ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Concessive May Quiz: He May Be Rich, But…

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11	**C**	12	**D**	13	**A**	14	**B**	15	**C**										

Explanations

1. The flat may ___ small, but it has a lovely view of the river.
✔ **A) be**
May is followed by the base form: may be. Here it admits a point (yes, it is small) before the stronger point after but.

2. What does may mean in “He may be young, but he’s an excellent manager”?
✔ **B) I accept that he is young.**
In may … but, the speaker knows it is true and admits it before making the main point.

3. Choose the correct sentence.
✔ **C) Although the plan may be risky, it is our only chance.**
Use although or but, not both: Although the plan may be risky, it is our only chance.

4. She ___ lost the race, but she ran the best time of her life.
✔ **D) may have**
For the past, use may have + past participle: She may have lost the race, but …

5. ___ it may seem, I actually enjoy doing the washing-up.
✔ **A) Strange as**
Strange as it may seem is a fixed formal pattern meaning although it seems strange.

6. ___ critics may say, the film was a huge success.
✔ **B) Whatever**
Whatever + subject + may say means it does not matter what they say.

7. ___ difficult it may be, we have to finish the report tonight.
✔ **C) However**
However + adjective + it may be means no matter how difficult it is.

8. Find the mistake: “To be fairly, she did try her best.”
✔ **D) To be fairly**
The fixed phrase is To be fair, with the adjective, not the adverb.

9. Choose the correct sentence.
✔ **A) In all likelihood, the shop will close.**
In all likelihood is a sentence adverbial followed by a full clause: In all likelihood, the shop will close.

10. ___, the new system has some problems, but it is much faster than the old one.
✔ **B) Admittedly**
Admittedly accepts a weak point before the contrast that follows with but.

11. “The train was late, so it wasn’t my fault.” “___, but you could have phoned.”
✔ **C) Fair enough**
Fair enough accepts the other person’s point before adding a but.

12. Which sentence has the same meaning as “It’s true that the course is expensive, but it’s worth every penny”?
✔ **D) The course may be expensive, but it’s worth every penny.**
May … but admits the first point (it is expensive) and then gives the stronger opposite point.

13. Which sentence would a reader most likely understand as “perhaps”?
✔ **A) He may be at the office.**
Without a contrast after it, may simply means perhaps. With … but, it means I admit that.

14. ___ it may be true that cars are convenient, they also pollute the air.
✔ **B) While**
While it may be true that … is a common essay frame for admitting a point before arguing against it.

15. Choose the most natural reply in a discussion: “Prices have gone up everywhere.”
✔ **C) That’s as may be, but our prices are still too high.**
That’s as may be, but … means that may be true, but it does not change my view.

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