ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Precise Adjectives Quiz: Slender, Gaunt, Droll, Venerable

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1	**A**	2	**B**	3	**C**	4	**D**	5	**A**	6	**B**	7	**C**	8	**D**	9	**A**	10	**B**
11	**C**	12	**D**	13	**A**	14	**B**	15	**C**										

Explanations

1. Which word praises a thin person as graceful and elegant?
✔ **A) slender**
Slender is admiring. Scrawny means weak-looking, gaunt suggests illness or worry, and lanky means tall and a bit awkward.

2. Tall, thin and rather clumsy, the ___ teenager kept hitting his head on the door frame.
✔ **B) lanky**
Lanky means tall and thin with long, hard-to-control arms and legs. Wiry is thin but strong, slender is graceful (not clumsy), and emaciated means dangerously thin.

3. The marathon winner was small and ___: thin, but all muscle.
✔ **C) wiry**
Wiry means thin but tough and strong. Scrawny looks weak, gaunt looks ill, and lanky is about being tall.

4. The pet shop sold us a ___ little chick that looked as if it might not survive the week.
✔ **D) scrawny**
Scrawny means thin, small and weak-looking, also for animals. Slender is graceful, wiry is strong, and venerable means old and respected.

5. After months of worrying about her son, her face looked ___, with hollow cheeks.
✔ **A) gaunt**
Gaunt describes a very thin face with hollow cheeks, from illness, worry or hunger. Lanky and wiry describe bodies, and slender is a compliment.

6. In a charity report: “Many of the dogs we rescued were ___ and needed weeks of careful feeding.”
✔ **B) emaciated**
Emaciated means dangerously thin from starving or illness, a word charities and doctors use. Lanky is about height, antiquated is for rules and machines, and comical means funny to watch.

7. The talk wasn’t hilarious, but it was mildly ___, and people smiled.
✔ **C) amusing**
Amusing is mildly funny: you smile rather than laugh out loud. Hysterical is very funny, and facetious is a joke at the wrong moment.

8. Watching my dad try to put up the tent in the wind was ___.
✔ **D) comical**
Comical means funny to watch, usually without meaning to be. Dad isn’t joking, so he isn’t facetious.

9. She has a ___ sense of humour: she says the funniest things with a completely straight face.
✔ **A) droll**
Droll humour is dry and clever, said with a straight face. Hysterical is wild laughter, and comical describes something silly to watch, not a sense of humour.

10. In a text: “OMG, that video of the goat in the kitchen is ___!” (= extremely funny)
✔ **B) hysterical**
In informal chat, hysterical means extremely funny. Amusing and droll are much milder, and facetious is criticism.

11. Asked about rising food prices, the minister made a ___ joke about “eating less”, which angered many listeners.
✔ **C) facetious**
Facetious means joking when you should be serious, so it annoys people. Nobody who is angry finds it amusing, and comical means funny to watch.

12. The newspaper’s ___ guide to “surviving your in-laws at Christmas” was not meant to be taken seriously.
✔ **D) tongue-in-cheek**
Tongue-in-cheek means written in a serious style but meant as a joke. The other three describe bodies or old things.

13. I’m taking a month off work to look after my ___ mother.
✔ **A) aged**
Aged (two syllables) is a formal, polite word for very old before a noun about people. Decrepit is rude about a person, antiquated is for rules and machines, and venerable is public respect, not family care.

14. Which pair fits? The ___ cathedral has stood for 800 years, and the town still holds its ___ summer fair on the green.
✔ **B) venerable … time-honoured**
Venerable means old and respected; a time-honoured custom is kept because people value it. Decrepit and antiquated are critical.

15. Which pair fits? The office’s ___ printer jams every day, and the ___ shed behind the building is about to fall down.
✔ **C) antiquated … decrepit**
Antiquated means out of date and no longer good enough; decrepit means old and falling apart. Venerable and time-honoured are praise.