ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Upper Intermediate Vocabulary Test 2 – ESL Vocabulary Exercises

Upper Intermediate Level Vocabulary Tests · 30 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
https://englishtestsonline.com/upper-intermediate-vocabulary-test-2-esl-vocabulary-exercises/

1	**E**	2	**D**	3	**C**	4	**D**	5	**B**	6	**E**	7	**A**	8	**D**	9	**B**	10	**C**
11	**D**	12	**C**	13	**E**	14	**B**	15	**C**	16	**B**	17	**A**	18	**E**	19	**C**	20	**B**
21	**E**	22	**B**	23	**B**	24	**D**	25	**E**	26	**D**	27	**C**	28	**B**	29	**B**	30	**E**

Explanations

1. Who would have thought that the great champion would have to withdraw from the Anatolian Rally because of a simple _____?
✔ **E) puncture**
A **puncture** is a small hole in a tyre that lets the air out. The word **simple** is the clue: it is an ordinary, small problem that can still force a driver out of a rally. Not **explosion**, because an explosion is never a 'simple' problem.

2. I daresay this man is _____ to stealing. He's never going to give it up.
✔ **D) addicted**
Addicted to something means you cannot stop doing it. The clue is 'He's never going to give it up.' Note that **to** is followed by a noun or an -ing form: **addicted to stealing**.

3. He was dismissed from service for his insistent _____.
✔ **C) disobedience**
Disobedience means refusing to follow orders or rules. Someone is **dismissed** (fired) for something bad, so **obedience** is the opposite of what we need.

4. The two brothers were living in _____ flats.
✔ **D) adjacent**
Adjacent means next to each other, e.g. **adjacent rooms**. The brothers lived in flats side by side.

5. I don't think that was a very _____ decision. You should've sent the documents through a courier service.
✔ **B) wise**
A **wise** decision is a sensible, good one. The speaker suggests a better way (a courier service), so the decision was not wise. Not **unsafe**: we usually call a method unsafe, not a decision, and 'not a very unsafe decision' would mean the opposite.

6. Turkey was _____ a republic on October 29th, 1923.
✔ **E) proclaimed**
To **proclaim** means to announce something officially and publicly, e.g. **The country was proclaimed a republic.** Not **professed**, which means to claim or declare a personal belief.

7. The voter fills out the _____ at a nearby table and then places it in the box on the observer's table.
✔ **A) ballot**
A **ballot** is the paper on which a voter marks their choice. The voter then puts it into the ballot box. The clue is 'fills out … and then places it in the box'. Not **petition**, which is a document that many people sign to ask for something.

8. The Queen of Sheba wore a robe _____ with diamonds and emeralds.
✔ **D) adorned**
Adorned with means decorated with something beautiful. Diamonds and emeralds are decorations, so the robe was **adorned** with them.

9. _____ were asked to choose between cavalry and infantry.
✔ **B) Recruits**
Recruits are people who have just joined the army. New soldiers are asked which part of the army (cavalry or infantry) they want to join. Not **veterans**, who are soldiers with long experience, usually already placed or retired.

10. The report seems to _____ that a stiff resistance by the insurgents is to be expected.
✔ **C) predict**
To **predict** means to say that something will happen in the future. The clue is 'is to be expected'. Not **prescribe**, which means to order medicine or set a rule.

11. _____ parents would want to see their children be educated in the least restrictive environment.
✔ **D) Permissive**
Permissive parents allow their children a lot of freedom and few rules. That matches wanting the **least restrictive** environment. Not **self-denying**, which describes someone who refuses pleasures for themselves.

12. Her husband passed away last month. She herself is _____ an incurable disease and is in intense pain.
✔ **C) afflicted with**
Afflicted with means suffering from an illness or problem, e.g. **afflicted with arthritis**. The clues are 'incurable disease' and 'intense pain'.

13. Finland is a (an) _____ nation. She is listed among the world's economically most competitive countries.
✔ **E) affluent**
Affluent means rich and wealthy. The clue is 'economically most competitive countries'. All the other options mean poor or without money.

14. The prisoner was put in solitary _____.
✔ **B) confinement**
Solitary confinement is a fixed phrase: a prisoner is kept alone in a cell, away from other prisoners. **Confinement** means being kept in a closed space.

15. The new teacher was overly _____ with her pupils. All the rest of us teachers stood aghast at their lack of discipline.
✔ **C) lenient**
Lenient means not strict; allowing too much. The clue is the pupils' 'lack of discipline'. Not **intolerant**, which would mean too strict, the opposite.

16. The new _____ development plan is certain to mean a lot of changes in the life of the ordinary peasant.
✔ **B) agrarian**
Agrarian means connected with farming and land, e.g. **agrarian reform**. The clue is 'the ordinary peasant', a farmer. The other options are nouns with unrelated meanings.

17. The UN General Assembly passed a (an) _____, calling for an immediate ceasefire between the two sides.
✔ **A) resolution**
A **resolution** is a formal decision voted on by an official group, such as the UN. We say **pass a resolution**.

18. Last week's plane crash was apparently due to an amateur pilot's _____ his fuel levels.
✔ **E) misreading**
To **misread** means to read or understand something wrongly. A pilot who misreads his fuel levels may run out of fuel, which explains the crash.

19. I wouldn't call it "a minor _____", doctor. He's constantly in great physical agony.
✔ **C) ailment**
An **ailment** is an illness, usually not very serious, e.g. **a minor ailment**. The speaker disagrees with the doctor because the patient is in 'great physical agony'.

20. The timely _____ of the village -- just before the tsunami struck -- saved many lives.
✔ **B) evacuation**
Evacuation means moving people out of a dangerous place to a safe one. Moving people out just before the tsunami 'saved many lives'.

21. The house was thoroughly _____ from view by tall trees.
✔ **E) obscured**
Obscured from view means hidden so that it cannot be seen. Not **surrounded**, because we do not say 'surrounded from view'.

22. Should we judge by the lovers' constant wailing in so many Turkish songs, we would conclude that intense love must be something _____ to intense suffering.
✔ **B) akin**
Akin to means similar to. The constant wailing in love songs suggests that intense love is like intense suffering. Not **alien to**, which means completely different from, the opposite meaning.

23. He is a (an) _____ man with an eye for fine detail. In fact, he never misses the slightest error or imperfection.
✔ **B) thorough**
Thorough means careful and paying attention to every detail. The clue is 'he never misses the slightest error'. The other options mean lazy or without energy.

24. Speaking of common beggars, they do _____ a city's social image as they abuse the kindness of the townspeople ***and*** the visitors alike, day in day out.
✔ **D) impair**
To **impair** means to damage or make something worse. Beggars who abuse people's kindness damage a city's image. Not **loathe**, which means to hate; a person loathes things, but this doesn't fit 'a city's social image'.

25. My mind was _____ with a thousand worries and contrary passions.
✔ **E) agitated**
Agitated means worried, nervous and unable to stay calm. 'A thousand worries' make the mind agitated. All the other options mean calmed or comforted.

26. Deer employ alertness, speed and agility to defend themselves against wolves. Here again, they stood _____ and gazed at the wolves.
✔ **D) alert**
Alert means watchful and ready to act quickly. The first sentence says deer use **alertness** to defend themselves, so they stood alert. The other options (**blunt**, **obtuse**, **dull**) mean slow or not sharp.

27. They claim to have seen a _____ creature on the island that was half crocodile and half snake.
✔ **C) hideous**
Hideous means very ugly or frightening to look at. A creature that is half crocodile and half snake sounds hideous. Not **conspicuous**, which means easy to notice.

28. Mutual _____ is the first condition for two conversants to communicate with each other about a shared world.
✔ **B) intelligibility**
Intelligibility means being able to be understood. Two people can only communicate if they understand each other: **mutual intelligibility**. Not **misunderstanding**, the opposite of what is needed.

29. One of the _____ differences between Ahmet and Mehmet was that Ahmet was twenty kilos heavier.
✔ **B) salient**
Salient means most important or most noticeable. Twenty kilos is a big, obvious difference. Not **insignificant**, because such a large difference is not small or unimportant.

30. Since ideologies are _____ in character, they do not easily yield to reason.
✔ **E) dogmatic**
Dogmatic means firmly believing your ideas are right and refusing to consider other opinions. That is why ideologies 'do not easily yield to reason'. Not **dubious**, which means doubtful or not to be trusted.