ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Barron’s 1100 Words Week 40 Day 2: Vocabulary Quiz

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

Explanations

1. The pupils saw through the head teacher's ___ about healthy eating, since the staff room was always full of cakes.
✔ **A) cant**
Cant here means insincere talk about morals or good behaviour by people who do not act that way. The word can also mean the special jargon of a group.

2. My neighbour took ___ at my suggestion that his hedge was too tall.
✔ **C) umbrage**
To take umbrage means to feel offended or insulted.

3. The winning captain was ___ in victory, praising the losing team for their skill and spirit.
✔ **D) magnanimous**
Magnanimous means generous and forgiving, especially towards a rival or someone you have beaten.

4. Some newspapers chose to ___ the young referee for one mistake, ignoring the many good decisions he made.
✔ **B) vilify**
To vilify means to say very unpleasant and unfair things about someone.

5. The professor drew a simple diagram to ___ the difference between weather and climate.
✔ **D) elucidate**
To elucidate means to explain something and make it clear.

6. "His speech about honesty was pure cant, as everyone knew he never kept his own promises." What does "cant" mean here?
✔ **B) insincere moral talk**
Cant is talk that sounds moral or pious but is not sincere.

7. "She took umbrage when her manager corrected her in front of the clients." What does "umbrage" mean here?
✔ **A) offence**
Umbrage means a feeling of being offended. It is almost always used in take umbrage.

8. "In a magnanimous gesture, the champion shared her prize money with the runner-up." What does "magnanimous" mean here?
✔ **C) generous and forgiving**
Magnanimous describes a noble, generous attitude, especially to others who are weaker or defeated.

9. "Instead of debating the idea, the critics chose to vilify its author." What does "vilify" mean here?
✔ **C) criticise abusively**
To vilify is to attack someone's character with harsh and often unfair words.

10. "Could you elucidate what you mean by 'flexible hours' before we sign the contract?" What does "elucidate" mean here?
✔ **A) make clear**
To elucidate is to explain something so that it is easy to understand.

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