ESSENTIAL WORDS FOR THE TOEFL

Essential Words for the TOEFL Lesson 5 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.**
incessant
A) unique **B)** constant
C) blocked **D)** baffled

2. obstruct
A) warn **B)** tempt
C) enhance **D)** block

3. intrigue
A) fascinate **B)** elicit
C) intensify **D)** enrich

4. well-suited to
A) unique to **B)** compatible with
C) enhanced with **D)** dedicated to

5. work out
A) finalize **B)** compensate
C) solve **D)** oppose

6. convince
A) assert **B)** persuade
C) restore **D)** yield

7. rare
A) determined **B)** warned
C) vague **D)** unique

8. facilitate
A) assist **B)** refine **C)** alter **D)** discard

9. enhance
A) entice **B)** strengthen
C) relinquish **D)** encourage

10. puzzled
A) valid **B)** assertive
C) baffled **D)** astute

11. A newborn chick uses its egg tooth to break the shell of its egg and escape from it at hatching. This toothlike structure is then **shed** since its only use is to help the bird break the eggshell. Some animals, such as lizards and snakes, develop a true tooth that projects outside the row of other teeth. This tooth helps the young hatch.

The word **shed** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
A) guarded **B)** preserved
C) discarded **D)** enhanced

12. Imitation gems are usually made of glass or plastics. In recent years, an enormous array of plastics has become available for imitations, but these materials are soft and lack the clarity present in real gemstones. Therefore, they are less satisfactory for the purpose than glass. Flint glasses, containing lead oxide, have higher refractive indices and therefore possess a **brilliance** not found in plastics. This makes flint glasses more suitable than plastic for imitation gems.

The word **brilliance** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
A) radiance **B)** lightness
C) enhancement **D)** appeal

13. During a shower, meteors appear to spread from a point in the sky, called the radiant. These radiant points give each shower its name. For example, the Perseids shower appears to radiate from the constellation Perseus. During the heaviest showers, 30 to 70 meteors may be seen every hour, but on **unique** occasions in a spectacular display, that number may be visible every second.

The word **unique** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
A) intriguing **B)** amazing
C) celebrated **D)** rare

14. Sometimes, advertisers impact society by the use of advocacy ads, whose purpose is not to **persuade** the public to buy a product, but to change the public's view about a specific issue. Companies use this advertising to influence public opinion. Critics say that such ads are unfairly one-sided; advertisers say that the mass media have been equally one-sided in failing to report company views.

The word **persuade** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
A) convince **B)** dissuade
C) solicit **D)** encourage

15. In the mid-1800s, gold and silver were common components of dentures. As a result, they were very expensive. However, in 1851, a process to harden the juices of certain tropical plants into rubber was discovered. This new product could be molded to a model of a patient's mouth and artificial teeth could be made. As a result, when used **in conjunction with** new manufacturing methods, these molds caused the cost of dentures to fall dramatically.

The phrase **in conjunction with** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.

A) along with **B)** under
C) throughout **D)** within limits of

16. The issue of where human life first arose has always been an **intriguing question** for science. Many guesses, or hypotheses, have been advanced, ranging from Asia to Europe. However, the oldest known human bones, or fossils, were discovered in East Africa in 1972. They are nearly 2 million years old. Their age was determined by measuring the age of the rocks surrounding them and comparing them to other fossils.

In stating that the origin of human life is an **intriguing question**, the author means that it _____.

A) interests a lot of scientists.
B) can never be answered.
C) receives too much attention.
D) will always be a mystery.

17. The Sioux and Cheyenne peoples told outsiders not to look for gold on Indian land. Eventually, the Sioux and Cheyenne had to defend their land against a U.S. army force in the Battle of Little Bighorn. This battle, also known as "Custer's Last Stand," was led by General George Custer. Custer was **cautioned** by his advisors not to underestimate the strength of his opponent, but ignored their advice, resulting in the defeat of the U.S. force.

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

A) warned **B)** discarded
C) praised **D)** convinced

18. Clothing and adornments used among certain cultures often reflect the social status of an individual. Body painting and tattooing are common methods used to distinguish social status. Other methods include the use of lip, ear, and nose rings, in addition to bracelets, arm bands, necklaces, and head ornaments made of delicate, colorful feathers. It is common for groups of people to use the natural resources around them to **work out** a way of visually designating social rank.

The verb **work out** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.

A) restore **B)** discard
C) argue **D)** develop

19. Species of alyssum are particularly suitable as edging plants for flower gardens. Alyssum is generally grayish with yellow or white flowers. One popular species is sweet alyssum, a perennial that grows up to nine inches tall. The narrow, green-gray leaf of the sweet alyssum usually **bears** many silvery hairs.

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

A) produces **B)** elicits
C) attracts **D)** inspires

20. In ancient times, the labyrinth was a structure composed of a complex series of passageways and chambers, probably at first designed to **baffle** enemies. A labyrinth either had branched paths with misleading ends, or it contained one long meandering path that led to a central end.

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

A) obstruct **B)** puzzle
C) discard **D)** astound

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