ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Especially or Specially Quiz: 20 Questions with Answers

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Explanations

1. This beach is busy all year, ___ in August.
✔ **D) especially**
Especially means above all: the beach is busy at all times, but most of all in August.

2. These boots are ___ made for walking on ice.
✔ **D) specially**
Before a past participle such as made, we need an adverb. Specially tells you what the boots were made for.

3. The film was long and not ___ exciting.
✔ **A) especially**
Not especially means not very. Especially works like very before an adjective.

4. The hospital opened two ___ units for newborn babies.
✔ **B) special**
Before a noun (units) we need an adjective: special. Specially and especially are adverbs.

5. In careful writing: which word fits? “I enjoy all sports, ___ swimming.”
✔ **C) especially**
Especially means above all. Dictionaries record specially in this sense too, and people say it in relaxed speech, but careful writers use especially.

6. The menu was ___ written for children, with big pictures and short words.
✔ **A) specially**
Specially written for children means written for that one purpose. Special is an adjective and cannot go before written.

7. Take care on the roads, ___ if it is icy.
✔ **B) especially**
Especially if means most of all when this is true. It often comes before if, when and because.

8. Which word is the usual choice before a past participle such as trained, designed or adapted?
✔ **A) specially**
We say specially trained, specially designed and specially adapted: made or done for one purpose.

9. “My grandmother baked this cake ___ for my birthday.” Which answer is right?
✔ **C) specially or especially**
For one particular person or event, dictionaries accept both: specially for my birthday and especially for my birthday.

10. ___, I liked the last chapter of the book.
✔ **D) In particular**
Especially does not normally start a sentence on its own with a comma. Use In particular, or write I especially liked the last chapter.

11. Which word is a rare, formal adjective that is used only before a noun?
✔ **C) especial**
Especial is rare and formal: an especial interest. In everyday English we say special.

12. The test was ___ hard for the youngest students.
✔ **B) especially**
Especially hard means very hard, or harder for this group than for the others.

13. The museum has a room ___ adapted for wheelchair users.
✔ **B) specially**
Specially adapted means changed for one purpose, here for wheelchair users.

14. I don’t ___ want to go out tonight. I’m quite tired.
✔ **C) especially**
Not especially means not very much. Especially goes before the verb it describes.

15. Which sentence is correct?
✔ **A) The rules are especially strict in exams.**
Before an adjective (strict) we need the adverb especially, spelt with two l’s.

16. Everyone should read this leaflet, but ___ parents of young children.
✔ **B) especially**
But especially picks out one group above the others. Special and especial are adjectives and cannot do this job.

17. Tonight feels ___ because the whole family is here.
✔ **D) special**
After feels we need an adjective, and the everyday adjective is special. Especial is rare and only goes before a noun.

18. Which spelling is correct? “The soup was ___ good today.”
✔ **C) especially**
Especially is especial + -ly, so it has a double l. It starts with es-, not ex-.

19. It was a hard week for us, ___ since my brother was ill.
✔ **B) especially**
Especially since gives the main reason, above all the others. It often comes before since, because and when.

20. Vitamin D is ___ important for babies and older people.
✓ D) especially
Before an adjective such as important we need an adverb. Especially important means very important, most of all for these groups.

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