ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

# Upper Intermediate Vocabulary Test 1 – ESL Vocabulary Exercises

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## Explanations

**1.** Modern airlines offer their passengers a great variety of _____ comforts.
✔ **B) civilized**
**Civilized comforts** are the pleasant things that make life easy and refined, such as good food, films and comfortable seats on a plane. The other adjectives describe people or behaviour (**lazy**, **competent**) or have a negative meaning (**vulgar**, **impotent**), so they don't fit an airline's services.

**2.** What they call "female intuition" is very easy to explain in evolutionary _____.
✔ **A) terms**
The fixed phrase is **in … terms**, which means 'from the point of view of', e.g. **in evolutionary terms**, **in economic terms**. Not **words**: **in evolutionary words** is not a natural English phrase.

**3.** They say a woman might forgive an insult, but she would never forgive being _____.
✔ **B) ignored**
To be **ignored** means that people pay no attention to you, as if you weren't there. The saying contrasts an insult (rude attention) with being ignored (no attention at all), which feels even worse.

**4.** These results seem to _____ that vitamin B12 supplementation may work wonders for the brain.
✔ **B) imply**
**Imply** means to suggest something without saying it directly; facts or results can imply a conclusion: **The results imply that…** Not **infer**: a person infers (draws a conclusion), but results cannot infer anything.

**5.** Am I to _____ from your last remarks that my services are no longer required here?
✔ **D) infer**
**Infer** means to reach a conclusion from what someone says, and it is followed by **from**: **infer something from someone's remarks**. Not **imply**: the speaker implies, and the listener infers.

**6.** Who would have guessed that the great champion would have to _____ from the race because of a simple puncture?
✔ **E) withdraw**
To **withdraw from** a race or competition means to stop taking part in it. A puncture forced the champion to leave the race. Not **deviate**, which means to move away from a planned route or rule.

**7.** When it comes to their favourite football team, many fans become quite _____ and refuse to listen to reason.
✔ **A) illogical**
**Illogical** means not based on clear, sensible thinking. The clue is **refuse to listen to reason**. Not **unintelligible**, which means impossible to understand, usually about speech or writing.

**8.** He was _____ from service for his persistent disobedience.
✔ **C) dismissed**
To be **dismissed** means to be officially removed from your job. Here he lost his position because he kept disobeying orders. Not **disrupted**, which means interrupted or disturbed.

**9.** Many people thought it was a gross _____ to condemn her.
✔ **C) injustice**
**Injustice** means unfair treatment; **a gross injustice** is a very serious one. The other options (**fairness**, **impartiality**, **honesty**, **morality**) are positive and contradict the idea of wrongly condemning someone.

**10.** I don't think that was a very wise decision. The people are _____ to rise up against it in arms.
✔ **A) bound**
**Be bound to** + verb means 'be certain to': **They are bound to rise up against it.** Not **hostile**: it's followed by **to** + a noun (**hostile to the plan**), not by a verb.

**11.** I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your _____ help in getting me a job.
✔ **A) invaluable**
**Invaluable** means extremely useful, so valuable that you can't measure it. Be careful: despite the prefix **in-**, it does not mean 'without value'. **Valueless** and **worthless** mean the opposite.

**12.** The new mayor promised that _____ would return to the town once the new factory opened, bringing hundreds of jobs.
✔ **A) prosperity**
**Prosperity** means wealth and economic success. The clue is **bringing hundreds of jobs**. Not **tranquillity**, which means peace and quiet; a new factory is unlikely to bring that.

**13.** Like all empires, the Ottomans went through their periods of rise, _____ and fall, finally leaving the stage to the young Turkish Republic, founded under the able leadership of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk on Oct. 29, 1923.
✔ **D) decline**
The fixed sequence is **rise, decline and fall**. **Decline** means a gradual loss of strength or power before the final collapse. Not **damage**, which is harm to a thing, not a stage in history.

**14.** Listen, young man. I will not repeat myself. I'm going to ask you a simple question, and I want a (an) _____ answer from you.
✔ **C) straight**
A **straight answer** is an honest, direct answer that doesn't avoid the question. **Reluctant**, **obstinate** and **stubborn** describe unwilling behaviour, which is the opposite of what the speaker wants.

**15.** She was disgusted and enraged by his _____ proposal.
✔ **A) indecent**
**Indecent** means morally offensive or shocking, often in a sexual way. The clue is **disgusted and enraged**. **Laudable** means deserving praise, which is the opposite.

**16.** Burak's licence was _____ after he had been caught driving under the influence for the third time.
✔ **A) revoked**
To **revoke** a licence or permission means to officially cancel it. Not **revolted** or **revolved**, which only look similar: **revolt** means to rebel, and **revolve** means to go round.

**17.** His uncle has been diagnosed with a (an) _____ disease and has been given only six months to live.
✔ **A) terminal**
A **terminal disease** is an illness that cannot be cured and will cause death. The clue is **only six months to live**.

**18.** That morning, the President's pardon luckily arrived just in time. He would have been _____ otherwise.
✔ **A) executed**
To be **executed** means to be killed as an official punishment. A **pardon** officially cancels that punishment, so it arrived just in time. Not **released**: without the pardon he would not have been set free.

**19.** Behavioural effects of this substance will now be studied in _____ versus timid mice in intraspecies conflicts.
✔ **C) aggressive**
The word **versus** shows a contrast with **timid** (shy, easily frightened). The opposite is **aggressive**, meaning ready to attack or fight, which also fits **conflicts**.

**20.** It is a pity that they do not seem to pay much attention to any _____ future environmental problems.
✔ **E) probable**
**Probable** means likely to happen. The speaker regrets that people ignore problems that will probably come. **Improbable** or **impossible** problems wouldn't be worth worrying about, so the regret makes no sense with them.

**21.** The company has obtained a loan of US$100 billion to _____ growth and strengthen its market position.
✔ **D) accelerate**
To **accelerate growth** means to make it happen faster, which fits **strengthen its market position**. **Retard** and **hamper** mean the opposite: slow down or make difficult.

**22.** He knew it would be stupid to try and rob the bank ***on his own.*** He needed a (an) _____.
✔ **D) accomplice**
An **accomplice** is a person who helps someone commit a crime. The clue is **on his own**: he needed another person. A car, a map or a gun wouldn't solve the problem of being alone.

**23.** He fell on his knees, _____ for mercy.
✔ **A) pleading**
To **plead for mercy** means to beg someone emotionally not to punish or hurt you. The image of falling on his knees supports this meaning.

**24.** The difference was so _____ that it went unnoticed.
✔ **C) slight**
**Slight** means very small. The clue is **went unnoticed**: nobody saw the difference because it was so small. **Vast**, **obvious** and **enormous** mean the opposite.

**25.** You can be certain that I won't tell anybody. My lips are _____.
✔ **E) sealed**
**My lips are sealed** is an idiom meaning 'I will keep your secret'. Not **closed**: the idiom always uses **sealed**. **Pursed** or **puckered** lips describe a facial expression.

**26.** She _____ aimlessly all night long through the deserted streets.
✔ **D) wandered**
To **wander** means to walk slowly with no clear direction; it goes naturally with **aimlessly**. Don't confuse it with **wondered** (from **wonder**, to ask yourself), which looks and sounds similar.

**27.** Well, at least you can rest _____ that the economy will not be any worse next year.
✔ **A) assured**
**Rest assured (that)** is a fixed phrase meaning 'you can be sure and stop worrying'. Not **ensured** or **insured**: they are similar words but are not used in this expression.

**28.** Wasn't it Dostoevsky who wrote a novel about a crime and its _____ punishment?
✔ **B) subsequent**
**Subsequent** means coming after something else. The punishment follows the crime, as in Dostoevsky's novel **Crime and Punishment**.

**29.** I'm sorry, but I can't read your doctor's handwriting; it's quite _____.
✔ **C) illegible**
**Illegible** means impossible to read because it's written badly; the clue is **I can't read your handwriting**. Not **illiterate**, which describes a person who can't read or write.

**30.** He _____ into the kitchen.
**✓ A) tiptoed**
To **tiptoe** means to walk quietly on the front part of your feet so that nobody hears you: **He tiptoed into the kitchen.** The other verbs don't describe a way of walking.

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