ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

LOWER TO UPPER INTERMEDIATE Verbs MCQ Test With Answers – 02

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Explanations

1. The discussion was mainly on the subject of the number of workers to be _____.
✔ **D) employed**
Employ means to give people paid work. The phrase **the number of workers to be employed** means how many people will be given jobs. Not **presented**, which means shown or given formally, not hired.

2. The news of a new and more serious breach of the ceasefire received here last night has now been _____.
✔ **A) confirmed**
Confirm means to say officially that something is true. News first received as a report is later **confirmed**. Not **informed**, because you inform a person, not news.

3. The tube is then _____ into its place and secured with clips.
✔ **D) inserted**
Insert means to put something into a space or opening: **insert a key into a lock**. The clue is **into its place**.

4. I wish you would _____ yourself of your disgusting habit of chain-smoking.
✔ **E) cure**
The pattern is **cure somebody of something**: to make someone stop a bad habit or get rid of an illness. **Cure yourself of a habit** means stop it completely. Not **reduce**, which doesn't take **of**: you reduce a habit, not reduce yourself of it.

5. It'll take him a long time yet to fully _____ from the terrible blow he has received.
✔ **B) recover**
Recover from means to get better after an illness, shock or bad experience. The clue is **from the terrible blow**. Not **cure**, because cure needs an object (**cure someone**) and is not used with **from** like this.

6. There was one final command he had hoped to give his soldiers all through his fighting years: "_____ fire!"
✔ **D) Cease**
Cease is a formal word for stop. **Cease fire!** is the order to stop shooting, and a **ceasefire** is an agreement to stop fighting. Not **Drop**, which doesn't form this fixed command.

7. We _____ many a danger and difficulty on the way, but we managed to overcome them all in the end.
✔ **D) encountered**
Encounter means to meet or face something, usually a problem or danger: **encounter difficulties**. The clue is **managed to overcome them**. Not **endangered**, which means put something in danger.

8. _____ two spoonfuls of sugar in a large cup half-filled with water. Then, add one spoonful of lemon juice.
✔ **B) Dissolve**
Dissolve means to mix something solid into a liquid until it disappears: **Sugar dissolves in water.** The clue is **sugar** and **water**.

9. He _____ his car in a head-on collision with a lorry, but came out of it quite unhurt.
✔ **C) crashed**
Crash a car means to have an accident in which the car hits something. The clue is **head-on collision with a lorry**. Not **cracked**, which means a thin line broke in something, like glass.

10. Don't forget to _____ my name in your letter.
✔ **E) mention**
Mention means to talk or write about something briefly: **mention my name in your letter**. The other verbs do not fit with **my name**.

11. The roof was _____. I had to call in a repairman.
✔ **A) leaking**
Leak means to let water or gas come through a hole or crack: **The roof is leaking.** The clue is that a repairman was needed. Not **dropping**, which doesn't describe water coming through a roof.

12. Don't you ***ever*** care about the _____ masses? Don't you know that some 842 million people -- 13% of the world's population -- don't have enough food to eat each day?
✔ **D) starving**
Starving means suffering or dying because there is not enough food. The clue is **don't have enough food to eat**. **The starving masses** are huge numbers of hungry people. Not **feeding**, which means giving food.

13. I couldn't understand what had happened and when I apologised to him explaining how I couldn't hear him, he just _____ me and rode off.
✔ **B) swore at**
Swear at someone means to use rude, offensive words towards them, usually in anger. He was angry, so he **swore at me** and rode off. Not **argued**, which needs **with** (**argued with me**).

14. One of my friends at work actually came up to me yesterday and asked if I had lost some weight. It's so nice when someone _____ this **--** especially when it happens to be a beautiful girl!
✔ **A) notices**
Notice means to see or become aware of something. The friend saw that he had lost weight, so someone **notices this**. Not **criticizes** or **condemns**, which are negative and wouldn't make him feel nice.

15. She's a very nice lady, slightly older than myself and happily _____ with two kids.
✓ **C) married**
Happily married is a common collocation meaning married and content. The clue is **with two kids**. Not **engaged**, which means planning to marry, so it fits less well with having a family.

16. That was the first time I had ever had to _____ a puncture.
✓ **C) repair**
Repair a puncture means to fix a hole in a tyre. A **puncture** is a small hole in a tyre that lets the air out.

17. Several countries so far have offered to _____ between the two warring sides.
✓ **A) mediate**
Mediate means to try to help two sides in a disagreement reach an agreement. The clue is **between the two warring sides**. Not **meditate**, which looks similar but means to think quietly and deeply, often to relax.

18. In some cultures, when two people cut themselves to _____ their blood together, they become "blood brothers".
✓ **A) mingle**
Mingle means to mix together: **their blood mingles**. The clue is **together**, as the blood of the two people is mixed. The other verbs don't mean mix.

19. The nation is _____ the loss of its great leader.
✓ **B) mourning**
Mourn means to feel and show great sadness because someone has died. The clue is **the loss of its great leader**. Not **praising**, because you don't praise a loss.

20. We'll be _____ the ninetieth anniversary of the Republic in the coming year.
✓ **D) celebrating**
Celebrate means to do something enjoyable for a special day or event: **celebrate an anniversary**. The clue is **anniversary**. **Celebrate** is the natural verb with **anniversary**.

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