ESSENTIAL WORDS FOR THE TOEFL

Essential Words for the TOEFL Lesson 4 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.**
appeal
A) enrich **B)** assert **C)** petition **D)** restore

2. mundane
A) celebrated **B)** ordinary
C) astounding **D)** alterable

3. instigate
A) initiate **B)** empower
C) intensify **D)** restore

4. elicit
A) declare **B)** withdraw
C) conform **D)** extract

5. abdicate
A) relinquish **B)** alter
C) encourage **D)** heighten

6. misleadingly
A) abruptly **B)** deceptively
C) progressively **D)** truly

7. stagnant
A) still **B)** flowing
C) angry **D)** enormous

8. resilient
A) bothersome **B)** vital
C) unbearable **D)** tenacious

9. embody
A) exemplify **B)** entice
C) notice **D)** enrich

10. vague
A) intolerable **B)** adverse
C) beautiful **D)** ambiguous

11. The creation and analysis of optical illusions involve mathematical and geometric principles, such as the proportionality between the areas of similar figures. Optical illusions and their effects are often created through careful physical attributes, such as a nonstandard use of perspective, distorted angles, **deceptive** shading, unusual juxtaposition, and color effects.

The word **deceptive** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
A) elusive **B)** misleading
C) altered **D)** ambiguous

12. The Seneca Falls Convention, held in 1848, started the women's suffrage movement in the United States. A "Declaration of Sentiments," which called upon women to organize and to **petition** for their rights, was passed. However, one controversial resolution, calling for the right of women to vote, narrowly passed. The ridicule of that provision of the Declaration caused many backers of women's rights to withdraw their support later on.

The word **petition** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
A) vote **B)** demand
C) appeal **D)** persist

13. Space law is concerned with the proper uses of outer space. The most important treaty of space laws was the 1967 Outer Space Treaty. The participants who crafted the treaty concluded that the moon and all other celestial bodies were to be free for exploration and use by all nations. They also **concurred** that the use of weapons of mass destruction was to be forbidden in space.

The word **concurred** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
A) assumed **B)** agreed
C) anticipated **D)** observed

It is a common misconception that the U.S. Congress has the constitutional power to legislate nearly anything for the general welfare. The Constitution gives Congress many powers, but it does not give Congress the power to legislate freely for the general welfare. In many instances, Congress may try to cause the states to do something by means of offers of subsidies or grants, but it cannot compel them to accept the incentives. The lawmaking process can **become stagnant** if the states do not agree with the proposed legislation.

14. The phrase **become stagnant** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
A) continue flowing **B)** stop moving
C) be cancelled **D)** create arguments

15. Due to the **astounding** progress of integrated-circuit technology, an enormous number of transistors can be placed onto a single integrated-circuit chip. The first commercially successful microprocessor chip had only about 2,300 transistors, but by the late 2010s, the newest high-end chips had more than 7 billion.

The word **astounding** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
A) astonishing **B)** rapid
C) solid **D)** resilient

16. Deer populations have grown dramatically in the northeast United States in the last 20 years. Many residents are happy to have deer in their communities, but many others see them as a menace. Deer often wander into traffic, cause automobile accidents, trample lawns, eat flowers, and host insects that carry disease. Therefore, many residents are **determined to** restrict their movements, fence them out, or even eliminate them altogether.

In stating that many people are **determined to** eliminate the deer, the author means that they _____.

A) want to decide what to do.
B) support their increase.
C) insist on reducing them.
D) favor enlarging the herd.

17. The game of chess was not well organized until 1946, when the world chess governing body, FIDE, **asserted** its control over international play. At that time, national chess groups immediately welcomed the chance to join the new federation. However, FIDE's authority has not been universally recognized, and even today there is no general agreement as to the status of the world championship.

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

A) enhanced **B)** empowered
C) permitted **D)** declared

18. Social anthropologists attempt to illustrate the social emergence and evolution of the human race and to determine differences between human social organization and that of other primates. Despite the fact that all classifications of human societies and cultures are **arbitrary**, they also attempt to note differences between various human societies. In spite of these difficulties, anthropologists have made great advances in the identification and grouping of human civilizations.

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

A) vague **B)** haphazard
C) disputed **D)** elusive

19. The Monroe Doctrine allowed the United States to intervene in the affairs of Latin American countries in case of foreign invasion. Once the United States was **designated** to act on behalf of its neighbors to the south, episodes of foreign interference decreased until the 1960s, when Cuba wanted the support and economic aid of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

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

A) authorized **B)** accustomed
C) determined **D)** tempted

20. J. Edgar Hoover was an **astute** professional who served as Director of the FBI for 48 years. Hoover was a resilient and determined government official whose tenure spanned one of the most important eras of modern U.S. history. His policies helped to shape and create what has now become a highly respected modern investigative organization.

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

A) acclaimed **B)** celebrated
C) perceptive **D)** eminent

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