ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Upper Level Vocabulary Test 23

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Explanations

1. They _____ our team by three goals to one.
✔ **A) beat**
To **beat** a team means to defeat it in a game, as in **They beat us 3–1**. Not **won**, because you win a match or a prize, not the other team.

2. He works at a big steel _____ outside the town.
✔ **B) factory**
A **factory** is a building where goods such as steel or cars are made. Not **fabric**, which means cloth in English, even though similar words in other languages mean 'factory'.

3. I congratulated him on winning the _____.
✔ **A) match**
You win a **match**, which is a game or competition between two players or teams. You can't 'win a practice' or 'win a sport'.

4. A _____ of mine, my cousin John, is coming to stay with us.
✔ **E) relative**
A **relative** is a member of your family, such as a cousin, aunt or uncle. The clue is **my cousin John**. Not **parent**, because a cousin is not your mother or father.

5. He has been very _____ since his wife died.
✔ **A) lonely**
Lonely means sad because you are alone and have no company. Not **single**, which only says that someone is not married and does not describe a feeling.

6. As all the hotels in the town were full up, we tried to find accommodation in a _____ village.
✔ **D) nearby**
Nearby is the adjective we use before a noun for a place that is not far away, as in **a nearby village**. **Near** is rarely used before a noun in this way, so **a near village** sounds wrong.

7. The fish sauce was lovely, Janet. Would you mind letting me have the _____ or is it a family secret?
✔ **E) recipe**
A **recipe** is a set of instructions for cooking a dish. Not **receipt**, which is the piece of paper you get after paying for something.

8. His parents died when he was a baby and he was _____ by his aunt.
✔ **B) brought up**
To **bring up** a child means to look after and raise them until they are adults: **He was brought up by his aunt**. Not **grown up**, because **grow up** has no passive form; you grow up yourself.

9. I _____ on seeing the manager. The service here is terrible.
✔ **C) insist**
Insist on + -ing means to demand something firmly and not accept no: **I insist on seeing the manager**. Not **demand**, because it is used without **on**: **I demand to see the manager**.

10. He _____ me of someone I knew at school.
✔ **E) reminds**
Remind somebody of somebody/something means to make you think of a similar person or thing. Not **remembers**, because **remember** doesn't take this pattern (**remind me of**).

11. I _____ £5 from my father because I was short of money.
✔ **B) borrowed**
You **borrow** money **from** someone, which means you take it and give it back later. Not **lent**, because you **lend** money **to** someone.

12. His office is on the sixth _____ of the building.
✔ **B) floor**
A **floor** is one storey of a building, and we say **on the sixth floor**. Not **flat**, which is an apartment that people live in, not a storey of the building.

13. The main interest of the Trade Union is to raise its members' _____ of living.
✔ **E) standard**
Standard of living is a fixed expression meaning how much money and comfort people have. The other words don't combine with **of living**.

14. The _____ for the race to begin was the starter firing a pistol.
✔ **E) signal**
A **signal** is a sound or action that tells people to do something, such as start a race. Not **notice**, which is written information or a warning given in advance.

15. If you leave your bicycle out in the rain, it will get _____.
✔ **D) rusty**
Metal that gets wet becomes **rusty**, which means it is covered with a red-brown coating called rust. The other adjectives have nothing to do with metal and water.

16. It must have rained _____ the night. The ground's still wet.
✔ **B) during**
During + noun tells us when something happened within a period: **during the night**. Not **while**, because it is followed by a clause (**while we were asleep**), not a noun.

17. He's so _____ by nature that he never knows what to say to strangers.
✔ **D) shy**
Shy describes someone who is nervous and quiet with people they don't know. The clue is **by nature** and **never knows what to say to strangers**. Not **embarrassing**, which describes a situation, not a person's character.

18. I want to _____ the car to see how it goes before I buy it.
✔ **E) try out**
To **try out** something means to test it to see how well it works: **try out a car**. Not **try on**, which is used for clothes.

19. A _____ is a person who comes from another country.
✔ **A) foreigner**
A **foreigner** is a person from another country. Not **stranger**, which is any person you don't know, even someone from your own town.

20. When they reached the _____ they had to show their passports before crossing into Germany.
✔ **A) border**
A **border** is the line between two countries, where passports are often checked. Not **edge**, which is the outside end of a surface or area, not a line between countries.

21. They _____ a hundred workers because they had no work for them.
✔ **C) sacked**
To **sack** someone (informal British English) means to dismiss them from their job. Not **resigned**, because you resign yourself; you don't resign other people.

22. At _____ we didn't get on very well but later we became friends.
✔ **B) first**
At first means in the beginning, and it is often followed by a contrast with **later** or **but**. **At beginning** is wrong; you need **at the beginning**.

23. Policemen have to wear _____ because so many people ask them the time.
✔ **D) watches**
A **watch** is a small clock you wear on your wrist, so people can ask you the time. Not **clocks**, because clocks hang on walls or stand on tables and aren't worn.

24. She's happiest when she has a house _____ of people to entertain.
✔ **C) full**
Full of means containing a lot of people or things: **a house full of people**. Not **filled**, because it takes **with**: **a house filled with people**.

25. Don't take what he said so seriously. He was only _____.
✔ **D) joking**
Joking means saying something not seriously, to be funny. The clue is **Don't take what he said so seriously**. Not **funny**, because **He was only funny** is not a natural way to say this.

26. Don't be afraid of the dog. He won't do you any _____.
✔ **B) harm**
Do somebody harm is a fixed expression meaning to hurt or damage them: **He won't do you any harm**. Not **hurt**, because we don't say 'do you any hurt'.

27. I'll pay you back the money I _____ you at the end of the month.
✔ **D) owe**
To **owe** someone money means you have to pay it back to them. Not **lend**, because the speaker is the one who borrowed the money, not the one who gave it.

28. His landlady threw him out because he hadn't paid the _____.
✔ **E) rent**
Rent is the money you pay regularly to live in someone else's house or room. The clue is **landlady**. Not **fee**, which is money paid for a service, such as a doctor's fee.

29. She _____ and fell from the top of the stairs to the bottom.
✔ **A) slipped**
To **slip** means to slide by accident and lose your balance. Not **sloped**, because **slope** describes land that goes up or down; people don't slope.

30. The elephant fell into a _____ the villagers had set for him in the long grass.
✔ **C) trap**
A **trap** is something used to catch animals, and we say **set a trap**. Not **trick**, which is a clever plan to fool someone; you don't 'fall into' a trick that was 'set' in the grass.

31. I _____ of his course of action and told him to go ahead.
✔ **C) approved**
Approve of something means to think it is good or right. Not **agreed** or **consented**, because they take **with** or **to** (**agree with**, **consent to**), not **of**.

32. Emotional speeches often _____ strong feelings.
✔ **B) arouse**
Arouse is a transitive verb meaning to cause a feeling: **arouse strong feelings**. Not **arise**, because it has no object; problems and questions arise by themselves.

33. I took _____ of the opportunity to tell him what I thought.
✔ **A) advantage**
Take advantage of an opportunity means to use it well. The other nouns don't fit the pattern **take … of**.

34. He suffers from a speech _____ and so he cannot pronounce the letter ‘r’ properly.
✓ **B) defect**
A **speech defect** is a physical problem that makes it hard to say certain sounds. Not **error** or **mistake**, which are single wrong actions, not a lasting condition.

35. He’s the greatest _____ expert on French art.
✓ **D) living**
Living goes before a noun to mean 'alive now': **the greatest living expert**. Not **alive**, because it is not normally used before a noun.

36. He never attends _____ at the university so he may not know enough to get his degree.
✓ **A) lectures**
Lectures are talks given to students at a university, and you **attend lectures**. Not **subjects**, because you study subjects; you don't attend them.

37. The weather forecast said it would rain but it looks as if it’s going to _____ fine.
✓ **C) turn out**
Turn out + adjective means to develop or end in a particular way: **It's going to turn out fine** (the weather will be good). Not **turn into**, because it needs a noun after it (**turn into a storm**).

38. He’s fond of _____ his colleagues but he goes on working for the same firm.
✓ **A) running down**
Run somebody down means to criticise them unfairly. The clue is **but he goes on working for the same firm**: he complains about his colleagues, yet he doesn't leave. Not **running into**, which means meeting someone by chance, so there would be no contrast.

39. The plane _____ at 7 o’clock.
✓ **C) took off**
When a plane **takes off**, it leaves the ground and starts flying. Not **took up**, which means starting a hobby or using space or time.

40. My car _____ so I had to walk.
✓ **A) broke down**
When a car or machine **breaks down**, it stops working. Not **broke up**, which is used for relationships ending or things breaking into pieces.

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