ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

General Vocabulary MCQ Exercise 1

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Explanations

1. Although he appears to be fluent in English, his sentences are full of grammatical _____.
✔ **C) mistakes**
We say **grammatical mistakes**, meaning errors in grammar. The word **although** shows a contrast: he seems fluent, but he makes many errors. Not **wrongs**: this word means unfair or bad actions, not language errors.

2. Measles is not _____ a children's disease.
✔ **E) exclusively**
Exclusively means 'only'. The sentence says measles is not only a children's disease, because adults can get it too. Not **nearly**: **not nearly** means 'far from', which does not fit here.

3. The new cashier soon _____ himself to be both efficient and trustworthy.
✔ **A) proved**
The pattern **prove yourself to be** + adjective means to show by your actions that you have a quality: **She proved herself to be reliable.** The other verbs do not take this pattern.

4. I didn't _____ we would be leaving quite so early.
✔ **B) expect**
Expect means to think that something will happen. **I didn't expect we would be leaving so early** means the early start was a surprise. Not **wait**: **wait** needs **for** and cannot be followed by a clause like this.

5. They couldn’t find a house in London at a price they could _____.
✔ **D) afford**
Afford means to have enough money to pay for something. It often goes with prices: **a price they could afford**. Not **get** or **obtain**: you get a house, not a price.

6. The tourists were _____ by the poverty they observed in some African countries.
✔ **A) upset**
Upset means sad and worried because of something unpleasant. Seeing poverty made the tourists feel bad. Not **damaged**: this is used for things that are physically harmed, not for feelings.

7. Determined to get into shape for the coming swimming season, Clara exercises _____ every morning.
✔ **E) vigorously**
Vigorously means with a lot of energy and effort. The clue is **determined to get into shape**: Clara is working hard to be fit for the swimming season. Not **reluctantly**, because that means 'not wanting to', which contradicts **determined**.

8. It is very difficult to work out a monthly budget since the prices keep on _____.
✔ **D) rising**
Rise is intransitive (no object): **prices rise**. **Raise** needs an object: **The shop raised its prices.** Here there is no object after the gap, so **rising** is correct.

9. I have such a lot of work to do that it is _____ to try to finish it today.
✔ **A) useless**
Useless means having no result or no point. With so much work, trying to finish it today will not succeed. The pattern is **it is useless to** + verb.

10. The company will be employing a mechanic to look after the new _____.
✔ **E) equipment**
A mechanic looks after machines, so the answer is **equipment**, meaning the machines and tools needed for a job. Not **employees**: a mechanic looks after machines, not people.

11. They are doing research on the _____ of the new drug.
✔ **B) effects**
The **effects** of a drug are the changes it causes in the body. Researchers study what a new drug does: **the effects of the new drug**. Not **expenses**, because research on a drug's costs is not what scientists test.

12. Professor Turner's excellent book will give you a lot of _____ information on the subject.
✔ **D) valuable**
Valuable information is very useful or important. The clue is **excellent book**: an excellent book gives good information. Not **limited**, because that would be a criticism, which does not match **excellent**.

13. They advised her not to swim so far out, but she _____ the warning.
✔ **E) ignored**
Ignore means to pay no attention to something. The word **but** shows she did not follow the advice. Not **listened**: we say **listened to the warning**, and that would mean she obeyed it.

14. For the last two years, John has been _____ his room with his friends.
✔ **C) sharing**
Share something with someone means to use it together with other people: **He shares his room with his friends.** Not **staying** or **living**: these need **in** (**living in his room**) and do not go with **with his friends** in this way.

15. "Stop shouting! The neighbours have already _____ about the noise we make."
✓ **A) complained**
Complain about something means to say that you are unhappy about it: **The neighbours complained about the noise.** Not **disturbed** or **annoyed**: these verbs take a direct object (**the noise disturbed them**) and cannot be followed by **about**.

16. He says he _____ the same story before.
✓ **B) has heard**
With **before** and the present **says**, we use the present perfect for an experience up to now: **he has heard**. Not **had listened**, because **listen** needs **to** before an object, and the past perfect does not fit after the present **says**.

17. "He _____ for a moment before he answered."
✓ **A) hesitated**
Hesitate means to stop for a short time before you speak or act, often because you are unsure. The clue is **for a moment before he answered**. Not **postponed**: you postpone an event to a later date, not for a moment.

18. The doctor _____ me that she would be alright after surgery.
✓ **C) assured**
Assure someone that means to tell them something firmly so they stop worrying: **The doctor assured me that she would be all right.** Not **confirms** or **guarantee**: they are in the wrong tense or form, and **confirm** does not take a person as its object.

19. I have not had the _____ to speak with the new teacher yet.
✓ **B) opportunity**
Have the opportunity to do something means to have a chance or the right moment to do it. **I haven't had the opportunity to speak with him yet** means there has been no chance so far. Not **ability**: that means skill, and speaking with someone does not need a special skill.

20. The building was _____ quickly after the bomb threat was phoned in to the switchboard.
✓ **D) evacuated**
Evacuate means to move people out of a dangerous place quickly: **The building was evacuated.** The bomb threat explains why everyone had to leave. Not **empty**: it is an adjective, so **was empty quickly** is not correct.

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