ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Meaning and Style Quiz: C2 English Vocabulary Review

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Explanations

1. As the bus turned the corner, I ___ my old school between two new blocks of flats, and then it was gone.
✔ **A) glimpsed**
You glimpse something when you see it for a second, by chance. You squint with half-closed eyes and gawp at something with your mouth open, and both need at. Amble is a way of walking.

2. Before the article went to print, the editor ___ every figure in it, hunting for mistakes.
✔ **B) scrutinised**
Scrutinise = check every tiny detail for a mistake. A glimpse is a quick look by chance, and a gaze is long and calm, full of wonder (gaze at). Traipse is a tired, fed-up walk.

3. When the teacher asked who had drawn on the whiteboard, six-year-old Sam ___ “It was me!”, then clapped a hand over his mouth.
✔ **C) blurted out**
You blurt something out when it escapes suddenly, before you can stop yourself. A drawl is slow and stretched, not words that escape and make you cover your mouth. Trudge is a heavy walk.

4. While the rest of the team ran laps in the rain, the star striker ___ across the training ground, hands in his pockets, as if he owned the club.
✔ **D) sauntered**
Saunter = walk slowly with a relaxed, confident, careless air. You stagger when you nearly fall, and trudge when you are tired and heavy. Stammer is about speaking.

5. Uncle Rafi came home from three weeks in hospital looking ___: we could see the bones of his face, and his collar hung loose.
✔ **B) gaunt**
Gaunt = a very thin face with hollow cheeks: here the look of illness. Lanky is about long arms and legs, wiry is thin but strong (praise), and venerable means old and respected.

6. In a serious meeting about job cuts, Tom’s ___ suggestion that they replace everyone with parrots made two people walk out.
✔ **C) facetious**
Facetious = making a joke at a serious moment, which irritates people. Pervasive means spread everywhere, which a single remark can’t be. Venerable and gaunt describe people, not remarks.

7. My grandmother insisted that garlic on our skin would ___ mosquitoes from biting us.
✔ **B) deter**
Deter people from doing something = scare them off it. You obstruct a road or a view, a smell pervades a room, and you alleviate pain; none of them takes from + -ing.

8. Visitors come from all over the world for the cherry blossom, but its beauty is ___: within ten days every petal has fallen.
✔ **C) transient**
Transient = lasting only a short time. Pervasive means spread everywhere, unobtrusive means hardly noticed, and inexhaustible means it never runs out, the opposite here.

9. The broken vase can be glued, but the crack in the old violin is ___: it will never sound right again.
✔ **B) irreparable**
Irreparable = so badly damaged that it can never be fixed (stress on REP). Unprecedented means it never happened before, and inconceivable means impossible to imagine.

10. Why can members borrow six books but only two DVDs? The library admits the numbers are ___: someone just picked them years ago.
✔ **A) arbitrary**
Arbitrary = picked at random or on a whim (a sudden wish), with no rule or reason behind it. Implicit means understood without being said, and intrinsic value belongs to the thing itself.

11. The hotel’s website said it had twelve rooms, but the brochure said twenty. When I asked about the ___, the manager went red.
✔ **D) discrepancy**
A discrepancy is a difference between two figures that should match. A rationale is the reasons behind a decision, and a nuance is a tiny shade of meaning.

12. At our climbing club you must pass the knot test first: it’s a ___ for using the big wall.
✔ **C) prerequisite**
A prerequisite has to be in place before anything else can happen. A constraint limits you (constraints on), a premise is the starting idea of an argument, and a phenomenon is something you can observe.

13. The language school usually charges £40 to change course dates, but after Ana broke her leg, it ___ the charge.
✔ **A) waived**
Waive a charge = choose not to ask for it. You breach a rule or a contract, deflect a question, and offset one cost against another; none of them means let someone off.

14. Our neighbour can’t pay us for walking his dog, so he gives us eggs from his hens ___ money.
✓ A) in lieu of
In lieu of = instead of. Pursuant to means because a rule says so, subject to means only if, and notwithstanding means despite.

15. Dad promised to make his famous pancakes. ___, the last egg had gone into my brother’s protein shake.
✓ D) Alas
Alas = sadly, today often with a smile about a small loss. Thus shows a result, which makes no sense here; hitherto means until now, and albeit needs a short phrase after it, never a new sentence.

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