ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Phrasal Verbs and Idioms MCQ Exercise 1

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Explanations

1. I was very relieved when all the trouble died down.
✓ **B) subsided**
Die down means to become gradually weaker or quieter until it almost ends, so it means the same as **subsided**: **The storm finally died down.** Not **got worse**, which is the opposite.

2. She stood out among the crowd.
✓ **C) was noticeable**
Stand out means to be easy to see or notice because you are different from others, so **was noticeable** is right: **Her red coat stood out in the crowd.**

3. In order to get ahead in life, one must study in school and not be afraid to work hard.
✓ **D) succeed**
Get ahead means to be successful in your life or job, so it means **succeed**. Not **win**, which is about a game or competition with a winner.

4. Please hold on. I'll call Tom to the phone.
✓ **A) wait**
On the phone, **hold on** means **wait** for a short time: **Hold on, I'll get him.**

5. The lorry broke down in the middle of the road and stopped traffic for hours.
✓ **A) stopped working**
When a machine or vehicle **breaks down**, it **stops working**: **Our car broke down on the motorway.** Not **fell apart**, which means it broke into pieces.

6. The teacher waited for the class to settle down before starting the lesson.
✓ **E) become quiet**
Settle down means to **become quiet** and calm after being noisy or excited. The teacher waits until the class is calm before starting.

7. It took me three hours of explanation before the new assistant caught on to how the machine worked.
✓ **C) understood**
Catch on (to something) means to finally **understand** it, often after some time: **He didn't get the joke at first, but then he caught on.** Not **held onto**, which means kept holding something.

8. All the students decided to pitch in and give the teacher a going-away present.
✓ **A) contribute money**
Pitch in means to join with others and give money or help for a shared goal. Here each student gives some money, so **contribute money** is right. Not **add**, which does not mean giving something as part of a group effort.

9. I believe in Joe. He's never disappointed me.
✓ **B) trust**
Believe in someone means to **trust** them and feel sure they will do the right thing. The clue is **He's never disappointed me.**

10. I ran into an old friend the other day. We hadn't seen each other since high school.
✓ **D) met unexpectedly**
Run into someone means to **meet them unexpectedly**, by chance: **I ran into my teacher at the shop.** Not **bumped**: only **bumped into** has this meaning; **bumped** alone means hit.

11. The only person he could turn to was his mother.
✓ **C) get help from**
Turn to someone means to go to them for help or advice, so it means **get help from**. Not **trust**: you may trust someone without asking them for help.

12. He got over the flu in a week.
✓ **A) recovered from**
Get over an illness means to **recover from** it and become healthy again. Not **came down with**, which means started to have an illness.

13. After the plane crash the surviving passengers had to go without food or water for days.
✓ **E) lack**
Go without something means to live without it or **lack** it: **They had to go without electricity for a week.** Not **get by**, which means to manage with very little.

14. He has had to put up with the neighbour's noise for two years now.
✓ **B) tolerate**
Put up with means to **tolerate** something unpleasant without complaining: **I can't put up with this noise any longer.**

15. We wanted to play a joke on him so we led him on with a silly story that he believed.
✓ **C) misled**
Lead someone on means to make them believe something that is not true, so it means **misled**. The clue is **a silly story that he believed.**

16. I had to do over the report because my instructor did not think it was up to my standard.
✓ **A) repeat**
Do something over means to do it again because it was not good enough, so it means **repeat** (or redo). Not **complete**, which means to finish it once.

17. Some people have a great deal of difficulty trying to tell apart the twins.
✔ **D) distinguish**
Tell apart means to see the difference between two similar people or things, so it means **distinguish**: **I can't tell the twins apart.**

18. We went to the airport to see off Jane.
✔ **B) say goodbye to**
See someone off means to go with them to the airport or station to **say goodbye to** them before they leave.

19. George refused to get married because he didn't want to be tied down.
✔ **C) restricted in freedom**
Tied down means **restricted in freedom** by duties or responsibilities: **He doesn't want to be tied down by a family yet.** Not **imprisoned**, which means really locked up.

20. I've been considering taking up the sport of horseback riding.
✔ **E) starting**
Take up a sport or hobby means to **start** doing it: **She took up tennis last year.** Not **stopping**, which is the opposite (**give up**).

21. We expected her to carry on, even after the loss of her father.
✔ **A) continue**
Carry on means to **continue** with your life or activity, even after something difficult has happened.

22. I want to give up smoking but I don't know how to.
✔ **B) stop**
Give up a habit means to **stop** doing it: **He gave up smoking last year.** Not **start**, which is the opposite (**take up**).

23. The skunk gives off a most unpleasant odour.
✔ **D) emits**
Give off a smell, heat or light means to send it out, so it means **emits**. Not **has**: the sentence is about the skunk sending the smell into the air.

24. I haven't been able to find out where Jonas went.
✔ **D) learn**
Find out means to **learn** or discover a fact that you did not know: **I found out where he lives.**

25. Don't hold it against me if you can't solve this problem. I've tried to help you as well as I could.
✔ **A) blame**
Hold something against someone means to **blame** them or think badly of them because of it. The clue is **I've tried to help you as well as I could.**

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