ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Upper Level Vocabulary Test 8

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Explanations

1. Yesterday, the pound fell to a _____ low level against the dollar, according to this morning's news.
✔ **C) record**
A record low is the lowest level ever reached. It is a fixed collocation in news about prices and currencies, as in **a record high** and **record temperatures**. Not **final** or **last**: these do not mean 'the lowest ever'.

2. Even the most detached and indifferent spectator can be _____ away by enthusiasm at a horserace.
✔ **A) carried**
Be carried away means to become so excited that you lose control of your feelings or behaviour. Example: **The crowd got carried away and ran onto the pitch.** Not **moved**: we say **moved to tears**, not **moved away by** a feeling.

3. The young performers _____ and held the audience's attention from the moment the curtain went up.
✔ **A) caught**
We **catch** someone's attention when we attract it, and we **hold** it when we keep it. **Caught and held the audience's attention** is a natural collocation. Not **took**: we do not say **take someone's attention**.

4. She was very _____ when I told her my pet dog had died.
✔ **A) sympathetic**
Sympathetic means showing that you understand and care about someone's sadness or problems. This fits the news that a pet has died. Not **pitiful**: it means 'making people feel pity' or 'very poor', not 'kind and understanding'.

5. What were John and Mary _____ about when you came into the room?
✔ **E) talking**
The natural phrase for a conversation between people is **talk about** something: **What were they talking about?** Not **discussing**: **discuss** takes a direct object with no **about** (**discuss the plan**).

6. I don't smoke, but I don't object to _____ people smoking.
✔ **C) other**
Other goes before plural nouns to mean 'people or things apart from the one already mentioned': **other people**. Not **another**: it is used only with singular nouns (**another person**).

7. I like your new red dress. The colour _____ you.
✔ **C) suits**
A colour or style **suits** you when it makes you look attractive: **Red suits you.** Not **fits**: **fit** is about the right size, e.g. **The dress fits me perfectly.**

8. Mr. Jones wants to know if he can have a _____ with you.
✔ **B) word**
Have a word with someone means to speak to them briefly, often about something private or important. Example: **Can I have a word with you after the meeting?** Not **speech** or **lecture**: these are given to an audience.

9. Mrs. Brown has cleaned the house from _____ to bottom.
✔ **C) top**
From top to bottom is a fixed phrase meaning 'completely, every part of something'. Example: **We searched the house from top to bottom.**

10. Alice is tall and slim and has a beautiful _____.
✔ **D) figure**
Figure means the shape of a person's body, especially a woman's: **She has a beautiful figure.** Not **shape**: we say **in good shape** for fitness, but **a beautiful figure** for someone's body.

11. Mrs. Brown's children have very good manners because they have been well _____.
✔ **D) brought up**
Bring up a child means to raise and educate them at home, so **well brought up** children have good manners. Not **brought round**: that means 'made someone conscious again' or 'persuaded'.

12. My father is very _____ with his hands.
✔ **E) clever**
Clever with your hands means good at making or repairing things. Example: **She's clever with her hands and makes her own furniture.** Not **intelligent**: it describes the mind and is not used with **with his hands**.

13. Mrs. Brown is offering a _____ of £50 to anyone who finds her diamond ring.
✔ **C) reward**
A **reward** is money given to someone for finding something lost or for helping, e.g. **a reward for information**. Not **prize**: you win a prize in a competition.

14. I should be _____ if you would answer my letter by return.
✓ **C) glad**
I should be glad/grateful if you would… is a polite formal phrase used in letters to make a request. Not **kind**: we say **It would be kind of you to…**, not **I should be kind if…**

15. He will pass his examination if he works _____.
✓ **C) hard**
Work hard means work with a lot of effort. Here **hard** is an adverb, the same form as the adjective. Not **strongly**: it does not collocate with **work**.

16. Mary is very _____ because she has failed her examination.
✓ **E) upset**
Upset means unhappy or worried because something bad has happened, such as failing an exam. Not **sensitive**: it means 'easily hurt' as a personality trait, not a reaction to one event.

17. My father told me never _____ a lie.
✓ **C) to tell**
The collocation is **tell a lie**, as in **tell the truth** and **tell a story**. Not **make** or **do**: we never say **make a lie** or **do a lie**.

18. Mrs. Brown's children are always as good as _____.
✓ **B) gold**
As good as gold is an idiom for children who behave very well. Example: **The kids were as good as gold all day.**

19. My cousin, who lives in France, is _____ me French.
✓ **B) teaching**
Teach someone something follows the pattern **teach me French**: the cousin gives the lessons. Not **learning**: the learner learns, so it would be **I am learning French from my cousin**.

20. Peter has not got the right _____ for that job.
✓ **C) qualifications**
Qualifications are the exams passed, degrees or skills that make you suitable for a job: **the right qualifications for the job**. Not **examinations**: these are the tests themselves, not what you have after passing them.

21. The Stephensons' house was _____ by thieves last night.
✓ **A) broken into**
Break into a building means to enter it by force in order to steal. Its passive is **was broken into**. Not **broken in**: it has no object (**Thieves broke in last night**), so we cannot say **the house was broken in by thieves**.

22. The fishermen said that the high wind had made the sea very _____.
✓ **D) rough**
A **rough** sea has big waves because of strong wind. Its opposite is **calm**, which does not fit with **high wind**.

23. Three masked men _____ the city bank early this morning.
✓ **A) robbed**
You **rob** a place or a person, but you **steal** money or things: **They robbed the bank** / **They stole the money**. Not **stole**, because its object would have to be the thing taken, not the bank.

24. I can't remember _____ told me Mary had gone to Spain.
✓ **D) who**
Who asks about a person, and here it is the subject of **told**: **I can't remember who told me.** Not **whose**: it needs a noun after it (**whose friend**).

25. Can you tell the _____ between margarine and butter?
✓ **D) difference**
Tell the difference between A and B means to recognise how two things are different. Example: **I can't tell the difference between the twins.**

26. Could you give me a _____? I've forgotten my matches.
✓ **B) light**
Give someone a light means to let them light their cigarette with your match or lighter. Not **fire** or **flame**: these are not used in this fixed phrase.

27. The company gave my father a gold watch when he _____.
✓ **C) retired**
Retire means to stop working, usually because of age. A gold watch is a traditional retirement gift. Not **retreated**: it means 'moved back', e.g. an army retreating.

28. You can't _____ how frightened I was when I first saw an elephant.
✓ **E) imagine**
You can't imagine how… is a common way to stress strong feelings: **You can't imagine how happy I was.** Not **suppose** or **assume**: they mean 'think something is probably true' and are not used in this pattern.

29. When my sister was in the hospital, she was _____ by a well-known surgeon.
✓ **C) operated on**
Operate on someone means a surgeon performs surgery on them. The passive is **she was operated on by a surgeon**. Not **worked on**: it is used for things like cars or projects, not for surgery.

30. If you ask Martin, he will explain _____ of cricket to you.
✓ **E) the rules**
Games and sports have **rules**: **the rules of cricket/football/chess**. Not **regulations**: this word is used for official rules made by organisations, not for how a game is played.

31. We arrived late because there was a traffic _____.
✓ **B) jam**
A **traffic jam** is a long line of vehicles that cannot move or move very slowly. Example: **We were stuck in a traffic jam for an hour.**

32. I had to wait _____ for an answer to my letter.
✓ **E) a long while**
A long while means a long time, so **wait a long while** is natural. Not **a period** or **an interval**: they need more information (**a period of two weeks**) and do not fit after **wait** alone.

33. Call for me at any time that _____ you.
✓ **C) suits**
A time **suits** you when it is convenient for you: **Come at any time that suits you.** Not **fits**: we say **fits in with your plans**, not **a time fits you**.

34. I am very _____ in architecture.
✓ **A) interested**
Interested in describes how a person feels: **I am interested in architecture.** Not **interesting**: it describes the thing that causes the feeling (**Architecture is interesting**).

35. The meeting has been _____ till next Thursday.
✓ **B) put off**
Put off means postpone, i.e. move something to a later time: **The meeting has been put off till Thursday.** Not **put away**: it means 'put something back in its place'.

36. A circle is a different _____ from a square.
✓ **A) shape**
Shape is the outline or form of something, such as a circle, square or triangle. Not **shade**: it means a variety of a colour, or an area out of the sun.

37. Could you _____ me £5? I'll pay you back tomorrow.
✓ **C) lend**
Lend means give something to someone for a short time: **Could you lend me £5?** Not **borrow**: that is what the person receiving does (**Could I borrow £5 from you?**).

38. You can't smoke here. It's _____.
✓ **D) prohibited**
Prohibited means not allowed by a rule or law: **Smoking is prohibited.** Not **allowed**: it means the opposite, so it does not fit **You can't smoke here**.

39. I don't believe you; you must be _____ my leg.
✓ **D) pulling**
Pull someone's leg is an idiom meaning to joke with someone by telling them something untrue. Example: **Don't worry, I'm only pulling your leg.**

40. It's very cold; the temperature is several _____ below zero.
✓ **D) degrees**
Temperature is measured in **degrees**: **five degrees below zero**. **Ounces** measure weight and **inches** measure length.

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