ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Imply or Infer Quiz: 20 Questions with Answers

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Explanations

1. From the footprints in the snow, the ranger ___ that a fox had passed by.
✔ **A) inferred**
The ranger worked it out from the evidence, so the verb is infer. The past form has a double r.

2. In careful writing: are you ___ that I didn't do my share of the work?
✔ **A) implying**
The other person is hinting at something without saying it. The speaker implies. Dictionaries also record infer for suggest, but careful writers keep it for drawing a conclusion.

3. In careful writing: he never said he was bored, but his yawns ___ it.
✔ **B) implied**
Yawns suggest boredom, so they imply it. Dictionaries also record infer for suggest, but careful writers keep it for drawing a conclusion.

4. What can we ___ from the writer's choice of title?
✔ **B) infer**
Readers infer: they work out a meaning from the clues. After can we need the base form.

5. In careful writing: I'm sorry. I didn't mean to ___ that your cooking was bad.
✔ **D) imply**
To imply is to suggest something without saying it directly. Dictionaries also record infer in this sense, but careful writers avoid it.

6. The scientists drew an important ___ from the data.
✔ **C) inference**
You draw an inference: a conclusion you reach from evidence. Note the single r.

7. In careful writing: as its name ___, a sunflower turns towards the sun.
✔ **D) implies**
As the name implies is a fixed phrase. It means as the name suggests. Dictionaries also record infer for suggest, but careful writers avoid it.

8. Read the paragraph again. It can be ___ that the author disliked city life.
✔ **A) inferred**
It can be inferred that is a common exam phrase: the reader works the idea out.

9. She didn't accuse anyone directly, but the ___ was clear.
✔ **A) implication**
Her words suggested it, so the hidden message is an implication, the noun from imply.

10. Nobody ever said it or wrote it down. Our agreement was ___.
✔ **C) implicit**
Implicit means understood but not stated. Explicit is the opposite: stated openly.

11. Which spelling is correct? Good readers are always ___ meaning from context.
✔ **B) inferring**
Infer is stressed on its last syllable, so the r doubles before -ing: inferring.

12. In careful writing: a high price does not always ___ high quality.
✔ **C) imply**
The subject is a thing (a price) that suggests something, so we use imply. After does not we need the base form. Dictionaries also record infer in this sense, but careful writers avoid it.

13. When Mum said, "Is that what you're wearing?", I ___ that she didn't like my outfit.
✔ **B) inferred**
I was the listener, and I worked out her meaning. Mum implied; I inferred.

14. In careful writing: the head teacher's letter strongly ___ that the trip would be cancelled, though it did not say so.
✔ **D) implied**
The letter suggested it without stating it. The writer, or the writing, implies. Dictionaries also record infer for suggest, but careful writers avoid it.

15. The new timetable has serious ___ for students who travel by bus.
✔ **C) implications**
The implications of something are its likely results.

16. Choose the correct spelling: Her ___ from the clues was correct, and she found the hidden key.
✔ **D) inference**
In inference the stress moves to the first syllable, so there is only one r, as in reference and preference.

17. In careful writing: he smiled, but there was ___ criticism in what he said.
✔ **D) implied**
Implied criticism is suggested but not said directly. The speaker implies; the listener infers.

18. Nobody told me the answer. I worked it out by ___.
✔ **C) inference**
By inference means by working it out, not by being told. After by we need a noun: inference.

19. Good readers can often ___ the meaning of a new word from the sentence around it.
✓ C) infer
To infer is to work something out from the information you have. Work out fits, so it is infer.

20. She trusted her doctor ___ and never questioned his advice.
✓ D) implicitly
Implicitly is the adverb from implicit. To trust someone implicitly means to trust them completely, without asking questions.

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