ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

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

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

Explanations

1. IF I HAD THE WINGS OF AN ANGEL
Casting a **furtive** glance over his shoulder, the **felon** slipped out the main prison gate to be swallowed up in the British fog. A **plethora** of escapes from supposedly secure prisons embarrassed the **hapless** wardens. To compound their problems, the officials were badgered by **irate** citizens who accused the guards of accepting bribes from convicts whose motto was: "Stone walls do not a prison make, nor iron bars a cage."

Sample Sentences: Use the new words in the following sentences.

The _____ contest winner was unable to locate the lucky ticket.
✓ **B) hapless**
Hapless means unlucky or unfortunate. A winner who cannot find the winning ticket is a victim of bad luck, so **the hapless contest winner** fits. In the passage, the **hapless wardens** are unlucky because so many prisoners escape. Not **irate**: the winner might become angry, but the sentence describes misfortune, not anger.

2. My uncle was _____ when the drunken driver swerved in front of us.
✓ **E) irate**
Irate means very angry. A driver who suddenly swerves in front of you makes people angry, so **my uncle was irate**. In the passage, the **irate** citizens angrily blame the guards. Not **hapless**: being in danger is unlucky, but the sentence describes the uncle's reaction, which is anger.

3. In a _____ manner she removed her shoes and tiptoed up to her room.
✓ **A) furtive**
Furtive means secret and stealthy, done so that nobody notices. Taking off your shoes and tiptoeing are ways of not being heard, so **in a furtive manner** fits. The felon in the passage casts a **furtive glance** over his shoulder as he escapes.

4. When the teacher asked why the homework had not been done, he was greeted by a _____ of incredible alibis.
✓ **C) plethora**
Plethora is a noun meaning a very large amount, more than is needed. It is usually used as **a plethora of** + plural noun: **a plethora of incredible alibis**. The gap comes after **a** and before **of**, so only a noun fits here. The passage speaks of **a plethora of escapes**.

5. Since the boss learned that Bob associated with a known _____, he fired him.
✓ **D) felon**
Felon is a noun meaning a person who has committed a serious crime. The phrase **a known felon** means someone known to be a criminal, which explains why Bob was fired. The article **a** before the gap shows that a noun is needed. The escaped prisoner in the passage is a **felon**.

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

furtive
✓ **E) secret, stealthy**
Furtive means secret or stealthy: done quietly so that others will not notice. Example: **He cast a furtive glance over his shoulder.**

7. felon
✓ **B) a person guilty of a major crime**
A **felon** is a person guilty of a major crime, such as robbery or murder. Example: **The felon slipped out of the prison gate.**

8. plethora
✓ **D) excess**
A **plethora** is an excess: a very large amount, often more than is needed. Example: **a plethora of escapes from secure prisons**.

9. hapless
✓ **C) unfortunate**
Hapless means unfortunate or unlucky. Example: **The hapless wardens were embarrassed by the escapes.**

10. irate
✓ **A) angry, incensed**
Irate means very angry or incensed. Example: **Irate citizens accused the guards of taking bribes.**