ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Barron's 1100 Words You Need to Know (MCQ Test + PDF) Week 27 – Day 4

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

Explanations

1. *(Question with a long text: see the questions PDF.)*
✓ **C) inveterate**
Inveterate means habitual or firmly established, so an **inveterate smoker** is someone who has smoked for a long time and finds it hard to stop. In the passage, Brahms is an **inveterate stay-at-home**. Not **adamant**, which means refusing to change your mind; it doesn't describe a long-standing habit.

2. **The _____ odor of burning leaves marks the autumn season.**
✓ **A) pungent**
Pungent means sharp and strong, especially of a smell or taste. Burning leaves give off a sharp smell, so **pungent odor** is the natural phrase. In the passage it describes Brahms's biting sense of humor.

3. **The umpire was _____ about his decision to call the runner out.**
✓ **E) adamant**
Adamant means firm and unwilling to change your mind. **Be adamant about** something is a common pattern: the umpire would not change his decision. In the passage, Brahms was **adamant** about staying at home.

4. **We all expect _____ from the actors and actresses who win the Academy Awards.**
✓ **B) humility**
The gap needs a noun after **expect**, and **humility** means being modest and not proud. We hope winners will be modest about their success. The passage says Brahms was not noted for his **humility**.

5. **However, we should not be surprised that an award winner is an _____ about his or her performance.**
✓ **D) egotist**
After **an** we need a noun for a person. An **egotist** is a vain person who thinks very highly of himself or herself. **However** signals a contrast with the humility we expect in the previous sentence. Not **inveterate**, which is an adjective and would need a noun after it.

6. **Definitions:** Make the new words yours through the match-ups.

egotist
✓ **B) a vain, conceited person**
An **egotist** is a vain, conceited person who has a very high opinion of himself or herself. The passage explains this: Brahms **had an extremely lofty opinion of himself and his talents**.

7. **humility**
✓ **A) humbleness, modesty, meekness**
Humility means humbleness, modesty and meekness: not thinking you are better than others. It is the opposite of being an egotist. Example: **She accepted the prize with great humility.**

8. **pungent**
✓ **D) sharply stimulating, biting**
Pungent means sharply stimulating or biting. It can describe a strong smell or taste (**a pungent odor**) or sharp humor. The passage links Brahms's **pungent** humor with his **biting jokes**.

9. **inveterate**
✓ **E) habitual, firmly established**
Inveterate means habitual or firmly established, describing a habit someone has had for a long time. Examples: **an inveterate smoker**, **an inveterate stay-at-home**.

10. **adamant**
✓ **C) unyielding, inflexible**
Adamant means unyielding and inflexible: refusing to change your opinion or decision. Example: **He was adamant that he would not go.** In the passage, Brahms was **adamant** about staying at home.

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