ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Essential Words for the TOEFL Lesson 6 Vocabulary Test

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Explanations

1. **Choose the synonym.**
instantaneous
✓ **C) immediate**
Instantaneous means happening at once, with no delay, so its synonym is **immediate**: **The effect of the drug was instantaneous.**

2. traditional
✓ **C) conventional**
Traditional means following the usual, long-established way of doing things, which is also what **conventional** means: **a conventional/traditional wedding**. Not **frequent**, which only means happening often.

3. extinguish
✓ **A) terminate**
To **extinguish** something is to put it out or bring it to an end (**extinguish a fire**, **extinguish hope**), so the closest word is **terminate** (to end). Not **emit**, which means to send out (light, gas, heat).

4. curious
✓ **C) peculiar**
Here **curious** means strange or unusual (**a curious smell**), so the synonym is **peculiar**. Its other meaning, "wanting to know", has no match among the options.

5. adequately
✓ **A) sufficiently**
Adequately means well enough for a particular need, which is the meaning of **sufficiently**: **The room was adequately/sufficiently heated.**

6. immense
✓ **B) massive**
Immense means extremely large, so the synonym is **massive**: **an immense/massive building**. Not **complicated**, which describes difficulty, not size.

7. exceedingly
✓ **B) extremely**
Exceedingly means to a very great degree, the same as **extremely**: **an exceedingly difficult task**.

8. visibly
✓ **A) noticeably**
Visibly means in a way that can be seen or noticed, so the synonym is **noticeably**: **She was visibly/noticeably upset.**

9. stamina
✓ **D) endurance**
Stamina is the physical or mental strength to keep doing something for a long time, which is **endurance**: **Marathon runners need great stamina.** Not **courage**, which is bravery, not the ability to last.

10. restrictively
✓ **A) exclusively**
Restrictively means in a way that limits something to a certain group or purpose, so the closest word is **exclusively** (only for one group or purpose). Not **relatively**, which means "compared with something else".

11. North American trade patterns offer remarkable contrasts. Canada has a small population but with vast resources and high productivity. It has a low home consumption and depends on foreign trade more than any other developed country on the North American continent. The United States, on the other hand, has an **immense** domestic market and the highest per capita consumption of goods in the world. It depends mainly on trade within its national borders.

The word **immense** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✓ **A) massive**
Immense means extremely large. The passage contrasts Canada's small population and low home consumption with the United States' **immense**, or **massive**, domestic market. Not **significant**, which means important, not necessarily huge.

12. The word **conventional** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✓ **C) traditional**
Conventional means the usual, established kind, so it is closest to **traditional**. The passage compares the new computer fonts with the older, **traditional** printing processes. Not **available**, because the point is old versus new methods, not access.

13. The word **routinely** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✓ **A) ordinarily**
Routinely means regularly, as a normal part of the process, so it is closest to **ordinarily**. The passage says many kinds of variables are commonly and regularly mapped this way. Not **effectively** or **efficiently**, which describe how well something is done, not how usual it is.

14. Motion-picture technology is a **curious** blend of the old and the new. In much of the equipment, state-of-the-art digital electronics may be working with a mechanical system invented in 1895. Moreover, the technology of motion pictures is based not only on the invention of still photography but also on a combination of several more or less independent technologies: camera and projector design, film manufacture and processing, sound recording and reproduction, and lighting and light measurement.

The word **curious** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **B) peculiar**
Here **curious** means strange or unusual, so it is closest to **peculiar**. The passage calls the mix of modern digital electronics and an 1895 mechanical system an odd **blend of the old and the new**. Not **appealing**, which means attractive.

15. The durable surfacing of a road, airstrip, or similar area is known as a pavement. Its primary function is to transmit loads to the sub-base and underlying soil. Modern flexible pavements contain sand and gravel or crushed stone. These are compacted with a binder of bituminous material, such as asphalt or tar. Such a pavement demonstrates enough plasticity to absorb shocks. **Rigid** pavements are made of concrete, composed of coarse and fine aggregate and portland cement, and usually reinforced with steel rod or mesh.

The word **rigid** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **B) stiff**
Rigid means hard and not able to bend, which is **stiff**. The passage contrasts **flexible** pavements, which have plasticity, with **rigid** concrete pavements. Not **strong**: concrete is strong, but **rigid** is about not bending. **Pliable** is the opposite.

16. In stating that Internet entertainment is **instantaneous**, the author means that it is _____.
✔ **B) available without delay**
Instantaneous means happening immediately, so Internet content is **available without delay**. The passage links this instant availability to users' shorter attention spans. Not **constantly being viewed**: the passage does mention constant use, but that is about the users, not the meaning of **instantaneous**.

17. Water is a powerful solvent that acts as a catalyst for many reactions. It also stores heat and cold well. In terms of its composition, water has an unusually high boiling and freezing point. It also shows unusual volume changes with temperature. Water is easily the most **complex** of all common substances that are single chemical compounds.

The word **complex** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **D) intricate**
Complex means made of many connected parts and hard to understand, which is **intricate**. The passage lists water's many unusual properties to show how **complex** it is. Not **peculiar**: water's properties are unusual, but **complex** means complicated, not strange.

18. The word **emitted** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **A) released**
To **emit** is to send out gas, heat or light, so **emitted** is closest to **released**. The passage later uses a similar word: gases that are **discharged**. Not **created**: the pollutants are produced by combustion, but **emitted** refers to them being sent out into the air.

19. The cotton gin, invented by Eli Whitney, was **commonplace** on many nineteenth-century farms. Although patented in 1794, the ingenious design was imitated so much by others that Whitney gained only a modest financial reward from his simple invention. The cotton gin soon revolutionized farming in many parts of the South.

The word **commonplace** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **B) standard**
Commonplace means ordinary and found everywhere, so it is closest to **standard**. The passage explains that the cotton gin was copied so often that it became normal equipment on many farms. Not **celebrated**, which means famous and praised.

20. The delicate look and feel of silk are deceptive. It is a strong, natural fiber, ranked in strength with synthetic nylon. To the naked eye, it appears to be smooth, but under the microscope, cultivated silk fiber looks **coarse**. It is the coolest of hot-weather fabrics, and it can absorb up to 30 percent of its weight in moisture without feeling wet.

The word **coarse** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **C) rough**
Coarse means having a rough, uneven surface, so the synonym is **rough**. The passage contrasts silk looking **smooth** to the naked eye with looking **coarse** under the microscope. Not **strong**: the passage says silk is strong, but that is a different quality.