ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Essential Words for the TOEFL Lesson 2 Vocabulary Test

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Explanations

1. **Choose the synonym.**
circumvent
✔ **C) evade**
To **circumvent** something means to find a way around it so you avoid it, so its synonym is **evade**. Example: **They circumvented the rules.** = **They evaded the rules.**

2. advantage
✔ **A) benefit**
An **advantage** is something that helps you or puts you in a better position, which is a **benefit**. Example: **Speaking two languages is a big advantage/benefit.**

3. fragile
✔ **D) frail**
Fragile means weak and easily broken or damaged, the same as **frail**. Example: **a fragile/frail old man**. Not **refined**, which means elegant or improved.

4. contemporary
✔ **B) current**
Contemporary means belonging to the present time, so it means **current**. Example: **contemporary art** is art of today. Not **well-known**, which is about fame, not time.

5. appealing
✔ **C) alluring**
Appealing means attractive or interesting, so its synonym is **alluring**. Not **popular**: something can be appealing to you without being liked by many people.

6. renowned
✔ **B) celebrated**
Renowned means famous and admired for something, the same as **celebrated**. **Unknown** is the opposite.

7. worthwhile
✔ **A) rewarding**
Something **worthwhile** is worth the time or effort because it gives you something good back, so it is **rewarding**. Not **acceptable**, which only means good enough.

8. vigorous
✔ **C) energetic**
Vigorous means strong, active and full of energy, so it means **energetic**. Example: **vigorous exercise**.

9. refine
✔ **C) perfect**
To **refine** something is to improve it by making small changes until it is as good as possible, so here the verb **perfect** is the synonym. Example: **She refined/perfected her technique.**

10. heyday
✔ **D) pinnacle**
A **heyday** is the time when someone or something is most successful or powerful. That is the high point, or **pinnacle**. Not **acclaim**, which means praise.

11. Over the years, investigators have evaluated the local folklore of areas where sightings of the **celebrated** Abominable Snowman have been reported. The same scientists have collected physical evidence, such as footprints, body parts, and photographs, but this evidence remains unconvincing. In 1960 the renowned mountaineer Sir Edmund Hillary of New Zealand conducted an investigation of the reports of the creature but found no evidence of its existence.

The word **celebrated** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **C) renowned**
Celebrated here means famous. The Abominable Snowman is a famous creature, so the closest word is **renowned**. The passage even uses **renowned** for Edmund Hillary in the same sense. Not **elusive**, which means hard to find.

12. Exercises that demand total body involvement improve and maintain fitness. The most effective way to feel more mentally alert and **energetic** is to engage in aerobic activity at least three times a week for 30 minutes. Such activities may include jogging, running, swimming, dancing, and fast walking.

The word **energetic** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **A) vigorous**
Energetic means full of energy and strength, which is what **vigorous** means. The passage links feeling energetic to aerobic activity. Not **agile**, which means able to move quickly and easily.

13. Most people do not appreciate the importance of packaging. Packages maintain the purity and freshness of their contents and protect them from elements outside. If the contents are harmful, corrosive, or poisonous, the package must also protect the outside environment. A package must identify its contents, which facilitates the **distribution** of the product.

The word **distribution** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **C) dispensing**
Distribution of a product means giving it out or supplying it to people and shops, so the closest word is **dispensing**. Not **usage**, because the passage is about getting the product to people, not using it.

14. A **contemporary** issue among psychologists is the activation or cause of the emotion, its structure or components, and its functions and consequences. Each of these aspects can be considered from a biosocial view. Generally, the biosocial theory focuses on the neurophysiological aspects of emotions and their roles as organizers of cognition and motivators of action.

The word **contemporary** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **A) current**
A **contemporary** issue is one that people are discussing now, so it is a **current** issue. Not **contemptuous**: it looks similar, but it means showing no respect.

15. The early artists of the Hudson River school were Thomas Doughty, Asher Durand, and Thomas Cole. They found the wilderness in the Hudson River valley **appealing**. Although these painters studied in Europe, they first achieved a measure of success at home and chose the common theme of the remoteness and splendor of the American interior.

The word **appealing** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **D) alluring**
The painters found the wilderness **appealing**, meaning attractive, so the closest word is **alluring**. Not **spectacular**, which means very impressive to look at. It describes the scenery itself, not the painters' attraction to it.

16. Recent polls suggest that fewer people see an **advantage in** moving to the city than they used to. There was a time when cities attracted country dwellers like powerful magnets: cities had more jobs, better schools, and more services. Today, people often see pollution, crime, stress, and unemployment where they once saw an opportunity. Instead of advantages, they see disadvantages in uprooting their families for the uncertainty of urban life.

In stating that fewer people see an **advantage in** moving to the city, the author means that fewer people _____.
✔ **D) view city life as advantageous.**
To **see an advantage in** something means to think it brings benefits. So fewer people now **view city life as advantageous**. Not **consider cities a poor option**: that adds a negative judgement and does not match the meaning of the phrase.

17. The growing popularity of television in the 1950s marked an important turning point in the entertainment world. This development created vast new entertainment choices for people who lived within the signal areas of TV stations. Later, with the **advent** of satellite and cable TV, almost everyone, regardless of location, was able to experience this entertainment medium.

The word **advent** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **D) arrival**
The **advent** of something is its coming or first appearance, so it means **arrival**. Example: **the advent of the internet**. Not **explosion**: the passage is about satellite and cable TV appearing, not growing suddenly.

18. Passerines form the dominant avian group on Earth today. They are regarded as the most highly evolved of all birds and occur in abundance. Humans have long enjoyed passerines for their songs and their almost infinite variety of colors, patterns, and behavioral traits. Many passerines are considered to be quite **agile**. Among the most energetic of them is the swallow, whose small body is designed for effortless maneuvering.

The word **agile** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **A) nimble**
Agile means able to move quickly, easily and with control, which is what **nimble** means. The passage mentions effortless maneuvering. Not **fast**: agility is about easy, skilful movement, not just speed.

19. The word **encouraged** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **C) stimulated**
The passage says freezing techniques **encouraged** the shrimping industry to expand. They caused it to grow and become more active, so the closest word is **stimulated**. Not **advanced**: we don't say that something **advanced the industry to expand**.

20. Scientific disciplines, such as genetic engineering, are exploding with possibilities. As a result of new technologies and procedures to treat health conditions, new treatments for many diseases have been developed. Although the development of advanced methods will continue to change the face of healthcare, moral beliefs often **collide with** scientific advancements, slowing down the progress of some healthcare treatments.

The phrase **collide with** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **A) are in opposition to**
To **collide with** literally means to crash into. Here it is used figuratively: moral beliefs **are in opposition to** scientific advances, which is why progress slows down. Not **are associated with**, because that suggests agreement, not conflict.