ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Phrasal Verbs MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 25

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Explanations

1. When she heard of the death of her husband, she _____ and cried.
✓ **A) broke down**
Break down means to lose control of your feelings and start crying. The clue is **and cried**. Not **broke up**: it means a relationship or a group ends.

2. I must _____. I'll call you again at the same time tomorrow.
✓ **B) ring off**
Ring off (British English) means to end a phone call. The clue is **I'll call you again**. Not **break off**: it means to stop doing or saying something suddenly, but it is not the usual verb for ending a call.

3. Let's _____ to work now.
✓ **B) get down**
Get down to something means to start doing it seriously: **Let's get down to work.** Not **get on**: we say **get on with** your work (continue), not **get on to work**.

4. The whole area was _____ by the storms and floods.
✓ **A) cut off**
Cut off means separated from other places, so people cannot reach the area or leave it. Example: **The village was cut off by the snow.**

5. I wouldn't have noticed the mistake if you hadn't _____ it _____.
✓ **C) pointed / out**
Point out means to show or tell someone something they had not noticed. The clue is **I wouldn't have noticed**. Not **checked out**: it means to examine something, not to make someone notice it.

6. I can't _____ what the sign says. It is too far away.
✓ **C) make out**
Make out means to see, hear or read something with difficulty. The clue is **It is too far away**. Not **stand out**: it means to be easy to notice.

7. I want you to _____ the talking right now; I'm trying to read.
✓ **D) cut out**
Cut out something (informal) means to stop doing it, often because it annoys someone: **Cut out the talking!** Not **carry out**: it means to do or complete a task.

8. When the two of you have _____ your problems, we'll start again. I can't work with people who are arguing.
✓ **B) ironed out**
Iron out problems means to solve small problems or disagreements. The clue is **people who are arguing**. After **have** we need the past participle: **have ironed out**. Example: **We need to iron out a few details.**

9. Five minutes after the takeoff, the aircraft _____ at 30,000 feet.
✓ **A) leveled out**
Level out (or **level off**) means to stop going up or down and stay at the same height. The past tense is **levelled out** in British English and **leveled out** in American English. Not **lifted off**: a plane lifts off when it leaves the ground, not when it reaches 30,000 feet.

10. Is he telling the truth, or _____ it all _____?
✓ **C) making / up**
Make up a story means to invent it, so it is not true. The clue is the contrast with **telling the truth**. Not **picking up**: it means to learn something or lift something.

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