **bulwark** is a protection or strong support against danger. The gap needs a noun after **a**, and the idea is that the United States should protect and support young (**inchoate**) democracies. In the passage, the worker bee is the **bulwark** of the colony because it builds and maintains the nest and collects and stores the honey. Not **antithesis**: it means 'exact opposite', which makes no sense here.

6. **Definitions:** Match the new words with their meanings.

prolific
✓ **A) producing abundantly**
Prolific means producing abundantly, making a large amount of something. Example: **a prolific author who wrote fifty novels**. The queen bee is a **prolific** layer of eggs.

7. **bulwark**
✓ **C) protection**
A **bulwark** is a protection, like a strong wall or a person or thing that defends something. Example: **The army was a bulwark against invasion.** The worker bee is the **bulwark** of the colony.

8. **sedentary**
✓ **E) largely inactive, accustomed to sitting**
Sedentary means largely inactive or used to sitting a lot. Example: **Office workers often have a sedentary lifestyle.** The lazy drone in the passage is **sedentary**.

9. **frugal**
✓ **B) thrifty**
Frugal means thrifty, careful with money or food and not wasting anything. Example: **a frugal family that saves every penny**. The worker bee is **frugal** because it carefully stores honey.

10. **antithesis**
✓ **D) exact opposite**
Antithesis means the exact opposite. It is usually used as **the antithesis of**: **Cruelty is the antithesis of kindness.** The hard-working worker bee is the **antithesis** of the lazy drone.

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