ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Cord or Chord Quiz: 20 Questions with Answers

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1	**B**	2	**D**	3	**A**	4	**C**	5	**A**	6	**B**	7	**C**	8	**C**	9	**A**	10	**B**
11	**A**	12	**D**	13	**D**	14	**C**	15	**B**	16	**B**	17	**D**	18	**D**	19	**A**	20	**A**

Explanations

1. The parcel was tied with a length of brown ___.
✔ **B) cord**
Thick string or thin rope is cord, with no h.

2. She played a C major ___ on the piano.
✔ **D) chord**
A chord is a group of notes played together. Music words take the h.

3. In careful writing: the spinal ___ runs through the middle of the backbone.
✔ **A) cord**
Rope-like body parts are cords: the spinal cord, the umbilical cord, the vocal cords. Dictionaries also record chord for these, but careful writers use cord.

4. The speech about kindness ___ with the audience.
✔ **C) struck a chord**
To strike a chord is to make people feel something is about them. The phrase uses the music word.

5. Our new ___ phone has no wire, so you can walk round the house with it.
✔ **A) cordless**
Cordless means without an electrical cord. A corded phone has the wire.

6. In geometry, straight lines that join two points on a circle are called ___.
✔ **B) chords**
In maths a chord is a line joining two points on a circle or curve.

7. In American English, the cable on a lamp is its power ___.
✔ **C) cord**
Americans say power cord. Flex is the British word, and a power chord is a guitar chord.

8. The guitarist strummed the three opening ___ of the song.
✔ **C) chords**
Notes played together are chords. After three we need the plural.

9. In careful writing: the umbilical ___ joins a baby to its mother before birth.
✔ **A) cord**
The umbilical cord is a rope-like body part, so careful writers use cord. Dictionaries also record chord for body parts.

10. Pull the ___ to open the blinds.
✔ **B) cord**
A cord here is a string that you pull.

11. Most pop songs use only a few simple ___.
✔ **A) chords**
Songs are built from chords, groups of notes played together.

12. He wore a pair of brown ___ made of corduroy.
✔ **D) cords**
Trousers made of corduroy are called cords.

13. Moving away to university helped him cut the ___ and stand on his own feet.
✔ **D) cord**
To cut the cord is to stop depending on someone. The picture is the umbilical cord.

14. Draw two ___ inside the circle so that they cross in the middle.
✔ **C) chords**
A line joining two points on a circle is a chord, with the music spelling. After two we need the plural.

15. In Canada, firewood is often sold by the ___.
✔ **B) cord**
A cord of wood is a stack of firewood of a set size, 128 cubic feet.

16. In careful writing: singers must look after their vocal ___.
✔ **B) cords**
Your vocal cords are body parts, so careful writers use cord. Some dictionaries, such as the American Heritage Dictionary, record chord for body parts, but many readers see it as a mistake.

17. Sad songs often use a minor ___.
✔ **D) chord**
A minor chord is a group of notes played together. Music words take the h.

18. A guitar has six ___, and you press them to make chords.
✔ **D) strings**
The thin wires on a guitar are strings. A cord is the cable to the amplifier.

19. He tied the bags to his bike with a stretchy bungee ___.
✔ **A) cord**
A bungee cord is a stretchy rope, so it is cord with no h.

20. The song repeats the same ___ progression: C, G, A minor and F.
✔ **A) chord**
A chord progression is a set of chords played in order.