ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

General Vocabulary MCQ Exercise 3

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Explanations

1. The police _____ the man to drop his gun and raise his hands.
✔ **B) ordered**
To **order** someone to do something means to tell them firmly that they must do it, as the police do here. Not **informed**, because you inform someone **of** or **about** something; you don't inform someone **to** do something.

2. The child just could not _____ the instructions being given by the teacher.
✔ **E) comprehend**
To **comprehend** means to understand. The child could not understand the teacher's instructions. **Make** needs **out** (**make out**) to have this meaning.

3. In spite of all the difficulties he _____, the boy continued his studies.
✔ **A) encountered**
To **encounter** difficulties or problems means to meet or face them. **The difficulties he encountered** are the problems he had to face. Not **escaped**: if he had escaped the difficulties, **in spite of** would make no sense.

4. The doctor _____ in childhood illnesses.
✔ **C) specialised**
We say **specialise in** something when a doctor or other professional focuses on one area, e.g. **She specialises in heart disease. Worked** and **graduated** don't go with **in childhood illnesses**.

5. In Turkey, primary school is _____.
✔ **B) compulsory**
Compulsory means required by law, so every child must go. **Mandating** is a verb form, so it cannot follow **is** as an adjective here (the adjective is **mandatory**).

6. It took us about three hours to _____ her to come with us on the camping trip.
✔ **E) convince**
To **convince** someone to do something means to persuade them after giving reasons. **It took us three hours** shows that it was hard work. Not **invite**: an invitation takes a moment, and **agree** is something she does, not something we do to her.

7. John's parents were very _____ about where he went and what hours he was out of the house.
✔ **A) strict**
Strict parents have firm rules and expect children to obey them. The clue is the control of where he went and when. Not **worrying**: a person is **worried**, while a situation is **worrying**.

8. I promised Jane that I would _____ her some money at the end of the week.
✔ **C) lend**
To **lend** means to give something that the person will give back later. Jane will receive the money from me. Not **borrow**: you **borrow** money **from** someone, so it is the opposite direction.

9. I was given a _____ in the school theatre production of Shakespeare's Hamlet.
✔ **C) role**
A **role** is a character that an actor plays in a play or film, e.g. **He played the role of Hamlet. Play** is the whole performance, and **plot** is the story.

10. My head is really hurting. Can you give me something for the _____?
✔ **A) ache**
An **ache** is a pain that continues, like a headache. The speaker wants medicine for the pain. **Cure** is what stops an illness, not the pain itself.

11. Did you see the new jacket Mitchell is _____?
✔ **C) wearing**
We use **wear** for clothes that are on your body, e.g. **She is wearing a jacket.** Not **putting**: we say **putting on** for the action of getting dressed, and **on** is missing here.

12. I can't get through. The line must be _____.
✔ **B) engaged**
In British English, a phone line is **engaged** when someone else is using it, so you can't get through (American English: **busy**). **Broken** would describe a fault, not the usual reason for not getting through.

13. Why don't you _____ the lights on? It has gotten quite dark in here.
✔ **D) switch**
We **switch** (or **turn**) lights **on** and **off**. The other verbs describe movements and don't go with lights.

14. That's the most _____ story I've heard in a long time.
✔ **E) amusing**
Amusing means funny and entertaining, e.g. **an amusing story**. Not **interested**: **-ed** adjectives describe how a person feels; a story would be **interesting**.

15. I'll wash the dishes and you can _____ them.
✔ **B) rinse**
To **rinse** means to wash something quickly with clean water to remove soap. After the dishes are washed, the other person rinses them. Not **clean**: that means the same as wash, so it doesn't add a new job.

16. The large _____ at the cinema made the film more exciting. We felt like we were really there.
✔ **B) screen**
A **screen** is the large flat surface where a film is shown at the cinema. A **stage** is used for plays and concerts, not films.

17. I was wrong about the dinner being formal. It was quite _____ instead.
✔ **A) casual**
Casual is the opposite of **formal**: relaxed and informal, e.g. **casual clothes**. The clue is **I was wrong about the dinner being formal.**

18. I wish he would be more _____ but he seems to get ruder every day.
✔ **D) polite**
Polite is the opposite of **rude**. The speaker wishes he were polite, but he is getting ruder. Not **impolite**: that means rude, which is what he already is.

19. The _____ was filled at the pharmacy.
✔ **E) prescription**
A **prescription** is a doctor's written order for medicine, which you take to a pharmacy. **Prescribe** is the verb, and a **receipt** is the paper you get after paying.

20. My parents are always _____ about their children. They always look on the bright side.
✔ **E) optimistic**
Optimistic people expect good things to happen. The clue is **look on the bright side**, which means to see the good part of a situation. **Ambitious** means wanting success, which is a different idea.

21. The professor is going to give a _____ about the effects of drinking on the body.
✔ **B) lecture**
A **lecture** is a formal talk on a subject, usually given by a professor or teacher. **Speak** and **talking** are verb forms, so they cannot follow **give a**.

22. This drink has no taste at all. It is _____.
✔ **E) tasteless**
Tasteless means having no flavour; the suffix **-less** means 'without'. Not **tasteful**: that means showing good style, e.g. **tasteful furniture**.

23. Put your _____ at the bottom of the last page of this contract.
✔ **D) signature**
A **signature** is your name written in your own special way, used on contracts and documents. Not **sign**: as a noun, a **sign** is a notice or symbol, and as a verb it can't follow **your**.

24. Some people always seem to _____ new ideas and styles. They don't like change at all.
✔ **B) reject**
Seem to is followed by the base form of a verb. To **reject** means to refuse to accept something. The clue is **They don't like change at all**, so these people say no to new ideas. Not **welcome** or **adopt**: these mean to be happy with something new and start using it, which is the opposite.

25. We were asked for _____ when we applied for a new position that the company had advertised in the paper.
✔ **E) references**
References are letters or statements from former employers or teachers about your character and work, often requested when you apply for a job. **Introductions** are not usually asked for in job applications.

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