ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Upper Level Vocabulary Test 10

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Explanations

1. My brother _____ his dog not to chase sheep.
✔ **B) has trained**
We **train** an animal (or a person) to do or not to do something by teaching and practice: **train a dog not to chase sheep**. Not **has learned**: the person learns something themselves; you cannot **learn** someone else.

2. Is there any _____ of your coming to London again in the spring?
✔ **D) chance**
Is there any chance of ...? asks how likely something is to happen. Not **opportunity**, which means a good moment to do something, not a possibility.

3. He visited an _____ castle in an old part of the city.
✔ **B) ancient**
Ancient means very old, from a long time ago, and is used for buildings, ruins and history: **an ancient castle**. Not **antique**, which is used for old furniture or objects with a value, not buildings.

4. Peter is going _____ for the job as Manager of the Sales Department.
✔ **E) to apply**
We **apply for** a job when we formally ask to be given it. **Submit** needs an object (**submit an application**), and **propose** and **present** do not go with **for the job**.

5. I don't think I know him, although his face seems _____.
✔ **D) familiar**
A **familiar** face is one you think you have seen before. Not **known**, which doesn't describe how a face seems to you.

6. Some people had to escape in boats when the river _____ its banks.
✔ **B) overflowed**
When a river **overflows its banks**, the water comes over the sides and floods the land. **Overthrew** is for governments and **overcame** is for problems.

7. Is there a telephone _____ anywhere near here, please?
✔ **C) box**
In British English a public telephone in a small cabin in the street is a **telephone box** (also **phone box**). The other words do not form this fixed phrase.

8. For her wedding, the _____ was dressed in white.
✔ **B) bride**
The **bride** is the woman who is getting married. The **bridesmaid** helps her, and the **bridegroom** is the man she marries.

9. Mr. Black _____ to arrive on the 2:30 train.
✔ **D) is expected**
Be expected to means that people think something will happen as planned: **He is expected to arrive at 2:30.** Not **is hoped**, because **hope** cannot be used in this passive pattern with a person as the subject.

10. I always _____ asleep as soon as I get into bed.
✔ **A) fall**
The fixed phrase is **fall asleep**, which means start sleeping. Not **go**: we say **go to sleep**, not **go asleep**.

11. You will have _____ those potatoes before you cook them.
✔ **B) to peel**
To **peel** potatoes, apples or oranges means to take off their skin: **peel the potatoes**. Not **shell**, which is used for nuts, peas and eggs, and not **husk**, which is used for the dry outer covering of grain or corn.

12. I don't like these oranges; they have too many _____.
✔ **D) pips**
Pips are the small seeds inside fruit such as oranges, lemons, apples and grapes. Not **stones**, which are the single large hard seeds in cherries, plums or peaches.

13. I tried to telephone him last night but his number _____.
✔ **C) was engaged**
In British English a phone line that someone else is using is **engaged** (American English: **busy**). **Occupied** is used for toilets and seats, not phone numbers.

14. Frank got very _____ marks in his history examination.
✔ **E) low**
Marks in a test are **high** or **low**: **He got very low marks. Reduced** means made smaller, which is not the meaning here.

15. You will have to _____; Aunt Mary is rather deaf.
✔ **A) speak up**
Speak up means speak more loudly so people can hear you. The clue is **deaf**. **Call up** and **ring up** mean phone someone.

16. Three people _____ in this lake last June.
✔ **C) were drowned**
To **drown** is to die under water because you cannot breathe. British English often uses the passive **were drowned** for accidents. Not **sunk**, which is used for ships, not people.

17. You've been working all day. It's _____ you went home.
✔ **E) high time**
It's high time + past tense means something should happen now, or should have happened already: **It's high time you went home.** The other options do not form this fixed phrase.

18. The children walked to the _____ of the cliff and looked down at the sea below.
✔ **B) edge**
The **edge** of a cliff is the place where the land ends and drops down. Not **rim** or **brim**, which are used for the top of cups, bowls and hats.

19. The water in this stream has dried up because of the _____ of rain this summer.
✔ **D) lack**
Lack of means not having enough of something: **a lack of rain**. Not **shortness**, which is about length or time (**shortness of breath**), not amount.

20. The sun rises in the east and _____ in the west.
✔ **C) sets**
The sun **rises** in the morning and **sets** in the evening. **Rise** and **set** are the usual pair for the sun. **Disappears** is possible in meaning but is not the normal collocation.

21. There were twenty-five _____ waiting in the doctor's surgery.
✔ **C) patients**
People who see a doctor are **patients**. A **surgery** is a doctor's office in British English. **Clients** are the people who use a lawyer's or other professional's services.

22. Mr. Brown has a very _____ job as Sales Manager.
✔ **A) responsible**
A **responsible job** is an important job where you make decisions and others depend on you. Not **careful**, which describes a person, not a job.

23. There is a _____ of sugar in Europe at the moment.
✔ **E) shortage**
A **shortage** is a situation where there is not enough of something that people need: **a shortage of sugar**. Not **need**, which describes wanting something, not a lack of supply.

24. Beethoven is my _____ composer.
✔ **D) favorite**
Favourite (American **favorite**) means the one you like most: **my favourite composer**. Not **best**: we don't say **my best composer** to mean the one we like most.

25. I am going to watch the tennis _____ on television this afternoon.
✔ **C) match**
A whole sports event between two players or teams is a **match**: **a tennis match**, **a football match**. In tennis a **game** is only a small part of a set, and **contest** is too general.

26. The doctor told him to keep the tablets in his mouth and _____ them slowly.
✔ **B) suck**
To **suck** something is to keep it in your mouth and move your tongue on it until it slowly melts: **suck a sweet**. The clue is **keep … in his mouth**. Not **swallow**, which means send it down your throat at once.

27. I can't open the drawer in my desk; it's _____.
✔ **D) stuck**
Stuck means fixed in one position and impossible to move: **The drawer is stuck.** Not **fixed**, which suggests it was attached on purpose.

28. Old Mr. Pottinger _____ his pension every Friday.
✔ **C) draws**
To **draw** a pension or salary means to receive it regularly. Not **earns**: you earn money by working, but a pension is paid after you stop working.

29. Mr. Higgins is quite sure he saw a flying _____ when he was walking home from the pub.
✔ **B) saucer**
A **flying saucer** is a round spaceship that some people believe comes from another planet. It is a fixed phrase, named after the small plate that goes under a cup.

30. Please tell Anne that my private affairs are nothing to _____ her.
✔ **A) do with**
Be nothing to do with someone means it is not their business and they should not get involved. The other phrasal verbs have different meanings: **do in** means kill, and **do down** means criticise.

31. Mr. Heppel was flown to London on _____.
✔ **C) business**
On business means travelling for work: **He went to London on business.** The other nouns do not form this fixed phrase.

32. Peter has entered a newspaper _____ for the best-dressed man in London.
✔ **B) contest**
A **contest** is an event where people compete to be judged the best: **enter a contest for the best-dressed man**. Not **exhibition** or **show**, where things are only displayed and nobody competes to win.

33. Captain Saunders was accused of _____ at cards.
✔ **B) cheating**
To **cheat at cards** (or at a game) means to break the rules in order to win. Not **deceiving**, which needs an object (**deceive someone**) and is not used with **at cards**.

34. Sam never told his wife how much he _____ as a window cleaner.
✔ **D) earned**
To **earn** money means to get it by working: **He earned a lot as a window cleaner.** Not **deserved**, which means should get something because of what you did.

35. In spite of the storm, the Captain _____ the ship safely into port.
✔ **D) steered**
To **steer** a ship or car means to control its direction: **steer the ship into port**. Not **drove**, which is used for cars, not ships.

36. The teacher _____ out the words she had written on the blackboard.
✓ **C) rubbed**
Rub out (British) means remove writing with an eraser or cloth: **rub out the words on the board**. Only **rub** forms this phrasal verb with **out** and this meaning.

37. Would you mind _____ your radio a little, please?
✓ **B) turning down**
Turn down the radio means make it quieter. The clue is **a little**, a polite request about volume. Not **turning out**, which means switching off a light.

38. I don't think you can lift that case _____ I help you.
✓ **D) unless**
Unless means **if … not**: **You can't lift it unless I help you** = **if I don't help you**. Not **without**, which must be followed by a noun or **-ing** form (**without my help**), not by a clause.

39. We are _____ into our new house on Saturday.
✓ **A) moving**
Move into a house means go to live in it: **We're moving into our new house.** Not **entering**, which means just going inside and does not take **into**.

40. Susan was alone in the house when the fire _____.
✓ **B) broke out**
When a fire, war or fight **breaks out**, it starts suddenly. Not **broke in**, which means enter a building by force.

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