ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Upper Level Vocabulary Test 24

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Explanations

1. We _____ goodbye to them as the train left.
✔ **E) waved**
The fixed phrase is **wave goodbye (to someone)**: you move your hand to say goodbye. **Saw off** means going to the station to say goodbye (**We saw them off**), but it cannot take the word 'goodbye' as an object.

2. He will be given a pension when he _____ at the age of 65.
✔ **D) retires**
To **retire** means to stop working because you have reached a certain age, usually with a pension. Not **resigns**, which means leaving a job by choice, at any age.

3. He took a _____ of cigarettes out of his pocket.
✔ **C) packet**
Cigarettes are sold in a **packet** (British English; **pack** in American English): **a packet of cigarettes**. A **parcel** is something wrapped and sent by post.

4. I'm sure you'll _____ the film. It's very good.
✔ **D) enjoy**
You **enjoy** something when you get pleasure from it: **You'll enjoy the film. Amuse**, **delight** and **entertain** work the other way round: the film entertains you, not you the film.

5. He fell in love with her at first _____.
✔ **B) sight**
Love at first sight is a fixed expression. It means falling in love the very first moment you see someone.

6. I'm _____ if I hurt your feelings. Please forgive me.
✔ **E) sorry**
We say **I'm sorry** to apologise, and 'Please forgive me' is the clue. Not **afraid**: **I'm afraid** introduces bad news politely and is not an apology.

7. The doctor has told him that he must not go back to work so soon after such a long _____.
✔ **C) illness**
An **illness** is a period of being ill, so we say **after a long illness**. **Disease** names a particular medical condition (**heart disease**) and is not used for the period of time someone is ill.

8. No one imagined that the apparently _____ businessman was really a criminal.
✔ **B) respectable**
Respectable means seen by people as honest and socially acceptable, which fits the contrast with 'criminal'. Not **respectful**, which means showing respect to others.

9. Where do you _____ the writing paper? In this desk?
✔ **D) keep**
To **keep** something somewhere means to store it there regularly: **Where do you keep the paper? Drawer** is a noun (part of a desk), not a verb.

10. Please _____ your hand if you want to ask a question.
✔ **D) raise**
Raise takes an object, so you **raise your hand**. Not **rise**: it has no object (**The sun rises**).

11. As you are only 16, you must have your parents' _____ before you can get married.
✔ **B) consent**
Consent means official permission or agreement, often for important decisions: **parents' consent**. A **permit** is an official document, and an **allowance** is money given regularly.

12. The bank is offering £500 _____ to anyone who can give them useful information about the robbery.
✔ **D) reward**
A **reward** is money given to someone for helping, for example by giving information to the police. Not **prize**: you win a prize in a competition.

13. How long do you intend to _____ in this country?
✔ **D) stay**
Stay means to remain in a place for a period of time: **How long will you stay here? Rest** means to relax, and **vacate** means to leave a place.

14. She put a _____ of chocolate on the cake.
✔ **C) layer**
A **layer** is a flat amount of something that covers a surface: **a layer of chocolate**. **Cover** is not used with 'a ... of chocolate'.

15. I'll have to take the toy back to the shop to exchange it because the mechanism is _____.
✔ **D) faulty**
Faulty is an adjective meaning 'not working properly', so it fits after **is**: **the mechanism is faulty**. Not **defect**: it is a noun, so you say **the mechanism has a defect**, not **is defect**.

16. Dinner will be served _____ but we have time for a drink before then.
✔ **D) presently**
In British English **presently** can mean 'soon', and 'before then' tells us dinner is in the near future. Not **currently**, which means 'now', so it doesn't fit 'will be served'.

17. He _____ at me to show he appreciated the joke.
✔ **B) grinned**
To **grin** means to smile widely, and it shows he liked the joke. Not **sneered**: to sneer is to smile in an unkind way that shows you don't respect someone.

18. They're _____ to build a new factory here.
✔ **A) planning**
Plan to do something means to intend and prepare to do it. **Think** would need **of/about building**, and **suggest** is followed by **-ing** or a **that**-clause.

19. There's a great _____ of pollution on the beaches this summer.
✔ **A) deal**
A great deal of goes with uncountable nouns like **pollution**. Not **number**, which is used with countable nouns (**a great number of people**).

20. It was not an accident. He did it on _____.
✔ **D) purpose**
On purpose is a fixed phrase meaning deliberately, not by accident. The other nouns don't combine with **on** this way.

21. I've bought some attractive _____ and I'm going to make a dress out of it.
✔ **C) material**
Material means cloth used for making clothes: **I'll make a dress out of this material.** A **pattern** is a design or a paper guide for cutting cloth, and **clothing** means clothes that are already made.

22. Don't touch things that don't _____ to you!
✔ **A) belong**
Belong to someone means to be their property: **These things belong to me.** Not **own** or **possess**: they work the other way round, because the person owns the thing (**I own this bag**), and they are not followed by **to**.

23. There are so many _____ in the road that you have to drive very carefully.
✔ **A) bends**
A **bend** is a curve in a road or river, so you must drive carefully. **Curls** are for hair, and **folds** are for paper or cloth.

24. I like the hat but it doesn't _____ me. Have you got the same thing in a larger size?
✔ **B) fit**
Fit is about size: clothes fit you when they are the right size. The clue is 'in a larger size'. Not **suit**, which means 'look good on you'.

25. I'm very _____ to you for all your help.
✔ **C) grateful**
Grateful to someone for something means thankful. Not **graceful**, which means moving in a smooth, attractive way.

26. The school claims to _____ students all the English they need in three months.
✔ **D) teach**
Teach someone something takes two objects: **teach students English**. Not **learn**: the student learns, and the school teaches.

27. One of the water _____ burst during the recent cold weather and the kitchen was flooded.
✔ **C) pipes**
Water pipes carry water in a building, and they can burst when the water inside freezes. **Tubes** are usually smaller and often flexible.

28. I only _____ a straw hat to protect my head when the sun is very hot.
✔ **E) wear**
You **wear** clothes and hats on your body. **Put on** would be needed for the action of dressing, and **carry** means holding something in your hand.

29. I'm afraid we haven't got what you want in _____ at the moment. We can order it for you.
✔ **D) stock**
In stock means available in the shop now, and **out of stock** means not available. The clue is 'We can order it for you'.

30. I wasn't able to _____ the meeting because I was too busy.
✔ **C) attend**
Attend means to go to an event such as a meeting or class. Not **assist**, which means 'help'.

31. He _____ to hit me if I didn't do as he said.
✔ **D) threatened**
Threaten to do something means saying you will hurt someone if they don't obey. Not **warned**: we say **warn someone (not) to do something**, and it is usually advice, not a threat.

32. He said he was not guilty but the police proved he had _____.
✔ **D) lied**
Lie – lied – lied means to say something untrue. Don't confuse it with **lie – lay – lain** (be flat) and **lay – laid – laid** (put down).

33. I don't feel like swimming. I'd rather sunbathe on the _____.
✔ **A) beach**
A **beach** is an area of sand or small stones by the sea where people sunbathe. **Coast** is the general land along the sea, and a **harbour** is where boats stay.

34. He bought his house on the _____ plan, paying a certain amount of money back to the bank every month.
✔ **B) installment**
An **installment** (British **instalment**) is one of several regular payments. On the **installment plan** you pay a fixed amount every month until the debt is paid.

35. He was the _____ child in the family so he had no brothers or sisters to play with.
✔ **D) only**
An **only child** has no brothers or sisters. Not **lonely**, which means sad because you are alone.

36. I haven't seen him _____ he came to dinner with us last week.
✔ **C) since**
With the present perfect, **since** introduces the starting point of a period (**since he came last week**). **For** is used with a length of time (**for a week**).

37. He'll _____ his shyness when he's older.
✔ **D) get over**
Get over means to recover from or stop having a problem, illness or feeling: **get over his shyness**. **Get away** means to escape.

38. Throw some water on her face and then perhaps she'll _____.
✔ **E) come round**
Come round (British; also **come to**) means to become conscious again after fainting. Not **come back**, which means to return to a place.

39. We've _____ bread. I'll have to go to the baker's to buy some more.
✔ **D) run out of**
Run out of something means to have none left, which is why the speaker must go and buy more: **We've run out of bread.** Not **run over**, which means to hit someone with a vehicle.

40. The good service at the restaurant _____ the poor meal to some extent.
✔ **E) made up for**
Make up for something means to make a bad situation better by doing something good: the good service partly balanced the poor meal. Not **made up**, which means to invent or to form something.

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