ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

General ESL Vocabulary MCQ Test With Answers – Advanced Level Exercise 08

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Explanations

1. In a speech he made today, the President of Passagonia advocated the _____ of nuclear arms and said that his country was ready for "urgent and effective measures to _____ the arms race."
✔ **E) elimination / curb**
Both gaps must fit a call for disarmament. **Elimination** means complete removal, and to **curb** the arms race means to control or limit it. The other pairs fail on at least one gap: **expansion**, **escalation** and **acceleration** of nuclear arms would mean more weapons, and **propulsion** means pushing forward.

2. The traditional bonds that exist between the two countries, as well as the mutual respect they hold for one another, will _____ a firm basis for further development of their economic ties.
✔ **D) constitute**
Constitute means 'form' or 'be': the bonds and respect **constitute a firm basis**. Not **contribute**, because it needs **to** (**contribute to a firm basis**) and the sentence has no preposition.

3. Naim Süleymanoğlu, born of Turkish descent and one of the world's top weight-lifters then, _____ to Turkey some twenty years ago while he was competing in Australia.
✔ **C) defected**
To **defect** means to leave your own country, or its team or party, and go over to another, often while abroad. Süleymanoğlu left the Bulgarian team while competing in Australia. Not **emigrated** or **immigrated**: these describe an ordinary, planned move to live in another country, not a sudden escape during a competition abroad.

4. If you can do without the few _____ pleasures of the country, you will find the city can provide you with the best that life has to offer.
✔ **B) pastoral**
Pastoral means connected with quiet country life, fields and farming, so **pastoral pleasures** are the simple pleasures of the countryside. This contrasts with what **the city** can offer. The other adjectives do not describe country life.

5. They were, in fact, having such a good time on their little desert island that -- when a passing tanker rescued them a few days later -- both men were _____ sorry that they had to leave.
✔ **E) genuinely**
Genuinely means truly or sincerely. The men were having **such a good time** that they were really sorry to leave. Not **outwardly**, which suggests they only looked sorry and did not feel it.

6. Inviting the fire-brigade to put out an imaginary, non-existent fire is a crude form of deception which no _____ person would ever indulge in.
✔ **B) self-respecting**
A **self-respecting** person has proper pride and would not do anything shameful or silly. The pattern **no self-respecting + noun** is very common: **No self-respecting chef would use tinned soup.** Not **self-conscious**, which means shy or worried about how others see you.

7. He was sent to prison for failing to pay his debts and died in _____ in 1993.
✔ **E) poverty and obscurity**
Poverty and obscurity is a set phrase: **to die in poverty and obscurity** means to die poor and forgotten. It fits a man jailed for unpaid debts. **Rags and riches** contradicts itself, and **wealth and health** is the opposite of the meaning.

8. City-born and city-bred, I have always _____ the country as something you look at through a train window, as somewhere you occasionally visit during a weekend.
✔ **D) regarded**
The pattern is **regard something as something**, meaning to think of it in a certain way: **I have always regarded the country as something you look at**. None of the other verbs can be followed by **as** with this meaning.

9. These sentimentalists fail to mention the long and friendless winter evenings which are only interrupted by a (an) _____ visit to the local cinema -- virtually the sole form of entertainment.
✔ **A) occasional**
Occasional means happening only now and then. The long winter evenings are only rarely **interrupted** by a cinema visit. Not **steady**, which would mean regular visits and does not fit 'long and friendless' evenings.

10. Three days after the disappearance of their ever so precious little dog, the family received a (an) _____ note, stating that it was in safe hands and would be returned immediately if a ransom of one million dollars was paid.
✔ **D) anonymous**
An **anonymous** note is one written by an unknown person, with no name given. This is typical of a ransom demand. Not **anomalous**, which means unusual or irregular, and not **illegible**, which means impossible to read; the family clearly understood the note.

11. In the 1960s, certain cults imported from the Far East _____ great popularity and had great numbers of followers especially among the young.
✔ A) enjoyed
Enjoy great popularity is a fixed collocation meaning to be very popular: **The band enjoyed great popularity in the 1980s.** Here **enjoy** does not mean 'take pleasure in' but 'have something good'.

12. She was too excited to do any housework that morning, for in the evening she would be going to a _____ with her husband.
✔ D) fancy dress party
A **fancy dress party** is a party where guests wear costumes, so it is a social event you go to with your husband and get excited about. A **search party** is a group looking for someone lost, and a **third party** is another person involved in a legal matter.

13. We often read in novels how a (an) _____ respectable person or family has some terrible secret which has been concealed from strangers for years: it is often called "a skeleton in the cupboard".
✔ A) seemingly
Seemingly means 'appearing to be, but perhaps not really'. A **seemingly respectable** family looks respectable but hides a terrible secret. Not **suspiciously**, because a hidden secret means nobody suspects anything.

14. People become quite _____ when it comes to discussing what can be eaten and what cannot.
✔ A) illogical
Illogical means not based on clear reasoning. People's ideas about which foods are acceptable are often based on habit and feeling, not logic. The other **il-** words do not fit: **illiterate** (unable to read), **illegible** (impossible to read), **illegal** (against the law).

15. Much as we may pride ourselves on our good taste, we are no longer free to choose the things we want, for advertising exerts a (an) _____ influence on us.
✔ A) subtle
Subtle means not obvious, working in a quiet, clever way that is hard to notice. Advertising influences us without our realising it, which is why **we are no longer free to choose** even though we trust our good taste. Not **hostile**, because advertising tempts us rather than attacking us.

16. In their efforts to _____ us to buy this or that product, advertisers have made a close study of human nature and have classified all our little weaknesses.
✔ B) persuade
The pattern is **persuade somebody to do something**: **persuade us to buy this or that product**. **Publicize** and **praise** refer to the product, not to making people act, and none of the other verbs takes **us to buy**.

17. _____ it may be just possible to measure the value of material goods in terms of money, it is extremely difficult to estimate the true value of the services that people perform for us.
✔ D) While
While here means 'although' and introduces a contrasting clause: **While it may be possible to measure X, it is difficult to estimate Y.** Not **However** or **Nevertheless**: these link two separate sentences and cannot introduce a subordinate clause like this. **In spite of** needs a noun or **-ing** form.

18. He has _____ chosen to lead the life he leads and is fully aware of the possible consequences.
✔ B) deliberately
Deliberately means on purpose, after thinking carefully. The clue is **is fully aware of the possible consequences**. Not **unknowingly**, which contradicts 'fully aware'.

19. Some _____ "modern" pieces of sculpture have been on display in public places for at least a hundred years.
✔ C) so-called
So-called shows that a name or description is commonly used but is not really accurate. These sculptures are called **modern**, yet they are at least a hundred years old. The quotation marks around 'modern' support this meaning.

20. One would expect an actor to know his part _____ and never make a mistake with his lines. Yet, this is not always the case.
✔ C) by heart
To **know something by heart** means to have learned it perfectly from memory: **She knows the poem by heart.** Not **by design** or **on purpose**: both mean 'intentionally' and do not describe memorising.

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