ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

# Essential Words for the TOEFL Lesson 11 Vocabulary Test

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

## Explanations

**1.** **Choose the synonym.**
amenity
✓ **B) convenience**
An **amenity** is a feature that makes a place pleasant or easy to use, so it is a **convenience**. Example: **The hotel's amenities include a pool and free Wi-Fi.**

**2.** justify
✓ **A) defend**
To **justify** something is to give good reasons for it, or to **defend** it as right. Example: **She tried to justify her decision.**

**3.** overbearing
✓ **B) oppressive**
**Overbearing** describes someone who tries to control others in an unpleasant way, so it is close to **oppressive**. Not **benign**, which means kind and harmless, almost the opposite.

**4.** mortify
✓ **B) humiliate**
To **mortify** someone is to make them feel very ashamed or embarrassed, so it means **humiliate**. Example: **He was mortified when he forgot her name.** Not **criticize**, which may cause embarrassment but does not mean the same thing.

**5.** exaggerate
✓ **D) overstate**
To **exaggerate** is to make something seem bigger, better or worse than it really is, so it means **overstate**. Not **elaborate**, which means to add more detail, not to make something seem bigger than it is.

**6.** disperse
✓ **A) circulate**
To **disperse** is to spread something over a wide area, so it is close to **circulate** (to move or spread around). Example: **The wind dispersed the seeds.** Not **encircle**, which means to surround.

**7.** release
✓ **A) free**
To **release** is to let someone or something go, so it means **free**. Example: **The prisoners were released. Block** is almost the opposite.

**8.** vital
✓ **D) integral**
**Vital** means necessary or very important, so it is close to **integral** (essential to the whole). Example: **Exercise is vital to good health.**

**9.** commonplace
✓ **C) prevalent**
**Commonplace** means found everywhere or very common, so it means **prevalent**. Not **elementary** or **rudimentary**, which mean basic or simple, not common.

**10.** emerge
✓ **C) appear**
To **emerge** is to come out or become visible, so it means **appear**. Example: **The sun emerged from behind the clouds.**

**11.** Kapok is made from the silky fiber that **encircles** the seeds of the tropical silk-cotton tree. This dense mat of cottony fibers surrounds each seed within the fruit. However, unlike cotton fibers, kapok fibers do not lend themselves to spinning. Since they are water-resistant and buoyant, kapok fibers were extensively used for padding and insulation until the development of synthetic fibers.

The word **encircles** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✓ **C) surrounds**
To **encircle** is to form a circle around something, so it means **surrounds**. The next sentence confirms this: the fibers **surround each seed**. Not **circulates**, which means moves around, not encloses.

**12.** Lewis and Clark's expedition's central objective, the discovery of the "water communication," was not realized. However, a huge blank space on the map of North America had been filled as a result of the expedition. The rumor and myth related to the American West had been **eliminated** and new knowledge about the Wild West was made known to the American people.

The word **eliminated** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✓ **C) deleted**
To **eliminate** is to remove or get rid of something completely, so it means **deleted**. The passage says the old rumors and myths were removed and replaced by **new knowledge**. Not **exaggerated**, which would mean the myths became bigger.

**13.** The most **elementary** type of convection can be explained by the fact that heat rises. Convection currents permit buildings to be heated without the use of circulatory devices. The heated air moves solely by gravity. In the atmosphere, convection causes the wind to blow. Most severe weather conditions, such as tornadoes, result from particularly sharp convection currents.

The word **elementary** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **D) primary**
**Elementary** means basic or simplest, so it is close to **primary** (first and most basic). The passage describes the simplest kind of convection: **heat rises**. Not **prevalent**, which means common, not basic.

**14.** The key **element** of the air conditioner is a fluorocarbon refrigerant that flows constantly through the conditioner's mechanisms. It becomes a liquid and gives off heat when it is compressed, and becomes a gas and absorbs heat when the pressure is removed. The mechanisms that evaporate and compress the refrigerant are divided into two areas, one on the interior, which includes an air filter, fan, and cooling coil, and one on the exterior, which includes a compressor, condenser coil, and fan.

The word **element** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **B) component**
An **element** is one part of a larger whole, so it means **component**. The passage describes the refrigerant as the key part of the air conditioner. Not **amenity**, which is a feature that adds comfort.

**15.** The word **precipitated** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **A) hastened**
To **precipitate** an event is to make it happen suddenly or sooner, so it means **hastened**. Urban development caused the population decline to happen quickly. Not **halted**, which is the opposite: development did not stop the decline.

**16.** The sport utility vehicle, or SUV, is the most popular type of automobile in the United States today. SUVs are spacious, powerful, and rugged; they have more room for passengers, equipment, groceries, and boxes than ordinary cars. Therefore, they are more commonly found in the country than in the city, and in some suburban neighborhoods, they are **more prevalent than** compact cars or vans. Even their high consumption of gas has little effect on their popularity.

In stating that SUVs are **more prevalent than** compact cars, the author means that they _____.
✔ **B) are more numerous than compacts**
**Prevalent** means widespread or common. So if SUVs are **more prevalent than** compact cars, there are more of them: they **are more numerous**. Not **use more gas**: the passage mentions their gas use, but that is not what **prevalent** means.

**17.** Water whirlwinds, commonly called waterspouts, are whirling columns of air and watery mist. Brief whirlwinds are **erratic** in motion, but the longer-lasting ones move slowly with the prevailing winds and are more regular in their movement. Storms generate most waterspouts, but tornado spouts, generated in thunderstorms, in association with tropical cyclones, are the most dangerous.

The word **erratic** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **B) inconsistent**
**Erratic** means irregular and unpredictable, so it means **inconsistent**. The clue is the contrast in the passage: longer-lasting whirlwinds are **more regular in their movement**. Not **arbitrary**, which describes decisions made without reason, not irregular motion.

**18.** Partly because it has promoted U.S. interests, the Monroe Doctrine has had a considerable effect and enjoyed strong support in the United States. It has been used to justify intervention in the internal affairs of other American nations. However, U.S. diplomatic relations are strained due to growing anxiety over the **prevalent** instability of Latin American politics and recent controversial interventions.

The word **prevalent** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **D) commonplace**
**Prevalent** means widespread or common, so it is close to **commonplace**. The passage refers to instability that is common in the region's politics. Not **constant**, which means never stopping, not widespread.

**19.** A caricature is a picture or other representation that **exaggerates** a particular physical, facial appearance, dress, or the manners of an individual to produce a distinct comical effect. It is used to ridicule political, social, or religious situations and institutions, or actions by individuals, groups, or classes of a society. The latter types of caricature are usually done with satirical rather than humorous intent, in order to encourage political or social change.

The word **exaggerates** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **C) embellishes**
To **exaggerate** is to make something seem bigger or more striking than it really is. **Embellish** means to add to or enlarge details beyond the truth, as in **embellishing a story**, so it is the closest choice. A caricature takes a real feature and makes it larger for comic effect. Not **fabricates**, which means to invent something completely false; a caricature distorts real features rather than inventing new ones.

**20.** Geologic changes provide a convincing explanation for the puzzling way that plant species are spread around the world. The conifers of the genus *Araucaria*, for example, have large seeds that do not float in seawater and are **dispersed** only short distances. However, they have been found either as fossils or as actively growing plants on all continents and on some islands that appear to be fragments of continents.

The word **dispersed** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.

✔ **A) scattered**

To **disperse** is to spread things over an area, so it means **scattered**. The passage says the heavy seeds do not float, so they are spread only short distances. Not **released**: the seeds are let go from the tree, but **dispersed** refers to how far they spread.

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