ESSENTIAL WORDS FOR THE TOEFL

Essential Words for the TOEFL Lesson 16 Vocabulary Test

20 questions · Choose the correct answer. Online test and answer key with explanations:
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Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____ / 20

1. **Choose the synonym.**
convey
A) intensify **B)** promote
C) communicate **D)** engender

2. engender
A) suitable **B)** persistent
C) generate **D)** inevitable

3. growth
A) expansion **B)** function
C) highlight **D)** recover

4. meticulously
A) haphazardly **B)** conscientiously
C) inadvertently **D)** conspicuously

5. retrieve
A) disperse **B)** recover
C) accelerate **D)** broaden

6. encompass
A) emphasize **B)** gain
C) heighten **D)** include

7. apex
A) facet **B)** zenith **C)** trait **D)** flaw

8. systematically
A) unexpectedly **B)** persuasively
C) astoundingly **D)** methodically

9. paramount
A) likely **B)** foremost
C) appealing **D)** meticulous

10. mimic
A) exceed **B)** imitate
C) astonish **D)** highlight

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 _____.
A) inadvertently **B)** appropriately
C) haphazardly **D)** methodically

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 **B)** convey
C) deplete **D)** develop

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 _____.
A) unwarranted **B)** infantile
C) valid **D)** conscientious

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 _____.
A) favor **B)** promote
C) emphasize **D)** include

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 _____.
A) difficult **B)** doubtful
C) astonishing **D)** superficial

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 _____.

A) ignorant of the situation
B) more conscious of the situation
C) unconcerned about the problem
D) ashamed that the problem exists

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 _____.

A) prime **B)** beginnings
C) miracle **D)** ambiguity

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 _____.

A) acute **B)** unlikely
C) agilely **D)** unexpected

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 _____.

A) encompasses **B)** elaborates
C) highlights **D)** enhances

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 **B)** persuade
C) promote **D)** convey

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