ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

C2 Word Formation Quiz: Proficiency Part 3 Practice

English Vocabulary Tests · 15 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
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1	**A**	2	**B**	3	**C**	4	**D**	5	**A**	6	**B**	7	**C**	8	**D**	9	**A**	10	**B**
11	**C**	12	**D**	13	**A**	14	**B**	15	**C**										

Explanations

1. Please read the ___ notes at the back of the book. (EXPLAIN)
✔ **A) explanatory**
Explanatory: the ai of explain becomes a. “Explaining notes” and “explanative” are not used.

2. The song’s endless ___ of the same three words drove me mad. (REPEAT)
✔ **B) repetition**
Repetition: the ea of repeat becomes e. The other forms do not exist.

3. We were overwhelmed by the ___ of our neighbours after the fire. (GENEROUS)
✔ **C) generosity**
Generosity drops the u of generous. Generousity is a very common spelling mistake.

4. Despite her huge success, she never lost her ___. (HUMBLE)
✔ **D) humility**
Humility: humble becomes humil-. Humiliation is a real word, but it means the shame of being made to look stupid.

5. The instructions lacked ___, so nobody knew where to start. (CLEAR)
✔ **A) clarity**
Clarity: the ea of clear becomes a. Clearance means removing things or official permission, not being clear.

6. Doctors are worried about the growing ___ of diabetes among young adults. (PREVAIL)
✔ **B) prevalence**
Prevalence (how common something is) drops the i of prevail. Prevailing is an adjective and cannot follow “the growing”.

7. The company now offers bonuses to improve staff ___. (RETAIN)
✔ **C) retention**
Retention: the ain of retain becomes en, as in detain and detention.

8. The heatwave caused an ___ demand for electricity. (PRECEDENT)
✔ **D) unprecedented**
Unprecedented has three parts: un + precedent + ed. Without -ed it is not a word, and the negative prefix is un-.

9. Two-year-olds seem to have an ___ supply of energy. (EXHAUST)
✔ **A) inexhaustible**
Inexhaustible: in- and -ible. An “exhausting supply” would tire you out, which is the wrong meaning.

10. Sadly, the flood did ___ damage to the medieval library. (REPAIR)
✔ **B) irreparable**
Irreparable: the ai of repair becomes a, the prefix is ir-, and the stress moves to REP.

11. Teenagers make up a ___ number of the city’s cyclists: 40%, though they are only 10% of the population. (PROPORTION)
✔ **C) disproportionate**
Disproportionate means too large compared with something else. Its negative prefix is dis-.

12. The view from the top is ___ stunning, but the climb is hard. (DENY)
✔ **D) undeniably**
An adverb is needed before an adjective: un + deny + able + ly, with y becoming i. Undeniable is the adjective.

13. Which pair fits? The strike brought the port to a ___ (STAND), something that was ___ (CONCEIVE) a year ago.
✔ **A) standstill … inconceivable**
A standstill is a complete stop. Inconceivable (impossible to imagine) drops the e of conceive. A standoff is a disagreement neither side wins, and a standpoint is an opinion.

14. Which pair fits? Every plan has its ___ (SHORT), but here the benefits clearly ___ (WEIGH) the risks.
✔ **B) shortcomings … outweigh**
Shortcomings are faults, usually plural. Outweigh means be more important than. Overweigh and overweight do not mean this.

15. Which pair fits? From the ___ (SET), police were worried about the ___ (WHERE) of the missing boat.
✔ **C) outset … whereabouts**
From the outset means from the very start. Whereabouts (where something is) always ends in -s. The onset is usually the start of something bad, like an illness.