ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Upper Level Vocabulary Test 21

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Explanations

1. She heard a _____ at the door and went to see who was outside.
✔ **B) knock**
A **knock** is the sound of someone hitting a door with their hand to ask to come in: **There's a knock at the door.** We don't use **hit** or **strike** as nouns for this sound.

2. A young art student acted as our _____ when we visited the National Gallery.
✔ **C) guide**
A **guide** is a person who shows visitors around a place, such as a museum or gallery, and tells them about it. A **coach** or **trainer** teaches skills, and a **conductor** leads an orchestra or collects fares.

3. Please _____ your bill before you leave the shop and make sure that it is correct.
✔ **A) check**
To **check** something means to look at it carefully to make sure it is correct. Not **control**, which means to have power over something, not to examine it.

4. If you hear the baby _____, please tell me.
✔ **A) cry**
Babies **cry** when they are hungry or unhappy. **Weep** also means to cry, but it is formal and used for adults, not babies.

5. The bus conductor told him to get off because he couldn’t pay the _____.
✔ **B) fare**
A **fare** is the money you pay for a journey by bus, train, taxi or plane. Not **fee**, which is money paid for a service such as a course or a doctor's visit.

6. I felt a sharp _____ when I put my hand in the boiling water.
✔ **D) pain**
We say **a sharp pain** for a sudden strong feeling of hurt in the body. Not **ache**, which is a continuous, dull pain (e.g. **a headache**).

7. I am very fond of Graham Greene’s novels. He is my _____ modern author.
✔ **B) favorite**
Your **favorite** (British spelling **favourite**) author is the one you like more than all others. **Popular** means liked by many people, not by you in particular.

8. She chose some attractive _____ paper for the Christmas present.
✔ **E) wrapping**
Wrapping paper is decorative paper used to cover presents. **Packing** materials are for protecting goods when they are sent, not for decorating gifts.

9. It’s rude to interrupt when someone else is _____.
✔ **D) talking**
Talk can be used without an object: **someone is talking**. **Say**, **tell** and **discuss** need an object (**say something**, **tell someone**, **discuss a topic**), so they cannot end the sentence.

10. Look, Mother! Jack has _____ you some flowers.
✔ **A) brought**
Bring means to come with something to the place where the speaker is: **Jack has brought you some flowers.** Not **taken**, which means carrying something away from here to another place.

11. He _____ out of the window for a moment and then went on working.
✔ **A) glanced**
To **glance** means to look quickly at something; we say **glance out of the window**. Not **glimpsed**, which means to see something only for a moment and needs a direct object (**glimpse a face**).

12. The company made a record _____ last year.
✔ **C) profit**
A **profit** is the money a company makes after paying its costs; a common collocation is **make a record profit**. Not **benefit**, which is an advantage, not money earned.

13. These cars originally had two doors but the latest _____ has four.
✔ **C) model**
A **model** is a particular type or version of a product, especially a car: **the latest model**. A **brand** is the name of the company that makes it, not one version of the car.

14. Nobody was hurt in the car _____, but both cars were badly damaged.
✔ **B) crash**
A **car crash** is an accident in which a car hits another vehicle or object. Not **hit**, which is not used as a noun in this phrase, or **shock**, which is a feeling of surprise.

15. He's a nice man but he's _____ to drink too much at parties.
✓ **B) apt**
Be apt to do something means to tend to do it, usually something bad: **He's apt to forget names.** Not **probable**, which describes events, not people (we say **it is probable that…**, not **he is probable to…**).

16. He has a bad cold and won't be _____ to play in the match tomorrow.
✓ **C) fit**
Fit means healthy and well enough to do something: **fit to play**. **Suitable** and **appropriate** mean right for a situation, not physically healthy.

17. He _____ his wife and children and left them to take care of themselves.
✓ **A) abandoned**
To **abandon** someone means to leave them and never come back, so they have to look after themselves. Not **missed**, which means feeling sad because someone is away.

18. We want to make our products cheaper than our _____.
✓ **B) competitors'**
Competitors are other companies selling the same kind of products; **our competitors'** means their products. **Colleagues** and **partners** work with you, not against you.

19. It's the _____ in this country for the father of the bride to pay for the wedding.
✓ **B) custom**
A **custom** is a traditional way of doing something in a society: **It's the custom to…**. Not **habit**, which is something one person does regularly.

20. He is a very _____ player. He practises for two hours every morning.
✓ **E) keen**
Keen means very interested and enthusiastic; the clue is that he practises every morning. Not **amateur**, which means not paid, and it doesn't explain the hard practice.

21. The bank will _____ you the money if you are prepared to pay them eight per cent interest on it.
✓ **B) lend**
Lend means to give money that must be paid back: **The bank lends you money.** Not **borrow**, which is what you do when you take the money from the bank.

22. I _____ to him for my bad behaviour.
✓ **A) apologized**
We **apologize to someone for something** when we say sorry. Not **excused**, which is used like **excuse me** or **excuse someone's behaviour**, not with **to him**.

23. The sky is _____. I don't think it will rain.
✓ **B) clear**
A **clear** sky has no clouds, so rain is unlikely. Not **cloudy**, because clouds would suggest rain; **clean** is not used for the sky.

24. I want to see all of you here tomorrow morning at nine o'clock without _____.
✓ **A) fail**
Without fail is a fixed phrase meaning definitely, always: **Be here at nine without fail.** None of the other words form this expression.

25. He _____ the letter carefully and put it in the envelope.
✓ **C) folded**
To **fold** paper means to bend it so that one part lies flat on another: **fold a letter**. Not **bent**, which is used for things like wire or metal, not neatly creasing paper.

26. The price of the meal _____ a service charge.
✓ **D) includes**
Include means to have something as part of the whole: **The price includes a service charge.** Not **encloses**, which means to put something inside an envelope with a letter, or to surround something.

27. He shouldn't be allowed to play tennis in the club. He's not a _____.
✓ **B) member**
A **member** is a person who belongs to a club or group. **Belong** is a verb, so it cannot follow **a**.

28. He has always wanted to see his name in _____.
✓ **D) print**
In print means published in a book, newspaper or magazine: **see your name in print**. Not **printing**, which is the process of making copies, not the fixed phrase.

29. He _____ his head, wondering how he could solve the problem.
✓ **A) scratched**
People **scratch their head** when they are thinking hard or puzzled. Not **scraped**, which means rubbing roughly against a surface and often causing damage.

30. Everyone who applies for a job with the company is given an intelligence _____.
✓ **D) test**
An **intelligence test** is a set of questions that measures how clever someone is. Not **trial**, which is a test of a product or a court case.

31. Do you _____ to go to the party?
✓ **C) intend**
Intend to do something means to plan to do it. Not **attend**, which is followed directly by an object (**attend the party**), not by **to go**.

32. We locked the animals in the cage to _____ them from getting away.
✓ **D) prevent**
Prevent someone from doing something means to stop it from happening. Not **avoid**, which means keeping away from something yourself and is not used with **them from**.

33. They're old customers of ours. We've been _____ with them for many years.
✓ **B) dealing**
Deal with a company means to do business with it; the clue is **old customers of ours**. Not **supplying**, which needs an object without **with them** (**supply them with goods**).

34. I don't think I'll beat him. I'm out of _____.
✓ **D) practice**
Out of practice means not as good as before because you haven't done something for a while. Not **fitness**; for the body we say **out of shape** or **unfit**.

35. If you are _____ to customers, they'll walk out of the shop.
✓ **C) rude**
Rude means not polite; **be rude to someone**. Not **rough**, which describes surfaces or violent behaviour, not speaking impolitely.

36. We must get there _____ or other. If there are no buses, we'll have to take a taxi.
✓ **D) somehow**
Somehow or other is a fixed phrase meaning in some way, even if we don't know how yet. Not **anyhow**, which doesn't form this phrase.

37. I'll _____ the children for you while you are out.
✓ **A) look after**
Look after means to take care of someone: **look after the children**. Not **look for**, which means to search for something.

38. I wish I could _____ smoking.
✓ **E) give up**
Give up means to stop doing something, especially a habit: **give up smoking**. Not **give off**, which means to produce a smell, heat or light.

39. We'll have to _____ the meeting until next week because no one can come tomorrow.
✓ **B) put off**
Put off means to delay something to a later time; the clue is **until next week**. Not **put up**, which means to raise something or let someone stay at your home.

40. We went to the railway station to _____ our friends _____.
✓ **A) see / off**
See someone off means to go to a station or airport to say goodbye to them. Not **see out**, which means to go with a visitor to the door of your home.

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