ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Upper Level Vocabulary Test 1

Upper Intermediate Level Vocabulary Tests · 40 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
https://englishtestsonline.com/upper-level-vocabulary-test-1/

1	**D**	2	**B**	3	**A**	4	**E**	5	**C**	6	**C**	7	**B**	8	**D**	9	**C**	10	**B**
11	**D**	12	**E**	13	**B**	14	**C**	15	**A**	16	**E**	17	**C**	18	**D**	19	**D**	20	**A**
21	**A**	22	**B**	23	**A**	24	**C**	25	**B**	26	**B**	27	**B**	28	**A**	29	**C**	30	**C**
31	**B**	32	**B**	33	**A**	34	**B**	35	**B**	36	**C**	37	**A**	38	**B**	39	**E**	40	**B**

Explanations

1. Apart from those three very cold weeks in January, it has been a very _____ winter.
✔ **D) mild**
A **mild** winter is one that is not very cold. The word **Apart from those three very cold weeks** shows that the rest of the winter was not cold. **Soft** and **calm** do not describe winter temperatures.

2. The best student in each class will _____ a prize at the end of the term.
✔ **B) receive**
We **receive** a prize, which means we are given it. **Reward** is something you give to someone (**reward someone for something**), not something you get.

3. There is real concern that food supplies will not be _____ to feed the increasing world population.
✔ **A) sufficient**
Sufficient means 'enough' (**sufficient to feed…**). **Satisfactory** means 'good enough in quality', not 'enough in quantity'.

4. The police _____ her for helping the murderer to escape.
✔ **E) arrested**
We say **arrest someone for (doing) something**, meaning the police take a person away because of a crime. **Caught** is not used with **for helping**.

5. The children will not be allowed to come with us if they don't _____ themselves better.
✔ **C) behave**
Behave yourself / themselves means 'act in a polite, correct way', e.g. **Behave yourself at the party!** The other verbs do not have this meaning.

6. You must obtain _____ from the landowner to fish in this river.
✔ **C) permission**
We **obtain permission from** someone to do something. **Permission** is uncountable, so no article is needed. **Permit** is a countable noun (a document), so it would need **a**: **obtain a permit**.

7. The local tourist bureau will send you _____ about hotels in the area.
✔ **B) information**
Information about something means facts or details, e.g. **information about hotels**. **News** is about recent events, and **knowledge** is what you know, not something a bureau sends.

8. The use of plastic for shoes _____ of leather has ruined shoe repairing as a business.
✔ **D) instead**
Instead of means 'in place of': plastic is used in place of leather. **As well** means 'also' and is not followed by **of**.

9. Her husband felt it would be silly to _____ the colour of the curtains before they had painted the room.
✔ **C) choose**
It is silly to **choose** (decide on) the curtain colour before you know the colour of the walls. The clue is **before they had painted the room**: the curtains should match the paint.

10. The _____ of ice-cream sold increases sharply in the summer months.
✔ **B) amount**
Amount is used with uncountable nouns like **ice-cream**, **money** or **water**. Not **number**, because **number** is used with countable plural nouns (**the number of ice-creams**).

11. It will _____ time if we make the sandwiches the day before the picnic.
✔ **D) save**
Save time means 'use less time', e.g. **Taking a taxi will save time.** We do not say **earn** or **win time** with this meaning.

12. I haven't got enough string to _____ up this parcel.
✔ **E) tie**
Tie up means 'fasten with string or rope', e.g. **tie up a parcel**. The word **string** is the clue.

13. Bill doesn't _____ what people say about him.
✔ **B) care**
Not care what people say means 'it is not important to me'. **Matter** has the opposite structure: **What people say doesn't matter to Bill**.

14. Although the false banknotes fooled many people, they did not _____ to close examination.
✔ **C) stand up**
Stand up to something means 'remain good or strong when tested', e.g. **The story didn't stand up to close examination.** The fake notes looked real at first but failed when checked carefully.

15. When he beat the carpet, the _____ rose in clouds.
✔ **A) dust**
Dust is very fine dry dirt that rises into the air when you beat a carpet. **Soil**, **mud** and **earth** are found on the ground, and **mud** is wet.

16. _____ of money prevented us from taking a holiday this year.
✔ **E) Lack**
Lack of means 'not having enough of something', e.g. **lack of money, lack of sleep**. Not **Expense**, because expense means cost, and it does not mean having too little money.

17. This blue flower is known by _____ names in other parts of England.
✔ **C) various**
Various means 'several different', e.g. **various names, various reasons**. **Difference** is a noun, and **separate** does not fit with names in this sense.

18. Why can't you do this small _____ for me? I've helped you often enough in the past.
✔ **D) favour**
To **do someone a favour** means 'to help someone in a kind way'. The clue is **I've helped you often enough**. **Effort** goes with **make**, not **do**.

19. When there was a short _____ in the conversation, I asked if anyone would like anything to drink.
✔ **D) pause**
A **pause** is a short stop in speaking or activity, e.g. **a pause in the conversation**. **Wait** is not used as a noun with **in the conversation**.

20. While I am on holiday, ring me at my hotel only if there are any _____ messages for me.
✔ **A) urgent**
Urgent means 'needing attention immediately', e.g. **an urgent message**. That is why the speaker only wants a call on holiday for these messages. **Hasty** means 'done too quickly' and describes actions, not messages.

21. This _____ is not big enough to cut down a tree.
✔ **A) axe**
An **axe** is a tool with a heavy blade used for cutting down trees and chopping wood. A **spade** is for digging, and a **hammer** is for hitting nails.

22. He must give us more time, _____ we shall not be able to make a good job of it.
✔ **B) otherwise**
Otherwise means 'if not', and it shows the result if the first part does not happen: **If he doesn't give us more time, we won't do a good job.** Not **therefore**, because that shows a result of something that is true, not of something that does not happen.

23. I should be very _____ if you would post this letter for me.
✔ **A) grateful**
I should be very grateful if you would… is a polite, formal way to ask for something. **Grateful** means 'thankful'. **Pleasant** describes things or people that are nice, not feelings of thanks.

24. When you get to the motorway, follow the _____ for London.
✔ **C) signs**
Drivers **follow the signs for** a place, which means the road signs that show the way. **Points** and **ways** are not used like this.

25. The garden _____ as far as the river.
✔ **B) extends**
Extend means 'continue over an area or distance', e.g. **The garden extends as far as the river.** **Enlarge** means 'make bigger', which is not the meaning here.

26. It is time to _____ the table for dinner.
✔ **B) lay**
In British English we **lay the table** (also **set the table**), meaning we put plates, knives and forks on it. Not **lay out**, because **lay out** means arranging things neatly to be seen or used, and it is not the fixed phrase for tables.

27. I have always _____ you my best friend.
✔ **B) considered**
Consider someone something means 'think of someone as something', e.g. **I consider him a genius.** Not **regarded**, because **regard** needs **as**: **regarded you as my best friend**.

28. He lost his _____ when the policeman stopped him.
✔ **A) temper**
Lose your temper means 'suddenly become very angry'. It is a fixed expression, e.g. **She lost her temper and shouted.**

29. He won't _____ to buy some bread unless I tell him again.
✔ **C) remember**
Remember to do something means 'not forget to do it'. The clue is **unless I tell him again**. Not **remind**, because **remind** needs an object: **remind someone to do something**.

30. Because of the fine weather, we had all our classes in the _____ air.
✔ **C) open**
In the open air means 'outside, not in a building'. It is a fixed phrase, e.g. **We had lunch in the open air.**

31. Will you be taking my previous experience into _____ when you fix my salary?
✔ **B) account**
Take something into account means 'consider it when making a decision'. It is a fixed phrase. We say **keep in mind** or **bear in mind**, but not **take into mind**.

32. If it wasn't an accident, he must have done it on _____.
✔ **B) purpose**
On purpose means 'deliberately, not by accident'. Not **intention**, because we say **with the intention of doing something**, not **on intention**. **By mistake** (not **on mistake**) means the opposite.

33. Most things are now mass-produced rather than _____.
✔ **A) hand-made**
Hand-made is an adjective like **mass-produced**, so the two words match after **rather than**. Not **by hand**, because that would need a verb: **rather than made by hand**.

34. The office lifts are out of _____ again.
✔ **B) order**
Out of order means 'not working' and is used for machines such as lifts or phones. We do not say **out of work** for machines; **out of work** means 'without a job'.

35. Let me know if any difficulties _____.
✔ **B) arise**
Arise means 'appear or begin to exist' and is used with **difficulties** or **problems**, e.g. **if any problems arise**. Not **rise**, which means 'go up'. **Come** would need **up**: **come up**.

36. I can't _____ to have a holiday abroad on my salary.
✔ **C) afford**
Can't afford to do something means 'not have enough money for it'. The clue is **on my salary**.

37. They are twins and look very _____.
✔ **A) alike**
Alike means 'similar' and comes after the verb: **They look very alike.** Not **identical**, because it means 'exactly the same' and is not used with **very**. **Same** needs **the**, and **like** needs an object (**look like each other**).

38. It is a very popular play, and it would be wise to _____ seats well in advance.
✔ **B) book**
Book means 'reserve in advance', e.g. **book seats, book a table, book a hotel room**. The clue is **well in advance**. We buy **tickets** rather than **seats**.

39. He's not _____ of learning German in six months.
✔ **E) capable**
Capable of doing something means 'able to do it'. Not **able**, because **able** is followed by **to**: **able to learn**. **Possible** is not used about people in this way.

40. There was a large box behind the door and John could not _____ falling over it.
✔ **B) avoid**
Avoid doing something means 'stop it from happening, or keep away from it'. Not **prevent**, because **prevent** needs an object: **prevent himself from falling**.

Practise more on englishtestsonline.com
Take this test online, download its questions PDF, and find thousands of free English tests:
englishtestsonline.com · scan the code for this test
englishtestsonline.com