ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

English Synonyms Vocabulary MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 2

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Explanations

1. An old man was their CONSTANT buyer.
✓ **D) permanent**
Here **constant** means always the same, lasting and not changing, so a **constant buyer** is one who keeps coming back. **Permanent** is the closest in meaning. **Regular** would also be a natural word here.

2. GRADUALLY that illness had broken me down.
✓ **D) little by little**
Gradually means slowly, in small stages over time, which is the same as **little by little**. Not **now and then**, because that means 'sometimes', and **all at once** means 'suddenly'.

3. The achievements of science and technology of recent years have influenced the CAREERS of many people.
✓ **C) professions**
A **career** is the job or series of jobs a person does in their working life, so **professions** is the closest meaning. **Works** does not fit, because it usually means things that are created, like books or music.

4. Somebody TAPPED ON the door at night.
✓ **A) knocked**
To **tap on** a door means to hit it lightly, usually to get attention. This is the same as **knocked**: **Somebody knocked on the door.**

5. When the police arrived, the thieves TOOK TO FLIGHT, leaving all the stolen things behind.
✓ **A) ran away**
Take to flight means to start running away in order to escape, so it has the same meaning as **ran away**. The clue is **leaving all the stolen things behind**: the thieves left quickly. Not **took away**, because the thieves did not take the stolen things with them.

6. Please, you are so nervous. Do try to CONTAIN your anger.
✓ **A) hold back**
To **contain** a feeling means to control it and stop it from showing. **Hold back** has the same meaning: **hold back your anger**. Not **consume**, **contact** or **consult**, which only look similar to **contain**.

7. It's high time for the child TO GO TO BYE-BYES.
✓ **C) to go to sleep**
Go to bye-byes is informal British baby talk that means **go to sleep**. Adults use it when talking to small children: **It's time to go to bye-byes.** Not **to say goodbye**, even though the words sound similar.

8. I wonder how many similar days I should BE FORCED to spend there.
✓ **C) be made**
Be forced to do something means you have to do it because someone else makes you, so it is the same as **be made to do something**: **I was made to wait.**

9. Shakespeare is sometimes called the BARD of Avon.
✓ **A) poet**
A **bard** is an old or literary word for a **poet**. Shakespeare is known as **the Bard of Avon** because he was born in Stratford-upon-Avon. Not **poem**, which is the thing a poet writes, not the person.

10. After Columbus's first voyage in 1492, the news of his DISCOVERY spread across Europe.
✓ **C) exploration**
Here **discovery** refers to Columbus finding new lands on his voyage. Of these options, **exploration** is the closest in meaning. Not **recovery**, which means getting better or getting something back.

11. The Endeavour ANCHORED in a wide bay to take water and food.
✓ **E) stopped**
When a ship **anchors**, it drops its anchor and stops in one place. So **The Endeavour stopped in a wide bay** has the same meaning. Not **sailed**, which means it was moving.

12. Columbus was CONVINCED that the earth was round.
✓ **D) sure**
Convinced means completely certain that something is true, so it means the same as **sure**: **Columbus was sure that the earth was round.** Not **told**, because being told something does not mean you believe it.

13. Many very early peoples thought that the earth was FLAT.
✓ **C) plane**
Flat means level and smooth, with no curves. As an adjective, **plane** has the same meaning, as in **a plane surface**. Not **round**, which is the opposite idea.

14. Arbuthnot's work is HARDLY ever read today, but John Bull, whom he created, is very much alive.
✓ **A) barely**
Hardly ever means almost never, and **barely ever** has the same meaning. The contrast word **but** is the clue: his books are almost never read, **but** his character is still well known.

15. John Bull, the nickname for the English nation, was INVENTED by a Scotsman, John Arbuthnot.
✔ **A) made up**
To **invent** a name or story means to create it from your imagination, which is the same as **make up**: **He made up the name John Bull.** Not **given up**, which means 'stopped doing'.

16. Don’t try to BUTTER me UP. This trick of yours won’t work with me.
✔ **B) flatter**
To **butter someone up** means to say nice things to them so that they will do what you want. This is the same as **flatter**. Not **spread**, which is the literal meaning of butter on bread.

17. The company asked for ADDITIONAL information.
✔ **D) further**
Additional means extra, more than before. **Further** has the same meaning here: **further information** means 'more information'.

18. The traffic rules must be OBSERVED by everybody.
✔ **C) followed**
When you **observe** rules or laws, you obey them, so it means the same as **follow**. Not **seen**, which is the other meaning of **observe** (to watch) and doesn't fit rules.

19. Children need some RELAXATION after all those hard exams.
✔ **E) rest**
Relaxation means resting and becoming calm after work or stress, so the closest word is **rest**. Not **holidays** or **vacation**, which are periods away from school or work, not the state of resting.

20. -Who’s that man you spoke to just now?

-I don’t know. He is completely UNFAMILIAR to me.
✔ **C) unknown**
If a person is **unfamiliar** to you, you do not know them or have never seen them before, so the closest word is **unknown**. The clue is **I don't know**. Not **foreign**, which means from another country.

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