ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Plain or Plane Quiz: 20 Questions with Answers

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Explanations

1. Our ___ lands in Toronto at six o'clock.
✔ **B) plane**
An aircraft is a plane, like aeroplane and airplane.

2. She chose the ___ white T-shirt with no logo.
✔ **D) plain**
Plain means simple, with no pattern or decoration.

3. Herds of bison once crossed the Great ___ of North America.
✔ **C) Plains**
A plain is a large area of flat land, so the region is the Great Plains.

4. In geometry, the word ___ means a flat surface with no thickness.
✔ **B) plane**
The flat surface of maths is a plane. A plain is flat land.

5. Please explain the rules in ___ English so that everyone understands.
✔ **C) plain**
Plain English is simple, clear English. Explain even has plain inside it.

6. The carpenter picked up her ___ and smoothed the edge of the door.
✔ **D) plane**
A plane is a tool that shaves wood to make it smooth.

7. It was ___ to see that the team was tired.
✔ **D) plain**
Plain to see means clear or obvious. After was we need the adjective, not plainly.

8. The answer wasn't just a little off: it was ___ wrong.
✔ **A) plain**
In informal English, plain before an adjective means simply or completely.

9. In careful writing: after a difficult first week, the rest of the project was ___ sailing.
✔ **A) plain**
Plain sailing means easy progress with no problems. Dictionaries also record plane sailing with this meaning, but careful writers spell the idiom with plain.

10. The keys were lying on the table in ___ sight the whole time.
✔ **B) plain**
In plain sight means where everyone can easily see it.

11. She ___ the top of the shelf until it was smooth and level.
✔ **B) planed**
The past of the verb plane is planed, with one n. Planned comes from plan.

12. Her poems are good, but her sister's are on a higher ___ altogether.
✔ **C) plane**
A plane can be a level of skill or thought. On a higher plane means at a higher level.

13. London's streets are lined with tall ___ trees.
✔ **A) plane**
The plane tree is spelt like the aircraft. The London plane is a common city tree.

14. Children love folding paper ___ and flying them across the room.
✔ **C) planes**
Things that fly are planes, even when they are made of paper.

15. Two officers in ___ clothes were watching the entrance.
✔ **A) plain**
Plain clothes are ordinary clothes worn by a police officer instead of a uniform.

16. I'd like some ___ yoghurt, with no fruit or sugar in it.
✔ **C) plain**
Plain food has nothing added. Plain yoghurt is simple yoghurt with no flavour.

17. A ramp used to push heavy boxes up into a van is a simple machine called an inclined ___.
✔ **D) plane**
In science and maths a flat surface is a plane, and a slope is an inclined plane.

18. The answer was as ___ as day, but I still got it wrong.
✔ **B) plain**
As plain as day means very easy to see or understand. Plain here means clear.

19. Please speak ___ so that the younger children can follow you.
✔ **C) plainly**
After the verb speak we need an adverb. Plainly means in a simple, clear way.

20. The builder is ___ the bottom of the door so that it doesn't stick.
✔ **D) planing**
The verb plane means smooth wood. It drops its e: planing. Planning comes from plan and means deciding.