ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

LOWER TO UPPER INTERMEDIATE Verbs MCQ Test With Answers – 03

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Explanations

1. He _____ his speech by pointing out that his ideas were always open to discussion.
✔ **A) concluded**
To **conclude** a speech means to end it. The clue is **by pointing out…**, which describes how he finished. Not **concealed**, which means 'hid'.

2. I was terribly _____ by his strange behaviour.
✔ **E) baffled**
To be **baffled** means to be completely confused, unable to understand something. **Strange behaviour** is something that confuses you: **I was baffled by the question.**

3. I _____ hard and purchased it for five hundred in the end.
✔ **D) bargained**
To **bargain** means to argue about the price of something to get it cheaper. The clue is **purchased it for five hundred in the end**, meaning a lower price was agreed. Not **begged**, which means asking desperately for a favour, not negotiating a price.

4. Let's take an oath to fight on till the bitter end! We'll never _____ the city!
✔ **C) surrender**
To **surrender** means to give up and let the enemy take control. The clue is **fight on till the bitter end**: they will never give the city to the enemy. Not **defeat** or **conquer**, because the speakers are defending their own city.

5. It suddenly _____ on me that this really was the sort of website I had always hoped to come across on the Internet.
✔ **C) dawned**
The fixed phrase is **it dawned on me (that)…**, meaning I suddenly realised something. Not **occurred**: we say **it occurred to me**, not **on me**.

6. What would _____ if somebody pushed the button by mistake?
✔ **D) happen**
What would happen if…? asks about the result of an imaginary situation (second conditional). **Happen** means 'take place'. The other verbs need an object and don't fit.

7. There's no doubt that learning a foreign language _____ a lot of determination and hard work.
✔ **C) involves**
To **involve** means to need something as a necessary part: **The job involves a lot of travel.** Learning a language needs determination and hard work. Not **includes**, which means 'contains as part of a group', not 'requires'.

8. You ought to have known you couldn't _____ many secrets for long in such a small village.
✔ **B) conceal**
To **conceal** means to hide something or keep it secret. In a small village, people find out everything, so you can't hide secrets for long. Not **conceive**, which means 'imagine' or 'form an idea'.

9. It's outrageous! They _____ me fifty dollars for an ordinary meal!
✔ **E) charged**
To **charge** someone an amount means to ask them to pay that price: **They charged me fifty dollars.** Not **cheated**: we say **cheated me out of fifty dollars**, not **cheated me fifty dollars**.

10. How dare you _____ me! Who do you think you are?
✔ **B) threaten**
To **threaten** someone means to say you will hurt them or cause them trouble. **How dare you…!** and **Who do you think you are?** show the speaker is angry at being frightened or bullied.

11. I tried to _____ the car, but I couldn't see very well what was behind me.
✔ **E) reverse**
To **reverse** a car means to drive it backwards. The clue is **I couldn't see what was behind me**. Not **reveal** (show something hidden) or **restore** (bring back to its original condition).

12. The huge crowd of spectators were quite _____ by the fast pace of the game.
✔ **A) thrilled**
To be **thrilled** means to be very excited and pleased. A fast game excites the spectators. Not **reacted**, which cannot be used in the passive like this.

13. They _____ him a huge piece of chocolate on condition that he would not tell on them.
✔ **C) offered**
To **offer** someone something means to say you will give it to them: **They offered him chocolate.** The clue is **on condition that**, a deal. Not **offended**, which means 'upset someone'.

14. The apartment has two balconies and one of them _____ the sea.
✔ **B) overlooks**
When a building or room **overlooks** something, it has a view of it from above: **a room overlooking the park**. Not **notices**, because only people notice things.

15. Later models were slightly _____, but the original design remained the same on the whole.
✔ **D) modified**
To **modify** means to change something slightly in order to improve it. The clue is **slightly** and **the original design remained the same**. Not **evaluated**, which means 'judged' and is not a change.

16. His paintings are now going to be _____ in the National Gallery – almost two years after his untimely death.
✔ **C) exhibited**
To **exhibit** means to show paintings or objects in public, for example in a gallery. The clue is **in the National Gallery**. Don't confuse it with **inhibited** (held back) or **prohibited** (not allowed), which look similar.

17. As a travel agency, we _____ in Aegean cruises and tours.
✔ **D) specialize**
To **specialize in** something means to focus on one particular area of work: **She specializes in children's books.** The preposition **in** is the clue. Not **generalize**, which means the opposite.

18. The blast occurred at about 03.00, _____ the windows of the building.
✔ **E) shattering**
To **shatter** means to break suddenly into many small pieces. Windows shatter in an explosion. The **-ing** clause shows the result of the blast.

19. The Foreign Secretary gave the good news that the negotiations could be _____ later this year.
✔ **D) launched**
To **launch** something means to start a big activity or project: **launch negotiations**, **launch a campaign**. Not **lunched** (had lunch) or **punched** (hit), which only look similar.

20. Intelligence is an evolutionary advantage because it enables us to evaluate and _____ reality.
✔ **B) manipulate**
Here **manipulate** means to control or handle something skilfully to get the result you want. Intelligence helps us understand reality and then change it to our advantage. Not **imitate**, which means 'copy'.

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