ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Barron's 1100 Words You Need to Know (MCQ Test + PDF) Week 2 – Day 3

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

Explanations

1. DR. JEKYLL OR MR. HYDE?

Under the **pretext** of being a surgeon, he gained entry to the hospital. When interviewed by the director, he had to **fabricate** a tale of his medical experience, but he was so **adroit** at lying that he got away with it. It was not until the phony "doctor" began to **gesticulate** wildly with his scalpel that a **vigilant** nurse was able to detect the fraud. In the annals of medical history, there have been a number of such cases.

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

The recent thefts at the school made the staff much more _____.
✓ **B) vigilant**
Vigilant means watchful and careful to notice danger or problems. After the thefts, the staff watch more closely. The gap comes after **made the staff much more**, so it needs an adjective, and **vigilant** is the only one with this meaning. Not **adroit**, because that means skillful, not watchful.

2. My nephew is quite _____ at making model airplanes.
✓ **D) adroit**
Adroit means skillful, especially with the hands or mind. The phrase **adroit at** doing something is common: **She is adroit at solving puzzles.** Here the nephew is good at making model airplanes. Not **vigilant**, because that means watchful, not skillful.

3. Most fishermen can _____ a story about the size of the one that got away.
✓ **C) fabricate**
Fabricate means to make up a story or lie. Fishermen often invent stories about how big the fish that escaped was, so they **fabricate** a story. The gap comes after **can**, so it needs a base-form verb. Not **gesticulate**, because you cannot gesticulate a story.

4. Her _____ of being tired did not fool us for an instant.
✓ **E) pretext**
A **pretext** is a false reason or excuse given to hide the real one. **Her pretext of being tired** means she pretended to be tired as an excuse, and we were not fooled. The gap comes after **Her**, so it needs a noun.

5. I often marvel as I watch the traffic officer _____ at the onrushing cars.
✓ **A) gesticulate**
Gesticulate means to move the arms and hands energetically to show something. A traffic officer waves the arms to direct the cars. After **watch the officer**, we need a base-form verb: **watch someone do something**.

6. Definitions: Pick the letter of the definition that matches your new word.

pretext
✓ **C) an excuse**
A **pretext** is an excuse, a false reason that hides the real one. In the passage, he got into the hospital **under the pretext of being a surgeon**: he only pretended to be one.

7. fabricate
✓ **A) to lie; to construct**
Fabricate means to lie or make up a story, and also to construct or build something. In the passage, he had to **fabricate a tale** of his medical experience, so he invented a false story.

8. adroit
✓ **B) skillful**
Adroit means skillful or clever. In the passage, he was **so adroit at lying** that nobody noticed at first, so he was very good at lying.

9. gesticulate
✓ **E) move the arms energetically**
Gesticulate means to move the arms energetically, often while speaking or to show feelings. In the passage, the fake doctor began to **gesticulate wildly with his scalpel**.

10. vigilant
✓ **D) watchful**
Vigilant means watchful and alert. In the passage, a **vigilant nurse** was paying close attention, so she was able to detect the fraud.

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