ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Upper Level Vocabulary Test 12

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Explanations

1. They managed to _____ all their unwanted things at the jumble sale.
✔ **A) get rid of**
Get rid of means to throw away, sell or give away something you don't want. A jumble sale is where people sell unwanted things. Not **get away with**, which means to escape punishment for something.

2. There was a terrible storm at sea last night and one of the sailors _____.
✔ **B) drowned**
Drown means to die under water because you cannot breathe. The storm is the clue that something bad happened. Not **sank**: ships sink, and we don't normally say a person 'sank' to mean they died.

3. Let's continue the meeting by discussing the next _____ on the agenda.
✔ **A) item**
An **item** is one of the points or topics on a list, such as an agenda: **the next item on the agenda**. **Piece** and **bit** don't collocate with **agenda**.

4. I'm paying for my car by monthly _____ as I didn't have enough money to pay cash.
✔ **E) installments**
Instalments (US **installments**) are regular parts of a total price that you pay over time: **pay by monthly instalments**. Not **deposits**: a deposit is the first payment you make, not the series of monthly payments.

5. Schubert didn't finish one of his symphonies so it will always be _____.
✔ **C) incomplete**
Incomplete means not finished, with some parts missing. The symphony was not finished, so it is **incomplete**. **Defective** and **deficient** mean faulty or lacking in quality, not unfinished.

6. Suddenly I understood perfectly and everything _____ place.
✔ **D) fell into**
The idiom **fall into place** means that things suddenly become clear and make sense. The clue is **Suddenly I understood perfectly**.

7. The Director of the Company _____ some figures from the report in front of him.
✔ **D) quoted**
To **quote** means to repeat exact words or figures from a text: **He quoted some figures from the report.** Not **referred**, which needs **to** (**referred to some figures**).

8. He was one of the _____ people I've ever known; he never stopped eating.
✔ **A) greediest**
Greedy means wanting more food, money, etc. than you need. The clue is **he never stopped eating**.

9. The men _____ the millionaire's small daughter and demanded a large sum of money for her return.
✔ **D) kidnapped**
To **kidnap** means to take a person away by force and ask for money (a ransom) for their return. Not **hijacked**: we hijack planes or vehicles, not people. Not **stole**, which is for things.

10. You must be careful what you say to Susan; her feelings are easily _____.
✔ **D) hurt**
The usual collocation is **hurt someone's feelings**; **her feelings are easily hurt** means she gets upset easily. **Damaged**, **broken** and **cracked** are used for objects.

11. You keep _____ the same subject, and I've asked you not to mention it again.
✔ **B) bringing up**
Bring up a subject means to start talking about it. The clue is **I've asked you not to mention it again**. Not **bringing about**, which means causing something to happen.

12. That shop down the road always _____ its goods well in the window.
✔ **E) displays**
Shops **display** goods: they arrange them so people can see them, especially in the window. **Reveal**, **uncover** and **expose** mean to show something that was hidden.

13. Please wipe your feet on the door _____ before you come in.
✔ **A) mat**
A **doormat** (**door mat**) is a small, rough mat outside or inside a door where you wipe your feet. A **rug** is a small carpet inside a room.

14. Although most of the children in the class were rather dull, there were one or two _____ ones.
✔ **B) bright**
Bright children are intelligent and learn quickly; it is the opposite of **dull** (slow to learn). The word **Although** signals the contrast. Not **wise**, which suggests experience and good judgement, usually in adults.

15. The _____ with Charles is, he doesn't know his own mind.
✓ **B) trouble**
The trouble with someone is... is a fixed phrase that introduces a person's main problem or fault. Here Charles's problem is that he **doesn't know his own mind**, which means he can't decide what he really wants. Not **complication** or **inconvenience**, because they are not used in this phrase about a person.

16. I hate January when all the _____ start coming in. I never seem to have enough money to pay them all.
✓ **D) bills**
Bills are documents that tell you how much money you must pay for something. The clue is **enough money to pay them all**. Not **receipts**: you get a receipt after you have paid.

17. The workers were _____ in their demand for better conditions.
✓ **A) united**
United means joined together and agreeing in a common aim: **united in their demand**. **Combined** and **joined** are used for things physically put together, not people sharing an opinion.

18. The judge _____ the criminal to twenty years in prison.
✓ **E) sentenced**
A judge **sentences** a criminal **to** a punishment: **sentenced him to twenty years in prison**. Not **condemned**, which is mainly used with death (**condemned to death**) or in a general sense.

19. I want to know the answers to these questions, so I shall have to look at the _____ at the back of the book.
✓ **B) key**
The **key** is the list of answers to exercises, usually at the back of a book. Not **index**, which is an alphabetical list of topics with page numbers.

20. I wouldn't like to spend a night alone in that house. It is said to be _____ by a headless ghost.
✓ **C) haunted**
A **haunted** house is one where people believe a ghost appears. **Infested** is used for insects or rats, e.g. **infested with mice**.

21. The girl in the shop was _____ how to use a new kind of electric cooker.
✓ **D) demonstrating**
To **demonstrate** means to show people how something works or how to use it. Not **teaching**, which needs a person as object here (**teaching customers how to use...**).

22. That poor woman's husband died a few weeks after they were married. It was a real _____.
✓ **B) tragedy**
A **tragedy** is a very sad event, especially an unexpected death: **It was a real tragedy. Sorrow** and **sadness** are feelings, not events.

23. He didn't seem to know what was happening at all; he looked completely _____.
✓ **B) bewildered**
Bewildered means very confused and unable to understand what is happening. The clue is **didn't seem to know what was happening**. Not **undecided**, which means unable to make a choice.

24. The economy of this country is very unstable at the moment. It's balanced on a _____ edge.
✓ **A) knife**
On a knife edge (also **knife-edge**) is an idiom meaning in a very uncertain situation where things could suddenly go badly. The other weapons are not used in this fixed phrase.

25. The little boy was _____ for breaking the window.
✓ **E) punished**
Punish is the general word for making someone suffer because they did something wrong: **punished for breaking the window**. **Sentenced** and **condemned** are used in courts; **penalized** is mainly for breaking rules in sport or law.

26. There has been a lot of _____ about the housing shortage in big cities.
✓ **C) publicity**
Publicity is attention from newspapers, TV, etc. that makes many people aware of something. Not **advertising**, which is used to sell products, not to discuss a problem.

27. I _____ my car badly when I hit a tree.
✓ **A) dented**
To **dent** something means to make a hollow mark in a hard surface by hitting it: **I dented my car.** **Depressed** and **impressed** have different everyday meanings.

28. He is _____ to both those girls over there. One is his sister and the other is his cousin.
✓ **C) related**
Related to someone means in the same family. The clue is **his sister** and **his cousin**.

29. When he was left on a desert island, he was able to _____ for a year on fruit and water.
✓ **E) survive**
Survive on something means to stay alive using only that: **survive on fruit and water**. **Remain** and **stay** do not mean staying alive and are not used with **on** in this way.

30. If I were you, I'd put that meat in the refrigerator or it will _____ in this hot weather.
✓ **A) go off**
When food **goes off**, it becomes bad and not safe to eat (British English). The clue is **put that meat in the refrigerator** and **hot weather**.

31. To play golf well you must take lessons from a good _____.
✓ **C) coach**
A **coach** is a person who teaches and trains people in a sport: **a golf coach**. Not **caddie**: a caddie carries a golfer's clubs but does not give lessons.

32. The Browns had to use all their _____ to buy their new house.
✓ **B) savings**
Savings is money you have kept, usually in a bank, over a period of time. The Browns used it to buy a house. **Keepsakes** are small objects kept to remember someone.

33. When I was staying in Germany last year, I _____ quite a lot of German.
✓ **C) picked up**
Pick up a language means to learn it without formal study, just by hearing and using it. Not **picked on**, which means to treat someone unkindly.

34. What are you cooking in that saucepan? It _____ good.
✔ **D) smells**
Smell + adjective describes the smell of something: **It smells good.** You notice food cooking in a saucepan with your nose. Not **sniffs**: a person sniffs something, but food does not 'sniff good'.

35. I know Mary has two brothers, but I don't know which is the _____.
✔ **A) elder**
Elder is used for comparing the ages of people in a family: **the elder of two brothers**. **More aged** and **more ancient** are not used this way.

36. I hope the Government will _____ the rate of income tax so that we can keep more of our money.
✔ **C) reduce**
To **reduce** means to make something smaller in amount: **reduce the rate of tax**. The clue is **keep more of our money**. Not **deduct** or **subtract**, which mean taking an amount away from a total, not lowering a rate.

37. Jane's school report last term was very _____.
✔ **B) satisfactory**
Satisfactory means good enough or acceptable, and it is often used about school work and reports. Not **satisfying**, which describes something that gives you pleasure, e.g. **a satisfying meal**.

38. Mary has gone to the baker's to buy a _____ of bread.
✔ **E) loaf**
A loaf of bread is a whole piece of bread baked in one shape. You buy loaves at the baker's.

39. When I was turning out my cupboard I _____ this photograph of Uncle Harry.
✔ **C) came across**
Come across something means to find it by chance. **Turning out a cupboard** means emptying it to clean or sort it. Not **came round**, which means to visit or to wake up after fainting.

40. Lucy says she bought her new trouser suit in _____.
✔ **B) a sale**
In a sale means at a time when a shop sells goods at lower prices. **Reduction** is the amount taken off the price, but we don't buy things **in a reduction**.

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