ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Prepositions And Phrasal Verbs Advanced Level Test – Quiz (Online Exercise With Answers) 3

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Explanations

1. A new company is not only going to need the _____ to please their customers but to delight them.
✔ **E) ability**
Ability means the skill or power to do something, and it is followed by **to** + verb: **the ability to please**. The sentence says a new company must be able to please customers and, more than that, delight them. **Wealth** does not take **to** + verb in this way.

2. Children naturally don't have to pay _____ on the bus when they're under 16.
✔ **D) fare**
A **fare** is the money you pay to travel on a bus, train, taxi or plane: **a bus fare**. Not **fee**, which is money paid for a service or to join something, such as **a school fee**. A **fine** is money paid as a punishment.

3. The professor's _____ remarks caused him great embarrassment and he deeply regretted not having prepared his lecture.
✔ **E) ill-considered**
Ill-considered remarks are not carefully thought through, so they are unwise. The clue is that he **regretted not having prepared his lecture**: because he had not prepared, he said things that embarrassed him. **Wise** and **witty** remarks would not cause embarrassment. **Complicated** describes difficulty, not a lack of thought.

4. The deadline for our assignment has been left _____. Now we don't know when we'll submit it or if it will be submitted at all.
✔ **A) indefinite**
Indefinite means not fixed or not clearly decided, especially about time: **an indefinite deadline**. The clue is **we don't know when we'll submit it**. Not **infinite**, which means without any end or limit, as in **infinite space**.

5. His character has many _____ which are not obvious at first.
✔ **C) facets**
A **facet** is one part or side of someone's character or of a situation: **Her personality has many facets.** Not **phases**, which are stages in a process or a period of time.

6. Scientists have declared that hair is found _____ in mammals.
✔ **A) exclusively**
Exclusively means only, and in no other case: hair is found in mammals and in no other animals. The other adverbs describe manner or attitude: **briskly** (quickly), **adamantly** (firmly), **apprehensively** (with worry). None of them fits a scientific fact.

7. Today, we're going to have a/an _____ about the advantages and disadvantages of being a student at METU in the lesson.
✔ **E) discussion**
We **have a discussion about** a topic when people share and compare opinions, which suits talking about advantages and disadvantages. Not **speech**: we **give** or **make** a speech, we don't **have** one. A **quarrel** or a **fight** is an angry argument.

8. When he removed his glasses, his vision was _____.
✔ **A) blurred**
Blurred vision means you cannot see things clearly, because their edges look unclear. This is what happens when someone who needs glasses takes them off. **Blank** means empty and does not describe vision in this way.

9. Most successful people in life _____ their success to both inspiration and perspiration.
✔ **E) attribute**
Attribute something to something means to say that it is caused by it: **She attributes her success to hard work.** Not **put**: you would need the phrasal verb **put something down to**.

10. The town was completely _____ by an awful earthquake in 1999.
✔ **B) devastated**
Devastate means to destroy or badly damage a place, as earthquakes, floods and wars do: **The storm devastated the coast.** The other verbs (**attain**, **donate**, **heal**, **desire**) do not describe destruction.

11. The very dry weather has caused an extreme _____ of water.
✔ **A) shortage**
A **shortage of** something means there is not enough of it, and very dry weather causes a **water shortage**. Not **need** or **demand**: these take **for** (**a need for water**), and dry weather reduces the supply rather than creating it. **Abundance** means the opposite, a large amount.

12. Your English is good but could be better. There are many ways to _____ it.
✔ **C) improve**
Improve means to make something better, which is what you do to a skill such as your English. Not **increase** or **raise**, which are about amount or level, not quality. **Deteriorate** means to get worse.

13. I _____ eat fish, but more often I eat chicken.
✔ **C) occasionally**
Occasionally means sometimes, but not often. The clue is **but more often I eat chicken**. **Never** contradicts the sentence, because the speaker does eat fish.

14. When there are so many important things to be done, why does she insist on so many _____ distractions?
✔ **B) petty**
Petty means small and unimportant, so it contrasts with **so many important things to be done**. **Essential**, **crucial** and **indispensable** all mean very important, which is the opposite of the meaning needed. **Drastic** means extreme and severe.

15. Many Turkish poets like Aşık Veysel have written pastoral poems _____ over the beauties of nature.
✔ **B) enthusing**
Enthuse over/about something means to talk or write about it with great excitement and admiration, which suits pastoral poems that praise nature. Not **applauding**, which takes a direct object (**applaud someone**) and is not followed by **over**. **Denigrating** and **defaming** mean criticising unfairly, the opposite meaning.

16. Precious belongings should never be hidden around the house since thieves _____ know where to look.
✔ **E) invariably**
Invariably means always, without exception: thieves always know the usual hiding places, so hiding valuables at home is pointless. Not **unavoidably**, which means in a way that cannot be prevented. **Reliably** is less natural here; **invariably** is the standard collocation for something that happens every time.

17. We need an expert to _____ a high-quality reproduction of a painting from the original.
✔ **E) distinguish**
Distinguish A from B means to see or show the difference between two things: **It's hard to distinguish the twins from each other.** The pattern _____ **X from Y** is the clue. **Find** and **achieve** do not take **from** in this sense.

18. You shouldn't take any _____ of what she says. She's just jealous.
✔ **B) notice**
Take (no/any) notice of something means to pay attention to it: **Don't take any notice of him.** The preposition **of** and the reason **she's just jealous** both point to **notice**: ignore what she says. Not **offence**, because the idiom is **take offence at** something, not **of**.

19. She hasn't said anything definite but I _____ it for granted that she'll be there.
✔ **D) take**
The fixed expression is **take something for granted**, meaning to believe something is true without checking or being told. Not **assume**: it has the same meaning but cannot be used in this expression.

20. They're determined to win the election at any _____.
✔ **C) cost**
At any cost (also **at all costs**) means whatever happens, however much effort or sacrifice is needed: **We must finish on time at any cost.** Not **expense**, which appears in expressions like **at great expense** but not in this fixed phrase.

21. Ignoring the will of the people _____ to disaster in elections.
✔ **C) leads**
Lead to something means to cause it as a result: **Stress can lead to illness.** The preposition **to** is the clue. Not **results**, because **result** takes **in** (**results in disaster**). **Causes** takes a direct object with no **to** (**causes disaster**).

22. This machine doesn't work. There must be something _____ with it.
✔ **D) wrong**
The fixed expression **something is wrong with** a machine means it has a fault: **There's something wrong with my phone.** Not **bad** or **false**, which are not used in this expression.

23. Everybody was _____ by the match result; nobody had expected the local team to do so well.
✔ **D) astounded**
Astounded means extremely surprised. The clue is **nobody had expected**, which shows great surprise. Not **excited**: it shows strong feeling but not surprise at something unexpected.

24. Most children object _____ to eating leeks.
✔ **B) vehemently**
Vehemently means very strongly and forcefully, and **object vehemently** is a common collocation: **He vehemently denied the accusation. Pitilessly** means cruelly and does not fit. **Unlikely** is an adjective, not an adverb.

25. When people recover from a severe illness, they expect happiness to come _____; however, it usually does not. It takes several months before full healing can be achieved.
✔ **A) instantly**
Instantly means immediately. The clue is the contrast with **it takes several months**: people expect happiness at once, but it comes slowly. Not **radically**, which means in a basic and complete way, not quickly.