ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Essential Words for the TOEFL Lesson 16 Vocabulary Test

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Explanations

1. **Choose the synonym.**
convey
✓ **C) communicate**
Convey means to pass on information, feelings or ideas to someone, so it means **communicate**: **She conveyed her thanks to the team.** Not **promote**, which means to support or advertise something.

2. engender
✓ **C) generate**
Engender means to cause a feeling or situation to exist, so it is close to **generate**: **Unfair rules engender anger.** The other options are adjectives (**suitable**, **persistent**, **inevitable**) and cannot replace a verb.

3. growth
✓ **A) expansion**
Growth means an increase in size, amount or importance, so it is close to **expansion**: **the expansion of the economy**. **Recover** is a verb, so it cannot be a synonym of the noun **growth**.

4. meticulously
✓ **B) conscientiously**
Meticulously means very carefully, paying attention to every detail, so it is close to **conscientiously**. Not **haphazardly**, which is the opposite: carelessly and without a plan.

5. retrieve
✓ **B) recover**
Retrieve means to get something back, so it is close to **recover**: **He retrieved his keys from the lake.** Not **disperse**, which means to spread out in different directions.

6. encompass
✓ **D) include**
Encompass means to contain or cover a range of things, so it is close to **include**: **The course encompasses grammar and writing.** Not **emphasize**, which means to give special importance to something.

7. apex
✓ **B) zenith**
Apex means the highest point or peak of something, so it is close to **zenith**: **at the apex of her career**. **Facet** means one side or aspect of something, not the top.

8. systematically
✓ **D) methodically**
Systematically means according to a fixed plan or order, so it is close to **methodically**. Not **unexpectedly**, which means by surprise, without planning.

9. paramount
✓ **B) foremost**
Paramount means more important than anything else, so it is close to **foremost**: **Safety is paramount.** Not **meticulous**, which means very careful.

10. mimic
✓ **B) imitate**
Mimic means to copy the way someone or something looks, sounds or behaves, so it is close to **imitate**: **Parrots can mimic human speech.**

11. The first elevated rail system was successfully operated in New York City in 1871, using steam power. Because steam power had many disadvantages, the lines were later electrified. An extensive network of elevated lines was built in New York City. It was in service for many years, but
was **systematically** eliminated because of its antiquated appearance and because it contributed to traffic congestion.

The word **systematically** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✓ **D) methodically**
Systematically means in an organised way, step by step, following a plan. The passage says the elevated lines were removed in a planned way, so the closest meaning is **methodically**. Not **haphazardly**, which means without order or plan, the opposite.

12. Municipal solid waste must be collected and treated in order to reduce the total volume and weight of the material that requires final disposal. Treatment changes the form of the waste and makes it easier to handle. It can also be used to **recover** certain materials, as well as heat energy, for recycling or reuse.

The word **recover** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✓ **A) retrieve**
Here **recover** means to get back useful materials and heat from waste for reuse, so it is closest to **retrieve**. Not **deplete**, which means to use up and reduce.

13. American biographer and historian Samuel Eliot Morison colorfully recreated notable stories of modern history. Combining a gift for storytelling with **meticulous** scholarship, he took the reader back into history to relive the adventures of such characters as Ferdinand Magellan, Christopher Columbus, and Sir Francis Drake. He also recorded the accomplishments of the U.S. Navy during World War II.

The word **meticulous** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **D) conscientious**
Meticulous means extremely careful and attentive to detail. The passage praises Morison's careful, detailed research, so the closest meaning is **conscientious**. Not **valid**, which means logically correct or acceptable, not careful.

14. Space medicine protects human beings from the environment of space and studies their reactions to that environment. The foundations of space medicine can be traced to aviation medicine. The term aerospace medicine has evolved to **encompass** practice in both areas. Aerospace medicine has been a certified subspecialty of the American Board of Preventive Medicine since 1953.

The word **encompass** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **D) include**
Encompass means to cover or contain several things. The passage says the term aerospace medicine covers both space and aviation medicine, so the closest meaning is **include**. Not **emphasize**, which means to give special importance to one thing.

15. If some motion is possible according to physical laws, then a motion in which events appear in reverse order is also possible. For example, it would be unusual to observe a real process in which a vase broken on the floor collects itself and flies up whole into a person's hand. Nevertheless, according to known physical laws, such a process is not impossible, although it is too **unlikely** to expect it to actually happen.

The word **unlikely** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **B) doubtful**
Unlikely means probably not going to happen. The passage says the broken vase flying back is possible but would almost never happen, so the closest meaning is **doubtful**. Not **difficult**, which is about effort, not probability.

16. In 1896 a Swedish chemist first assessed the effects of greenhouse gases. He showed that activities such as burning coal, destroying forests, and even raising cattle dangerously increase atmospheric concentrations of such gases as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide. Since then, **heightened awareness** of the effects cars and factories have on the environment has led to more concern about these gas concentrations. Recently they have been blamed for an apparent warming trend in Earth's atmosphere.

In referring to **heightened awareness**, the author means that people are _____.
✔ **B) more conscious of the situation**
Heighten means to increase, and **awareness** means knowing about something. The passage says this awareness has **led to more concern**, so people are **more conscious of the situation**. Not **unconcerned**, because the passage says concern has grown.

17. Great technological advances were made during the **infancy** of the United States' industrial growth. But the modern trends of the 1920s brought about problems as well as benefits. Many Americans had trouble adjusting to the impersonal, fast-paced life of cities. The complex life in cities tended to weaken the strong family ties that had always been part of American society.

The word **infancy** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **B) beginnings**
Infancy literally means the time when someone is a baby. Used figuratively, it means the early stage of something, so the **infancy** of industrial growth means its **beginnings**. Not **prime**, which means the best or most successful period.

18. Careful testing is one of a pharmaceutical company's most important responsibilities. Pharmaceutical companies and the Food and Drug Administration constantly guard against the possibility of a harmful drug being sold to the public. But even the most careful testing cannot always reveal the possibility that a drug may produce an **inadvertent** harmful effect.

The word **inadvertent** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **D) unexpected**
Inadvertent means not intended or planned. The passage says even careful testing may miss a harmful effect nobody expected, so the closest meaning is **unexpected**. Not **unlikely**, which describes probability, not lack of intention.

19. Basketball was invented by James Naismith, a Canadian-American, in 1891. Today, it is the world's most popular indoor sport.
Basketball **emphasizes** teamwork and the athletic qualities of endurance, speed, and agility. Tall players have an advantage because they can reach closer to the basket or above other players to shoot and rebound the ball. Smaller players make contributions to their teams as shooters and ball handlers.

The word **emphasizes** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ C) highlights
Emphasize means to give special importance or attention to something. Basketball gives special importance to teamwork and athletic qualities, so the closest meaning is **highlights**. Not **enhances**, which means improves.

20. Daniel Webster was a well-known American speaker, and one of the most capable lawyers and statesmen of his time. He used his speaking ability to establish a strong national government in the Senate. He also applied the speaking skills he had mastered as a lawyer to **heighten** his appeal for national unity.

The word **heighten** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ A) intensify
Heighten means to make something stronger or greater. The passage says Webster used the speaking skills he had mastered as a lawyer to make his appeal for national unity stronger, so the closest meaning is **intensify**. Not **promote**, which means to support or advertise something, not to make it stronger.

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