ESSENTIAL WORDS FOR THE TOEFL

Essential Words for the TOEFL Lesson 21 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.**
picturesque
A) scenic **B)** calm
C) outlandish **D)** fertile

2. partisan
A) patterned **B)** bizarre
C) abundant **D)** biased

3. eruption
A) disguise **B)** outburst
C) omission **D)** decrease

4. disappear
A) vary **B)** vanish
C) reject **D)** fabricate

5. shallow
A) swift **B)** substantial
C) placid **D)** superficial

6. propensity
A) modicum **B)** tendency
C) aspect **D)** intuition

7. reaction
A) allocation **B)** investigation
C) response **D)** means

8. rich
A) fragile **B)** saturated
C) influential **D)** affluent

9. protected
A) plentiful **B)** phenomenal
C) sheltered **D)** passable

10. rhythm
A) purpose **B)** pattern
C) function **D)** notion

11. Until the latter half of the twentieth century, the Chesapeake Bay's sheltered, nutrient-rich waters supported **plentiful** populations of marine life. Commercial fishing and recreational activities abounded. By the 1970s, however, residential and industrial development of the surrounding land had led to significant pollution of the bay. Various projects have been initiated in an effort to reverse the environmental damage that the bay has suffered.

The word **plentiful** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
A) vanishing **B)** abundant
C) fascinating **D)** declining

12. The bee family Apidae, which includes honeybees, no longer uses honeypots that could be damaged by exposure to the elements. Instead, honey and pollen are stored in vertical combs with a layer of cells on each surface. Of the four species of honeybees in this family, only three are found in Asia. Their nests have several combs and are **sheltered** in crevices of rocks or hollows of trees.

The word **sheltered** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
A) recovered **B)** abundant
C) discovered **D)** protected

13. Andrew Carnegie established several independent, **philanthropic** foundations. Among them are funds for the recognition of heroic acts. These include the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, the Endowment for International Peace, and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, which was established in 1905 to provide pensions for college teachers.

The word **philanthropic** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
A) partisan **B)** service
C) humanitarian **D)** financial

14. The world of magic comprises a wide range of **phenomena**, from the intricate ritual beliefs and practices of religious systems, to acts of conjuring and sleight of hand for entertainment. Magic is a social and cultural phenomenon found in all places and in all periods of history, with varying degrees of importance.

The word **phenomena** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
A) motions **B)** patterns
C) expectations **D)** occurrences

15. A person's need for food is determined by age and by average heights and weights. Individual activity levels are also used to determine the level of ideal calorie consumption. For example, a **decrease** in recommended daily calorie consumption with increasing age is consistent with the known reduction in metabolism that occurs with aging and with a normal decrease in physical activity.

The word **decrease** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
A) decline **B)** balance
C) resistance **D)** development

16. Liquids vary in the amount of acid they contain. For example, water contains relatively little acid, while vinegar contains a large quantity. Acidic content is determined by dipping litmus paper into a liquid. This paper is saturated with a colorant obtained from plants called lichens. The colorant **reacts to** the presence of acid by turning different shades of red—the brightness of the shade can be measured on a scale called a pH scale.

In stating that the colorant **reacts to** the presence of acid in the liquid, the author means that it _____.

A) combines chemically with the acid.
B) disappears or dissolves in the liquid.
C) causes the liquid to lose its redness.
D) neutralizes the acid into a base.

17. Gars are long, slender, predatory fish, with a long, tooth-studded jaw and a tough, armored skin. They are a primitive fish that inhabit **placid** fresh waters of the Western Hemisphere. Because of the highly vascular and cellular nature of the gar's swim bladder, it functions as a lung. This makes the gar able to survive in large numbers in the Everglades of the southern United States.

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

A) steady **B)** protected
C) calm **D)** sheltered

18. In the human body, different toxins produce different **reactions**. Irritation of the upper respiratory tract by inhaled formaldehyde gas is rapidly reversible because as soon as inhalation ends, the irritation subsides. In contrast, the response produced by silica dust is irreversible, because once the silicotic nodules are formed, they remain in the lung.

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

A) responses **B)** narrations
C) influences **D)** harvests

19. Much of the world's unique heritage is endangered by pollution, the advance of human settlements, conflicts over the use of land and resources, and other problems. Thus, many countries are setting aside **scenic** natural areas as rapidly as possible. The tendency of many governments has been to establish as many parks as possible before natural environments are altered by human activities.

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

A) cultivated **B)** traditional
C) delightful **D)** picturesque

20. A "must carry" rule is designed to ensure that local TV stations do not **vanish** from cable TV offerings. It requires cable systems to carry all local broadcast channels within a certain area of their transmitters. The law was struck down in 1985, although many aspects of that case are still being argued.

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

A) graduate **B)** pass
C) disappear **D)** elude

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