ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Check or Cheque Quiz: 20 Questions with Answers

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Explanations

1. British spelling: My aunt’s ___ arrived inside a birthday card.
✔ **C) cheque**
British English spells the bank paper cheque. American English writes check.

2. American spelling: Can I pay by ___ here?
✔ **A) check**
In American English the bank paper is a check.

3. Every country: Please ___ your answers before you finish.
✔ **C) check**
The verb is check in British and American English alike. Cheque is never a verb.

4. Every country: Your king is under attack, so he is in ___.
✔ **A) check**
The chess word is check everywhere, and checkmate ends the game.

5. British English: Please ___ the box if you agree.
✔ **D) tick**
British forms say tick the box. American forms say check the box.

6. American English: After dinner, the server brought us the ___.
✔ **D) check**
In an American restaurant you pay the check (or the bill). Cheque is the bank paper in British spelling.

7. British English, in a café in Leeds: “Could we have the ___, please?”
✔ **C) bill**
In Britain you ask for the bill at the end of a meal. Cheque is only the bank paper.

8. British spelling: He keeps his ___ in a drawer at home.
✔ **B) chequebook**
The British spelling is chequebook. American: checkbook.

9. American spelling: Her first ___ from the summer job was small.
✔ **B) paycheck**
Paycheck is the American spelling. British English writes pay cheque, and Canadian English often paycheque.

10. British spelling: The ___ flag waved as the winner crossed the line.
✔ **C) chequered**
The pattern of squares is chequered in British English and checkered in American English.

11. American English: My grandpa taught me to play ___ on a red and black board.
✔ **D) checkers**
Americans call this game checkers. In Britain the same game is called draughts.

12. British spelling: Years ago, many tourists carried traveller’s ___.
✔ **B) cheques**
The British form is traveller’s cheques. American: traveler’s checks.

13. Every country: The vet says the dog’s weight must be kept in ___.
✔ **B) check**
In check means under control. This meaning is spelt check in every country.

14. British English: The head teacher gave the art club a blank ___ to design the new mural.
✔ **A) cheque**
A blank cheque (US blank check) here means complete freedom to do what you think best.

15. Which word sounds exactly like check?
✔ **A) Czech**
Czech, meaning from the Czech Republic, is said /tʃek/, just like check and cheque.

16. British English: The Chancellor of the ___ is in charge of the government’s money.
✔ **D) Exchequer**
The Exchequer is the old name for the British government’s money office. The spelling is Exchequer, with -que- like cheque.

17. Every country: I can’t come to the cinema tonight. Can I take a rain ___?
✔ **D) check**
To take a rain check means to say no now but maybe later. It has nothing to do with banks, so it is check everywhere.

18. American English: I pay all my bills from my ___ account at the bank.
✔ **B) checking**
An everyday bank account is a checking account in the United States. British English says current account, and Canada says chequing account.

19. Every country: We ___ in at the hotel at six and went straight to dinner.
✔ **B) checked**
Check in is a phrasal verb, and the verb is spelt check everywhere. Only the bank paper takes -que in British English.

20. Every country: Police carried out a spot ___ on lorries at the border.
✓ A) check
A spot check is a quick check done without warning. It is about looking at something, so it is check in every country.

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