ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

General Vocabulary MCQ Exercise 2

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Explanations

1. The children had been taught to _____ well when visitors came.
✔ **B) behave**
To **behave well** means to act in a polite, correct way. After **to** we need the base form of a verb, so **acting** and **seeming** do not fit.

2. There was a loud shout of _____ from the fans as the team scored the winning goal.
✔ **A) triumph**
Triumph is the great joy you feel when you win. **A shout of triumph** is a common phrase. Not **happy**, because after **of** we need a noun, and **happy** is an adjective.

3. We thought it would be a good idea to take a television with us, so we took the small _____ one.
✔ **A) portable**
Portable means small and light enough to carry easily: **a portable TV**, **a portable radio**.

4. After her failure in school, Maria needed a great deal of _____ before she would return to her studies.
✔ **B) encouragement**
Encouragement means words or help that give someone the confidence to try again. Maria needed it so that she would go back to her studies. **Resentment** and **disappointment** are bad feelings, so they would not help her.

5. The cat is known for its _____.
✔ **D) curiosity**
After **its** we need a noun. **Curiosity** is the wish to find out about things, and cats are famous for it. **Quick**, **strong** and **angry** are adjectives.

6. The child _____ all our warnings and then fell.
✔ **D) ignored**
To **ignore** means to pay no attention to something. The child did not listen to the warnings and then fell. Not **listened**, because we say **listened to**, and that would not match **then fell**.

7. Before answering the questions, the suspect _____ and took a deep breath.
✔ **C) hesitated**
To **hesitate** means to stop for a moment before you speak or act, often because you are unsure. This matches **took a deep breath**. **Waits** and **disregard** are in the wrong form.

8. The ice cream _____ in their hands and their mother looked unhappily at the mess.
✔ **D) melted**
Ice cream **melts**: it becomes liquid when it gets warm. That explains the mess. Not **froze**, because frozen ice cream would not make a mess.

9. She received her _____ from the boss's secretary every week.
✔ **A) earnings**
Earnings is the money you get for your work. **Pay** is not used in the plural (**pays**), and **funds** means money kept for a purpose, not a weekly wage.

10. The _____ crime wave in our area has caused the police force to increase its efforts.
✔ **D) recent**
Recent means that it happened a short time ago. A **recent crime wave** is a sudden rise in crime lately, so the police are now working harder.

11. The _____ of the victims of the plane crash is not expected.
✔ **E) survival**
Survival means staying alive after something dangerous. **The survival of the victims is not expected** means people do not think anyone lived through the crash. **Alive** and **living** are not nouns here.

12. The _____ rules of grammar must be learned before one can understand the exceptions to the rules.
✔ **B) fundamental**
Fundamental means basic and most important. You learn the **fundamental rules** first, and then the exceptions. Not **basically**, because we need an adjective before the noun **rules**, not an adverb.

13. The young men were not thinking of the _____ of their actions when they entered their car after drinking.
✔ **C) consequences**
Consequences are the results of an action, often bad ones. The young men did not think about what could happen if they drove after drinking. Not **causes**, which are the reasons something happens, not its results.

14. I think that the story you have just told me is absolutely _____. I'm not sure I believe it.
✔ **A) incredible**
Incredible means impossible or very hard to believe. This matches **I'm not sure I believe it**. **Honest** and **reliable** mean the opposite.

15. The prisoner was _____ after the governments made an agreement to free prisoners of war of equal rank.
✔ **C) released**
To **release** a prisoner means to set them free. The agreement was **to free prisoners**, so **released** fits. Not **realised**, which looks similar but means 'understood'.

16. She was _____ to come with us as she could not get in touch with her family to ask permission.
✓ **D) reluctant**
Reluctant means not wanting to do something. She did not want to come because she could not ask her family for permission. Not **hopeful** or **optimistic**, which are positive feelings.

17. The bank confirmed that the statement they had sent me was _____.
✓ **C) accurate**
Accurate means correct, with no mistakes. The bank said the statement had no errors.

18. There were many _____ in her way in her climb to the position of general manager. However, she was able to overcome them all.
✓ **D) obstacles**
Obstacles are things that stop you or make progress difficult. The clue is **she was able to overcome them all**: you **overcome obstacles**. Not **triumphs**, because you don't need to overcome a success.

19. I have a _____ for strawberry ice cream.
✓ **B) craving**
A craving for something is a very strong wish for it, often for a food: **I have a craving for chocolate.** Not **wanting**, because we don't say **a wanting for**.

20. My broker suggested that I _____ my money in the stock market.
✓ **B) invest**
To **invest** money means to put it into something, such as shares, hoping to make more money: **invest in the stock market**. Not **bank**, because you bank money in a bank account, not in the stock market.

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