ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Upper Level Vocabulary Test 2

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

Explanations

1. Although I spoke to him many times, he never took any _____.
✔ **A) notice**
The fixed phrase is **take notice (of)**, meaning to pay attention to something or someone. **He never took any notice** means he ignored me. Not **attention**, because we say **pay attention**, not **take attention**.

2. The house was sold for £60,000, which was far more than its real _____.
✔ **B) value**
Value is how much something is really worth. The **price** is what you pay, so the sentence compares the price paid with the real **value**. Not **price**, because the sentence is already talking about the price, and **real price** doesn't fit here.

3. This morning, drivers were warned of _____ fog in all industrial areas.
✔ **C) thick**
We describe fog that is hard to see through as **thick fog** (also **dense fog**). This is a fixed collocation. Not **deep**, because **deep** is used for water or snow, not fog.

4. I can’t find the scissors anywhere. What have you done _____ them?
✔ **A) with**
What have you done with X? means 'Where have you put X?' It is used when you can't find something. Not **to**, because **What have you done to X?** means 'How have you damaged or changed X?'

5. You couldn’t _____ any secrets even for an hour in that little town.
✔ **A) keep**
The collocation is **keep a secret**, meaning not to tell anyone. In a small town, everybody quickly knows everything, so you couldn't **keep** any secrets.

6. The workers went on strike because they thought their wages were too _____.
✔ **D) low**
With wages, salaries, prices and pay we use **high** and **low**: **low wages**. Not **small** or **little**, because these don't collocate naturally with **wages**.

7. The explorer _____ all the way to the source of the river by boat.
✔ **B) travelled**
Travel means to go from one place to another, and it works with any transport: **travel by boat**. Not **followed** or **tracked**, because these verbs need a direct object, and **drove** and **rode** are not used for boats.

8. When the bill came, he had to _____ money from his brother to pay it.
✔ **A) borrow**
You **borrow** money **from** someone (you receive it). You **lend** money **to** someone (you give it). The word **from** shows that he received the money, so **borrow** is right. Not **lend**, because that is what his brother did.

9. Because the company was doing more business it was necessary to _____ the factory.
✔ **A) extend**
To **extend** a building means to make it bigger by adding more space: **They extended the factory.** Not **increase**, because we increase numbers or amounts, not buildings.

10. The farmer had to wear heavy boots in the winter because the fields were so wet and _____.
✔ **E) muddy**
Muddy means covered with mud, the soft wet earth you get after rain. The clue **wet** shows the fields were muddy. Not **dusty**, because dust is dry.

11. Very few scientists _____ with completely new answers to the world’s problems.
✔ **C) come up**
The phrasal verb **come up with** means to think of an idea, a plan or an answer: **She came up with a great solution.** The word **with** in the sentence completes it.

12. When John _____ in London, he went to see the Houses of Parliament.
✔ **C) arrived**
We say **arrive in** a city or country and **arrive at** a building or station. **Arrived in London** is correct. Not **reached**, because **reach** takes a direct object without **in**: **reached London**.

13. He climbed up into the tree and picked all the fruit _____ reach.
✔ **C) within**
Within reach means close enough to touch or get with your hand. He picked all the fruit he could get to. Not **beyond**, because **beyond reach** means too far away to get.

14. I was not _____ that I had cut myself until I saw the blood all over my hand.
✔ **E) conscious**
To be **conscious that** (or **aware that**) something has happened means to know or notice it. The speaker didn't notice the cut until they saw the blood on their hand. Not **familiar**, because **familiar with** means knowing something well.

15. Tropical diseases are comparatively _____ in Britain.
✔ **B) rare**
Rare means not happening or found very often: **Tropical diseases are rare in Britain.** Not **scarce**, because **scarce** describes things that are in short supply, like food or water.

16. If you want to telephone him you will have to _____ the number in the book.
✔ **D) look up**
Look up means to search for information in a book, list or online: **look up a word in a dictionary**, **look up a number**. Not **look through**, because that means to read something quickly, and you look through a book, not a number.

17. She began to feel nervous when the train pulled up at the _____ between Austria and Yugoslavia.
✔ **D) border**
A **border** is the line between two countries: **the border between Austria and Yugoslavia**. Not **limit** or **edge**, because they are not used for the line between countries.

18. Margaret proudly showed her mother the toy cat she had _____ in the competition.
✔ **B) won**
You **win** a prize, a game or a competition: **She won a toy cat in the competition.** Not **gained**, because we don't use **gain** for prizes, and **rewarded** is used for people (**she was rewarded**).

19. He asked us if we would _____ to share a room.
✔ **C) agree**
Agree to do something means to say yes to doing it: **We agreed to share a room.** Not **consider**, because it is followed by an -ing form (**consider sharing**), and **accept** is not followed by **to** + verb.

20. Students are expected to _____ their classes regularly.
✔ **C) attend**
To **attend** classes means to go to them: **attend school**, **attend a meeting**. Not **assist**, which means to help (a common false friend).

21. The _____ charged by the lawyer for his services was unusually high.
✔ **A) fee**
A **fee** is money paid for a professional service, e.g. to a lawyer or doctor: **a lawyer's fee**. Not **fare**, which is the money you pay for a journey by bus, train or plane.

22. He was pleased to have the _____ to hear such a fine musician play his favourite piece of music.
✔ **D) opportunity**
An **opportunity** is a chance to do something good: **have the opportunity to hear a fine musician**. Not **possibility**, because we don't say **have the possibility to** in this sense, and **occasion** means a time or an event.

23. He tried to _____ his daughter of the dangers of spending more than she earned.
✔ **C) warn**
The pattern is **warn someone of / about a danger**: **He warned his daughter of the dangers.** Not **threaten**, which means to say you will hurt someone, and **remember** doesn't take this pattern (it would be **remind**).

24. We had a marvellous holiday: only the last two days were slightly _____ by the weather.
✔ **D) spoiled**
Spoil means to make something less good or enjoyable: **Bad weather spoiled our holiday.** The word **slightly** shows the damage was small. Not **ruined**, because **ruined** means completely destroyed, so **slightly ruined** makes no sense.

25. Dearer electricity will mean _____ bills for most families.
✔ **E) heavy**
Heavy bills means large bills that are hard to pay. **Heavy** is often used with costs and payments (**heavy expenses**, **heavy fines**). Not **expensive**, because things you buy are expensive, not the bills for them.

26. These figures give a rough guide to the cost of _____ your car.
✔ **E) running**
To **run** a car means to pay for and use it (fuel, insurance, repairs): **the cost of running a car**, **running costs**. Not **handling**, which describes how a car moves when you drive it.

27. It was the longest film I've ever seen; it _____ four hours.
✔ **C) lasted**
Last means to continue for a period of time: **The film lasted four hours.** Not **ended** or **finished**, because these say when something stops, not how long it continues.

28. The information office at the station _____ that all trains were running about one hour behind time.
✔ **C) explained**
Explain that means to give information so that people understand a situation. The office gave people the reason for the waiting: the trains were late. Not **told**, because **tell** needs a person after it (**told us that…**).

29. Ann is so _____ to succeed that I am sure nothing will stop her.
✔ **A) determined**
Determined to do something means having decided firmly and not letting anything stop you. The clue is **nothing will stop her**. Not **willing**, which only means ready to do something if needed.

30. It takes six weeks to _____ a man to do this job.
✔ **A) train**
To **train** someone means to teach them the skills for a job: **It takes six weeks to train a new worker.** Not **learn**, because you learn something yourself; you cannot **learn** another person.

31. On Sundays, the business centre of the city was usually quite _____.
✔ **B) deserted**
Deserted means empty, with no people in it: **a deserted street**. On Sundays, people don't go to work, so the business centre is empty. Not **alone**, which is used for people, not places.

32. In today's paper, it _____ that there will be a new government soon.
✔ **B) states**
With newspapers and documents we say **it states / it says that…**. **State** means to say something formally. Not **tells**, because **tell** needs a person after it, and **writes** is not used with **it** in this way.

33. Before you sign anything important, pay careful _____ to all the conditions.
✔ **B) attention**
The fixed phrase is **pay attention to**: **Pay careful attention to the conditions.** Not **notice**, because we say **take notice of**, not **pay notice to**.

34. When I came through the customs at the airport I had to pay _____ on a clock I had bought.
✔ **B) duty**
Duty is the tax you pay at customs on goods brought into a country: **pay duty on something**. The clue is **customs**. Not **fines**, which are money you pay as a punishment.

35. It was after dark when the two children were both _____ on the safety-crossing by a lorry.
✔ **A) knocked down**
To be **knocked down** by a vehicle means to be hit by it and fall to the ground. Not **knocked out**, which means made unconscious, and **run across** means to meet someone by chance.

36. The rising _____ of living is as hard on country families as on city families.
✔ **B) cost**
The fixed phrase is **the cost of living**: how much money people need for food, housing and other basic things. Not **price**, because **the price of living** is not used.

37. When it was time for our tickets to be _____, I couldn't find mine.
✔ **C) checked**
When an official looks at your ticket to see that it is valid, your ticket is **checked**. Not **controlled**, which is a false friend; in English **control** means to have power over something.

38. Will you _____ my essay, please, to find out whether I made any mistakes?
✔ **B) look through**
Look through means to read something quickly to check it: **Could you look through my essay?** Not **look into**, which means to investigate a problem, and **see through** means to recognise a lie.

39. At the moment my car is at the garage being made ready for a _____ across Europe.
✔ **A) journey**
A **journey** is a trip from one place to another, especially a long one: **a journey across Europe**. Not **travel**, because it is uncountable, so you cannot say **a travel**. **Voyage** is a long trip by sea.

40. He asked an artist to _____ some drawings to illustrate what he had written.
✔ **B) make**
We say **make** (or **do**) **drawings**. **Make** is used for producing or creating something. Not **paint**, because drawings are done with a pencil or pen, and paintings are done with paint.

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