ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Shortage, Scarce, Surplus, Excess Quiz: Too Much and Too Little

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1	**D**	2	**B**	3	**A**	4	**C**	5	**B**	6	**D**	7	**A**	8	**C**	9	**A**	10	**C**
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Explanations

1. Hospitals across the country face a serious ___ nurses.
✔ **D) shortage of**
A shortage of means not enough of a supply that people need.

2. After the storm, fresh bread was ___ for days.
✔ **B) in short supply**
In short supply means there is too little for everyone who wants it.

3. We ___ milk, so I'll go to the shop before it's all gone.
✔ **A) are running short of**
Run short of means you still have a little, but it will soon be gone.

4. Good plumbers are ___ round here: you can wait weeks for one.
✔ **C) scarce**
Scarce means hard to find because there are so few.

5. The new manager is clever but ___ experience.
✔ **B) lacking in**
Be lacking in is the adjective pattern. The verb has no preposition: she lacks experience.

6. When money was tight, we ___ holidays for three years.
✔ **D) went without**
Go without means you live without something you want or need.

7. There's no printer paper, so we'll have to ___ the backs of old letters.
✔ **A) make do with**
Make do with means use what you have, even if it is not the right thing.

8. Fifty pounds for a hospital that needs millions is just ___.
✔ **C) a drop in the ocean**
A drop in the ocean is an amount so small that it hardly helps.

9. The hills are ___ populated: you can drive for an hour without seeing a house.
✔ **A) sparsely**
Sparse means thinly spread with big gaps; sparsely populated is a common pair.

10. Don't cook any more pasta: there's ___ for six people.
✔ **C) more than enough**
More than enough means everyone has plenty and some is left.

11. We caught the train with two minutes ___.
✔ **B) to spare**
To spare means left over. It comes after the noun: two minutes to spare.

12. The hotel has ___ parking, and in summer fresh fish is ___ and cheap.
✔ **D) ample … plentiful**
Ample means enough and a bit more (formal). Plentiful means easy to find and lots of it.

13. Wildlife is ___ in the national park: deer, eagles and foxes everywhere.
✔ **C) abundant**
Abundant means a rich amount. It is common in writing about nature.

14. The farm had a ___ of apples this year, so it sold the ___ fruit to a juice company.
✔ **A) glut … surplus**
A glut is so much at once that prices fall. Surplus fruit is what is left over.

15. The landlord asked for an ___ deposit, and the airline charged me forty pounds for ___ baggage.
✔ **B) excessive … excess**
Excessive is criticism: far more than is reasonable. Excess baggage is more than is allowed.

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