ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

SYNONYMOUS WORDS MCQ Test With Answers – Advanced Level Vocabulary Exercise 3

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Explanations

1. I can't quite pin down your general attitude on this issue. It's so ***ambivalent***.
✔ **B) ambiguous, vague and equivocal**
Ambivalent describes an attitude that is mixed or uncertain, so it is hard to tell what someone really thinks. The clue is **can't quite pin down**. Here that comes closest to **ambiguous, vague and equivocal**, meaning not clear and open to more than one reading. Not **ambitious**, which only looks similar and means eager to succeed.

2. He wasn't alone in this. He had two ***accomplices***.
✔ **B) partners-in-crime**
An **accomplice** is a person who helps someone commit a crime: a **partner-in-crime**. The clue is **He wasn't alone in this**. Not **bands of outlaws**, because an accomplice is a single person, not a whole group.

3. Send for the doctor at once! It's an ***urgent*** case!
✔ **E) emergency**
An **urgent case** needs immediate action, so it is an **emergency** case. Not **emergence**, which looks similar but means the process of appearing or coming out.

4. The word "February" is often ***abbreviated to*** "Feb".
✔ **A) shortened to**
To **abbreviate** a word is to make it shorter, so it is **shortened to** a short form, as in **February → Feb**. Not **substituted for**, because nothing is replaced by a different word; the same word is simply cut down.

5. He was ***considerate*** enough to stand by her when she found herself in that terrible fix.
✔ **D) thoughtful**
Considerate means caring about other people's feelings and needs, in other words **thoughtful**. Standing by someone in trouble shows this. Not **consistent**, which looks similar but means always behaving in the same way.

6. Due to unforeseen circumstances, we have to ***put off*** the meeting to some future date.
✔ **E) postpone**
To **put off** an event means to move it to a later time, so it means to **postpone** it. The clue is **to some future date**. Not **cancel**, because a cancelled meeting does not happen at all.

7. Thus the mystery was solved and he was ***found not guilty***.
✔ **B) acquitted**
When a court decides someone is **not guilty**, he is **acquitted**, as in **The jury acquitted him of all charges**. The other options all suggest blame or arrest, which is the opposite meaning.

8. If you could do a little ***repairing*** around the house, we wouldn't have needed to call in a plumber in the first place.
✔ **A) mending**
Repairing things means **mending** them, which is fixing what is broken or damaged. Not **replacing**, which means putting something new in place of the old item rather than fixing it.

9. They ran round the corner and then simply ***vanished*** out of sight.
✔ **B) disappeared**
To **vanish** means to **disappear** suddenly and completely. The clue is **out of sight**. **Reappeared** means the opposite, and **decayed** and **deteriorated** mean slowly getting worse.

10. He was ***acclaimed*** by all as the new world champion.
✔ **C) cheered and applauded**
To be **acclaimed** means to be publicly praised with enthusiasm, so to be **cheered and applauded**. Not **accepted and recorded**, which is too neutral and contains no praise.

11. This is only a ***tentative*** arrangement. We'll decide on a permanent course of action later on.
✔ **B) temporary**
A **tentative** arrangement is not final and may change, so it is **temporary** or provisional. The clue is **We'll decide on a permanent course of action later**. Not **inexperienced**, which describes people, not plans.

12. You'll have to ***accustom yourself to*** their strange ways of life.
✔ **C) get used to**
To **accustom yourself to** something means to **get used to** it, becoming familiar with it over time. Not **look forward to**, which means feeling happy about something in the future.

13. Why should anyone have any respect for him? He's so unbelievably ***rude*** to everyone else himself, isn't he?
✔ **A) impolite**
Rude means **impolite**, showing no respect or good manners. Not **inconsiderate**, which means not thinking about others' needs and is related but less exact. **Courteous** is the opposite.

14. You're not going to ***release*** him, are you? He is a dangerous criminal.
✓ **E) set free**
To **release** a prisoner means to **set** him **free**. The clue is **He is a dangerous criminal**: the speaker is worried he will be let out. Not **execute** or **condemn**, which mean punishing him.

15. A ***pretentious*** person is neither liked nor respected -- nor, indeed, tolerated.
✓ **D) showy**
A **pretentious** person tries to seem more important, cultured or clever than they really are. That makes them **showy**, someone who likes to impress others. Not **reticent**, which means quiet and reserved, almost the opposite.

16. He was much disliked for his ***belligerent*** ways even as a child.
✓ **A) hostile and aggressive**
Belligerent means ready to fight or argue, so **hostile and aggressive**. Not **self-confident, but also self-centred**, which describes arrogance, not a wish to fight.

17. After two hours of intensive search, the police began to suspect that it all had been a ***hoax***.
✓ **D) deceitfully false alarm**
A **hoax** is a trick meant to deceive people, such as a fake report of a crime or a danger. Here it means a **deceitfully false alarm**: after two hours of searching and finding nothing, the police begin to think the report was invented on purpose. Not **chance happening**, because a hoax is done deliberately, not by accident.

18. I must say she's quite ***odd*** in her ways.
✓ **C) eccentric**
Odd means strange or unusual, so a person who is **odd in her ways** is **eccentric**, someone with unusual habits. Not **incredible**, which means hard to believe or extremely good.

19. His younger sister is married to a ***well-known*** architect.
✓ **B) renowned**
Well-known in a positive sense means famous and respected, so **renowned**. **Notorious** and **infamous** also mean famous, but for something bad, so they are not synonyms here.

20. She may be ***naive***, but you'd be wrong to think that she's stupid in any sense of the word.
✓ **D) inexperienced and quite credulous**
Naive means lacking experience of life and too ready to believe what people say, so **inexperienced and quite credulous**. The clue is that she is not **stupid**, only innocent. **Sophisticated and cosmopolitan** is the opposite.

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