ESSENTIAL WORDS FOR THE TOEFL

Essential Words for the TOEFL Lesson 24 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.**
discernible
A) exceptional **B)** detectable
C) solid **D)** negligent

2. average
A) ample **B)** approximate
C) slight **D)** mediocre

3. originate
A) stem from **B)** preserve
C) maintain **D)** disperse

4. potent
A) powerful **B)** reliable
C) firm **D)** durable

5. affordable
A) remarkable **B)** formidable
C) economical **D)** proportional

6. similar
A) prophetic **B)** substantial
C) parallel **D)** varied

7. insufficient
A) inadequate **B)** satisfactory
C) acute **D)** abysmal

8. negligible
A) exceptional **B)** intricate
C) insignificant **D)** scattered

9. thriving
A) flourishing **B)** vanishing
C) polluting **D)** astounding

10. monotonous
A) ambiguous **B)** hazardous
C) prosperous **D)** tedious

11. The Ceratosaurus, a genus of large carnivorous dinosaurs found as fossils in Late Jurassic rocks of North America, was similar to, and possibly closely related to, the Allosaurus. Ceratosaurus weighed up to 2 tons. This dinosaur was **somewhat** smaller than Allosaurus. It had a distinctive horn on its snout, a row of bony plates down the middle of its back, and four clawed fingers rather than three.

The word **somewhat** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
A) potently **B)** uniquely
C) slightly **D)** peculiarly

12. The countries of Scandinavia were influenced by the spirit of improvement prevalent throughout Europe during the eighteenth century, but showed less advanced agriculture than others. Danish farmers were somewhat slowed in using new methods because of political restrictions. At the end of the nineteenth century, however, these political restrictions lessened, and the agriculture industry **reciprocated** by developing solid advances in farming techniques.

The word **reciprocated** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
A) repelled **B)** emulated
C) stagnated **D)** responded

13. Tourists throng to Baltimore's Inner Harbor year-round. The Inner Harbor was built in an area that was once a **contaminated** industrial port. This area underwent rapid development in the 1980s. It is now a waterside array of high-fashion stores, new hotels, outdoor performances, moving boats, docked ships, and locales for eating and drinking.

The word **contaminated** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
A) deserted **B)** polluted
C) dangerous **D)** flourishing

14. Before 1999, the Northwest Territories were Canada's most sparsely settled area. Most settlements consisted of only a few hundred people. About two-thirds of Canada's Inuit lived there, **scattered** throughout the Arctic sector. Most Europeans who lived in this territory lived in the Mackenzie Valley.

The word **scattered** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
A) maintained **B)** sheltered
C) organized **D)** distributed

15. Plastics are a vast group of synthetic materials whose structures are based on the chemistry of carbon. They are also called polymers because they are made of extremely long chains of carbon atoms. An important characteristic of plastics is that they can be readily molded into finished products by the application of heat. As finished products, one of their well-known properties is **remarkable** resistance to heat.

The word **remarkable** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
A) periodic **B)** proportional
C) exceptional **D)** practical

16. Extensive water storage is common to a class of animals called ruminants. The class includes sheep and cattle, but the class member best known for storing water is the camel. There are two types of camel, the single-humped dromedary and the double-humped Bactrian camel found in the dry steppes of central Asia, where there is **insufficient** water for other animals to survive long-term. The ability of these animals to store water makes them the ideal beasts of burden on long treks across the desert.

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

A) inadequate **B)** abysmal
C) endemic **D)** intrinsic

17. As computer systems improve, databases will play an increasingly important role as sources of information for the general public. As databases become more refined, the need for awareness of a particular database will become more important. Users will need to be able to **discern** how reliable information coming from a database is.

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

A) maintain **B)** account
C) determine **D)** classify

18. The late 1970s and 1980s were years of delirious skyscraper construction. This was found in the cities that experienced economic progress, such as Dallas, Houston, and Atlanta in the southern United States, and also Hong Kong, Bangkok, and Singapore. Although New Yorkers, in particular, had reason to complain that the building of **mediocre** skyscrapers was choking Manhattan, a few distinguished profiles were added to the skylines of modern cities.

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

A) average **B)** renowned
C) functional **D)** contemporary

19. The deserts of the world are distributed in a pair of **parallel** belts lying approximately 25 degrees north and south of the equator. Of these, the world's largest desert is found in the Northern Hemisphere. The Sahara and smaller deserts, forming much of the arid portion of the Middle East, are located in high-pressure regions directly influenced by global circulation of the atmosphere.

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

A) proportional **B)** noticeable
C) broad **D)** similar

The life of the Atlantic salmon is typical of all salmon. The young fish leave the streams of their origin and spread into the feeding water of the cold seas. When they are sexually mature, they return to their home streams. In early summer, vast numbers of fish can be observed in their run upstream. **Potent** river currents and swift rapids are insufficient to stop the salmon's journey. It is not known how the fish identify the right river system and the specific nesting sites, but research indicates that the fish sense a chemical code specific to their home stream.

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

A) deep **B)** powerful
C) stagnant **D)** quick

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