ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

# Intermediate Vocabulary Test 2 – ESL Vocabulary Exercises

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| 1 | **C** | 2 | **D** | 3 | **C** | 4 | **C** | 5 | **C** | 6 | **B** | 7 | **C** | 8 | **A** | 9 | **E** | 10 | **C** |
| 11 | **A** | 12 | **D** | 13 | **B** | 14 | **B** | 15 | **A** | 16 | **C** | 17 | **D** | 18 | **C** | 19 | **E** | 20 | **C** |
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## Explanations

**1.** Surely you're not counting on him for help. He's totally _____.
✔ **C) unreliable**
**Unreliable** means you cannot trust or depend on someone. The clue is **Surely you're not counting on him**, so he is not someone you can rely on. Not **dependable**, which means the opposite.

**2.** A cardiologist tried all he could to reduce the patient's _____ pressure.
✔ **D) blood**
A cardiologist is a heart doctor, and the usual collocation is **blood pressure**, the force of the blood in your arteries. None of the other words combine with **pressure** in this medical sense.

**3.** _____ of the Black Death were not infrequent in the Middle Ages.
✔ **C) Epidemics**
An **epidemic** is a disease that spreads quickly and affects many people at the same time. We speak of **epidemics** of a disease such as **the Black Death**. Not **diseases**, because the Black Death itself was a disease, and **diseases of the Black Death** makes no sense.

**4.** We were caught in the _____-hour traffic.
✔ **C) rush**
**Rush hour** is the busy time of day when people travel to and from work, so the roads are full. The fixed expression is **rush-hour traffic**. Not **hurry**, which does not form this expression.

**5.** He was _____ to the hospital with acute appendicitis.
✔ **C) rushed**
To **be rushed to (the) hospital** means to be taken there very quickly in an emergency. **Acute appendicitis** is a sudden, serious illness, so the patient needed to get there fast.

**6.** I do not wish to _____ these results at this stage. You must give me a little bit more information about the research techniques you used in the project.
✔ **B) interpret**
To **interpret** results means to explain what they mean. The speaker needs more information about the research techniques before he can say what the results show. Not **prove**, because you prove a theory, not results.

**7.** We do not approve of research projects that _____ vivisection of animals.
✔ **C) involve**
To **involve** something means to include it as a necessary part. Here the research projects include vivisection, which is experiments on live animals. The other verbs do not make sense with **vivisection** as their object.

**8.** Your latest report, I'm _____, is not up to your usual standard.
✔ **A) afraid**
**I'm afraid** is a polite way to introduce bad news, e.g. **I'm afraid I can't come.** The report is not good, so the speaker softens the criticism. Not **frightened**, which only means really scared.

**9.** He is a greedy, dishonest person. Watch out for his _____ tricks.
✔ **E) dirty**
**Dirty tricks** are dishonest or unfair actions meant to harm or cheat someone. This fits a **greedy, dishonest person**. The positive words such as **charming** do not match the warning.

**10.** It is the _____ that counts, not the thought.
✔ **C) deed**
A **deed** is an action, something you actually do. The sentence turns the saying **It's the thought that counts** around: what matters is the action, not the intention. The other words only sound similar.

**11.** My car battery has gone dead. I will have it _____ tomorrow.
✔ **A) replaced**
**Have something replaced** means to pay someone to put in a new one. A dead battery is usually changed for a new one. The structure **have + object + past participle** is used for services.

**12.** We need two _____ men to volunteer for this dangerous operation.
✔ **D) brave**
**Brave** means not afraid of danger. The operation is **dangerous**, so the volunteers must be brave. **Timid** and **panicky** mean the opposite.

**13.** Due to a nationwide nurses' _____, all clinics will be closed today.
✔ **B) strike**
A **strike** is when workers stop working to protest, usually about pay or conditions. That is why the clinics are closed. Not **punishment**, which would not close clinics nationwide.

**14.** Laws have their roots in the _____ of justice.
✔ **B) principle**
A **principle** is a basic idea or rule, as in **the principle of justice**. Don't confuse it with **principal**, which means 'main' or 'head of a school'; the two words sound the same but have different meanings.

**15.** Don't pay attention to him. I mean, just _____ him.
✔ **A) ignore**
To **ignore** someone means to pay no attention to them on purpose. **I mean** introduces a repetition of the first sentence in other words, and **ignore** has the same meaning as **don't pay attention to**.

**16.** He knows very well what he is doing. I mean, he is doing it _____.
✔ **C) on purpose**
**On purpose** means deliberately, knowing what you are doing. The clue is **he knows very well what he is doing**. **Unknowingly** and **in ignorance** mean the opposite.

**17.** I had to wait in a _____ for over two hours in order to get these tickets.
✔ **D) queue**
A **queue** is a line of people waiting for something; this is the British word (American English: **line**). You **wait in a queue** to buy tickets. Not **tail**, which is the back part of an animal.

**18.** You mustn't apply the _____ too suddenly.
✔ **C) brakes**
**Brakes** are the parts of a car that make it slow down or stop, and you **apply the brakes**. Don't confuse it with **breaks**, which means pauses or rests; the two words sound the same.

**19.** It's very _____ work. I get awfully tired by the time I finish for the day.
✔ **E) demanding**
**Demanding** work needs a lot of effort, energy or skill. The clue is **I get awfully tired**. Not **relaxing**, which is the opposite, and **rewarding** means satisfying, not tiring.

**20.** It's a very busy restaurant on Saturdays, so don't forget to _____ a table in advance.
✔ **C) book**
To **book** a table means to reserve it before you go, e.g. **I booked a table for two.** The clue is **in advance**. Not **notebook**, which is a noun, not a verb.

**21.** He's such a kind, _____ man; so popular with his workmates.
✔ **B) generous**
**Generous** means happy to give time, help or money to others. It goes well with **kind** and explains why he is **popular with his workmates**. The other adjectives are negative.

**22.** Food kept too long outside a fridge will _____ through the action of moulds and bacteria on it.
✔ **D) go off**
When food **goes off**, it becomes bad and unsafe to eat (British English). Moulds and bacteria make food go off. Not **turn down**, which means to refuse or to lower the volume.

**23.** She is the _____ daughter of a prominent Turkish politician. Her real parents had been killed in a car crash when she was little.
✔ **A) adopted**
An **adopted** child is legally taken into a new family and raised as their own. The clue is that **her real parents had been killed**. Don't confuse it with **adapted**, which means changed to suit new conditions.

**24.** People _____ for all sorts of reasons, but a desire to slim down tops the list.
✔ **D) diet**
To **diet** means to eat less or eat special food, usually to lose weight. The clue is **a desire to slim down**. Not **dine**, which simply means to have dinner.

**25.** Do be _____, sweetheart. All the shops are closed at this hour.
✔ **C) reasonable**
**Be reasonable** means 'be sensible and fair'; we say it when someone wants something impossible. The shops are closed, so the request cannot be met. **Do** before the verb makes the request stronger.

**26.** All pines are _____ trees with needlelike leaves.
✔ **A) evergreen**
**Evergreen** trees keep their leaves all year round, like pines. Not **everlasting** or **permanent**, which mean lasting forever and are not used to describe trees.

**27.** She is terrified of caves, so she is _____ to come with us.
✔ **D) unwilling**
**Unwilling** means not wanting to do something. Because she is **terrified of caves**, she does not want to come. **Eager** and **dying to** mean the opposite.

**28.** Although it is a fairly small town, there are numerous public _____, such as meeting halls, art museums, swimming pools, and sports parks.
✔ **D) facilities**
**Facilities** are buildings, services or equipment provided for people to use. The examples **meeting halls, art museums, swimming pools, sports parks** are all public facilities. Not **shelters**, which are places that protect people.

**29.** A (an) _____ man smiles in the face of misfortune.
✔ **C) courageous**
**Courageous** means brave. A brave person can stay calm and even smile when bad things happen (**in the face of misfortune**). **A (an)** allows for a consonant or vowel sound; here we say **a courageous man**.

**30.** You remember the day she left the town? Do you _____ what she was wearing?
✔ **B) recall**
To **recall** means to remember. **Do you recall what she was wearing?** asks if you can remember it. Not **remind**, which means to make someone else remember: **Remind me to call her.**