ESSENTIAL WORDS FOR THE TOEFL

Essential Words for the TOEFL Lesson 30 Vocabulary Test

20 questions · Choose the correct answer. Online test and answer key with explanations:
https://englishtestsonline.com/essential-words-for-the-toefl-lesson-30-vocabulary-test/

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____ / 20

1. **Choose the synonym.**
astute
A) acknowledge **B)** extensive
C) clever **D)** weak

2. sporadic
A) prophetic **B)** intrinsic
C) erratic **D)** archaic

3. relinquish
A) recover **B)** disperse
C) forfeit **D)** deplete

4. persevering
A) enduring **B)** ineffective
C) secure **D)** sincere

5. superior
A) prosperous **B)** sustained
C) superficial **D)** exceptional

6. truncate
A) impress **B)** cut
C) uphold **D)** postpone

7. precarious
A) peculiar **B)** dangerous
C) widespread **D)** aggravating

8. persuade
A) convince **B)** conform
C) confirm **D)** conceal

9. wisdom
A) acceleration **B)** insight
C) caution **D)** marvel

10. intense
A) instant **B)** hazardous
C) severe **D)** robust

11. The circulation war of the tabloids that took place in New York City in the 1920s was copied in Britain in the 1930s. This brought numerous circulation-boosting schemes. Prizes for readers were introduced in the 1890s and had become popular measures to **woo** new subscribers by the 1900s. Although the practice was condemned by the Newspaper Proprietors' Association, gift schemes grew along with the number of newspapers for many years. They continue today.

The word **woo** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
A) forfeit **B)** attract
C) convince **D)** deceive

12. Intensity, intimacy, and omnipresence have been identified as the distinctive characteristics of the motion-picture image. Its intensity stems from its power to capture the complete attention of the theatergoer. Outside the theater, a person's attention is usually divided among the elements of the limitless reality around him or her, except for **sporadic** moments of concentration on what is selected for closer examination.

The word **sporadic** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
A) occasional **B)** charismatic
C) recurrent **D)** splendid

13. Established in 1942, the Voice of America is the international radio network of the U.S. Information Agency. Its charge is the **widespread** decree of a favorable understanding of the United States abroad. It achieves this task with a wide range of programs, including news, editorials, features, and music. The VOA has established a long-term modernization plan to increase its number of broadcasting languages from 42 to 60.

The word **widespread** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
A) unlimited **B)** discernible
C) extensive **D)** alluring

14. Jellyfish capture their prey by using nematocysts, small stinging organs found on their tentacles. They feed on organisms such as plankton, fish, and other jellyfish they may **stumble upon** while propelling themselves through the ocean. Their movement is produced through rhythmic contractions of the bell's perimeter surface, which discharges water. This causes water to move the animal forward by jet propulsion. Some varieties of jellyfish are able to swim well, but most are weak swimmers that drift with sea currents.

The phrasal verb **stumble upon** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
A) encounter **B)** ingest
C) engender **D)** attack

15. During his administration, Thomas Jefferson pursued a policy of expansion. He seized an opportunity when Napoleon Bonaparte decided to **forfeit** French ambitions in North America by offering the Louisiana Territory for sale. This remarkable acquisition, purchased for a few cents per acre, more than doubled the area of the United States. Jefferson had no constitutional right to complete the transaction. Nevertheless, he made up the rules as he went along, broadly interpreting the Constitution.

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

A) accelerate **B)** restrain
C) relinquish **D)** disrupt

16. In some countries, high-speed driving is **severely punished**, while in others speed is ignored, tolerated, or encouraged. For example, French police fine drivers as much as 380 euros on the spot for driving more than 110 kilometers per hour, while the famous German expressway known as the "Autobahn" has no speed limit, although sections of it may have recommended limits. The lack of a speed limit and lighter police surveillance turn many drivers into skillful competitors.

In stating that high-speed driving is **severely punished**, the author means that _____.

A) offenders are sure to be arrested at once.
B) exceeding the limit carries the death penalty.
C) authorities impose heavy penalties, such as large fines.
D) speeding is officially encouraged.

17. As a U.S. congressman, Davy Crockett won a reputation as a **witty**, shrewd, and outspoken backwoodsman. It was in Washington that the legend of this man as a coonskin-hatted bear hunter and tall-tale teller was created. There, his political allies promoted this image so he could compete with President Jackson's image as a democrat.

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

A) robust **B)** scattered
C) humorous **D)** instinctive

18. The volcanic areas of southern Guatemala contain some of the nation's richest soils. However, the northern parts of this region are particularly subject to erosion encouraged by steep slopes and deforestation. Within the Sierra region, heavier rainfall combined with thinner soils on the steep slopes and the **wanton** destruction of forests have led to widespread erosion.

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

A) senseless **B)** sustained
C) proportional **D)** outlandish

19. In all the Apache groups, the family structure was matrilocal. The women cared for the children, gathered plant food, and collected firewood and water. The men of the family hunted, fought, raided, and made weapons and shields. The most persuasive, tenacious, and successful family heads became Apache leaders. Those in authority were chosen because they had personal **charisma** and success in warfare.

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

A) obligations **B)** fallacies
C) appeal **D)** capriciousness

20. Bishop Wright profoundly influenced the lives of his children. Wilbur and Orville, like their father, were independent thinkers. They had deep confidence in their own talents, and an unwavering faith in the soundness of their judgment. They were taught to **endure** difficulties and continue in the face of disappointment. Those qualities, when combined with their unique talents, help to explain the accomplishments of the Wright brothers as inventors.

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

A) disguise **B)** endorse
C) reject **D)** persevere

Finished? Check your answers online
Get your score with instant feedback, and download the **answer key with explanations**, on the test page:
englishtestsonline.com · scan the code for this test
englishtestsonline.com