ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Upper Level Vocabulary Test 9

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Explanations

1. _____ you hurry up, you'll miss the bus.
✔ **E) Unless**
Unless means **if not**: **Unless you hurry up** = **If you don't hurry up**, you'll miss the bus. Not **If**, because **If you hurry up, you'll miss the bus** makes no sense.

2. The court decided that the man had committed a serious _____ and had to pay a large fine.
✔ **D) crime**
The verb **commit** goes with bad or illegal actions: **commit a crime**. We do not say **commit damage** or **commit harm**; we **cause** damage or harm.

3. I was walking along the street when I accidentally _____ my friend.
✔ **A) bumped into**
Bump into someone means to meet them by chance: **I bumped into an old friend in town.** The word **accidentally** is the clue.

4. The doctor took his temperature and felt his _____.
✔ **D) pulse**
Your **pulse** is the beat of your heart that a doctor can feel, usually at your wrist. Doctors **take your temperature** and **feel/take your pulse**.

5. It's my _____ that it's going to rain.
✔ **B) opinion**
It's my opinion that... means **I think that...**. Not **option**, which means a choice; **It's my thought that** is not natural English.

6. This book is too _____; I don't understand it.
✔ **D) obscure**
Obscure means not clear and difficult to understand: **The meaning of the poem is rather obscure.** Not **dark** or **blank**, which describe light or empty space, not ideas.

7. She was very inquisitive and she didn't _____ to hide her curiosity.
✔ **C) attempt**
Attempt to do something means try to do it. She didn't even **try** to hide her curiosity. Not **affect/effect**, which mean to influence and a result.

8. She wanted to buy a modern dress; she didn't want an old-_____ one.
✔ **D) fashioned**
Old-fashioned means no longer modern or in style; it is the opposite of **modern** in the first part of the sentence. **Old-styled** or **old-looked** are not normal English.

9. What _____ is your car?
✔ **C) make**
The **make** of a car is the company that produced it: **What make is your car? – It's a Toyota.** Not **mark**, which is not used this way in English.

10. He was a very _____ driver and had a lot of accidents.
✔ **B) careless**
Careless means not paying attention, so you make mistakes; the clue is **had a lot of accidents**. **Careful** and **cautious** mean the opposite.

11. The _____ gave the new film a very good review.
✔ **A) critics**
Critics are people whose job is to judge films, books, plays, etc. and write **reviews** of them. Reporters write news, not reviews.

12. Grandmother lets the children do anything they like, so they are completely _____.
✔ **A) spoilt**
A **spoilt** (US **spoiled**) child behaves badly because they always get what they want. **Damaged**, **hurt** and **injured** are about physical harm.

13. The manager asked me to _____ the contract for my new job.
✔ **C) sign**
You **sign** a contract: you write your name on it to show that you agree. Not **design** or **write**, because the employer prepares the contract, not you.

14. _____ for the post of Senior Clerk must be received by March 10th.
✔ **D) Applications**
An **application** is a formal request for a job: **applications for the post must be received by...**. Not **proposals**, which are plans or suggestions.

15. Mr. Hobson has had to _____ his job because of ill-health.
✔ **B) give up**
Give up a job means stop doing it: he left his job because he was ill. Not **give in**, which means stop fighting and accept defeat.

16. My English teacher _____ me to try for a place at university.
✔ **E) encouraged**
Encourage someone to do something means give them support and confidence to do it. Not **suggested** or **insisted**: we say **suggested that I try** and **insisted that I try**, not **suggested me to** or **insisted me to**.

17. I _____ you £5 that Peter will win the race on Saturday.
✓ **B) bet**
Bet means risk money on what will happen: **I bet you £5 that…**. Not **gamble**, which is not followed by a person and an amount in this way.

18. Mary had to be taken to the hospital after her _____.
✓ **D) accident**
An **accident** is an unexpected event in which someone is hurt, e.g. a car accident. **Happening** and **occurrence** are too general, and a **dilemma** is a difficult choice.

19. I shall never _____ the time when I was lost in London without any money.
✓ **C) forget**
I shall never forget means I will always remember it. Not **remember**, because **never remember** would mean the opposite of what the speaker wants to say about such a memorable event.

20. Mary is almost well again now, but she still looks rather _____.
✓ **E) pale**
Pale means having less colour in your face than usual, often after an illness. Not **faded**, which is used for colours of clothes or photos.

21. I feel so sleepy, I can hardly _____ my eyes open.
✓ **B) keep**
Keep your eyes open means stop them from closing. **Keep + object + adjective** describes a state that continues: **keep the door open**.

22. After walking four miles in the pouring rain, the children were _____.
✓ **E) drenched**
Drenched means completely wet: the clue is **pouring rain**. **Damp** and **moist** mean only a little wet, and **humid** describes the air.

23. The Grand Hotel _____ five pounds for a single room with bath.
✓ **C) charges**
Charge means ask an amount of money for something: **The hotel charges £5 a night.** Not **prices**, which is not used with an amount like this.

24. The thief _____ my handbag and ran off down the street.
✓ **B) snatched**
Snatch means take something quickly and roughly: **The thief snatched my bag.** Not **caught**, which means stopped something that was moving.

25. I thought the problem of pollution would _____ at the meeting but no one mentioned it.
✓ **D) come up**
Come up means be mentioned or discussed: **The topic came up at the meeting.** The clue is **no one mentioned it**. Not **come round**, which means visit or become conscious again.

26. Jane's new blue dress _____ her coat perfectly.
✓ **B) matches**
Match means look good together because of colour or style: **Her dress matches her coat.** Not **fits**, which is about the right size: **The dress fits her.**

27. When I came in, John and Mary _____ about the best way to learn English.
✓ **E) were talking**
Talk about something means have a conversation on a topic. Not **were discussing**, because **discuss** takes a direct object with no **about**: **discuss the best way**. **Say** and **tell** are not used with **about** in this way.

28. Let's go into the garden and _____ some roses to take to your mother.
✓ **B) pick**
Pick flowers or fruit means take them from the plant: **pick some roses**. Not **pull** or **dig**, which would mean taking out the whole plant.

29. Would you go upstairs and _____ my handbag, please?
✓ **D) fetch**
Fetch means go to another place and bring something back: **go upstairs and fetch my bag**. Not **take**, which means move something away from the speaker.

30. The houses with even numbers are on the left side of the street and those with _____ numbers are on the right.
✓ **A) odd**
Odd numbers (1, 3, 5…) are the opposite of **even** numbers (2, 4, 6…). **Unequal** and **irregular** are not used for numbers in this way.

31. There is an index _____ of this book.
✓ **D) at the end**
We use **at the end of** for the last part of something: **There is an index at the end of this book.** Not **in the end**, which means **finally**; **on the end** is used for something fixed to the very end of an object, e.g. **a hook on the end of a rope**.

32. It was so cold that the water in the lake _____.
✓ **C) froze**
Freeze (past **froze**) means turn into ice because of cold. Not **iced**, which means covered with ice or sugar icing.

33. John _____ his examination but his brother failed.
✓ **D) passed**
Pass an exam is the opposite of **fail an exam**. Not **succeeded**, because it needs **in**: **succeeded in his exam**.

34. The Government will have to _____ this proposal very carefully.
✓ **D) look into**
Look into means examine or investigate something: **The police are looking into the problem.** Not **look up**, which means find information in a book or online.

35. Every morning I do the crossword _____ in the newspaper.
✓ **B) puzzle**
A **crossword puzzle** is a word game in a newspaper where you fill in squares with words. **Puzzle** is the fixed word in this phrase.

36. The Post Office is only a few yards _____.
✓ **E) up the road**
Up the road (or **down the road**) means a short distance along the same street: **The shop is just up the road.** Not **on the road**, which is about traffic or travelling.

37. Will you help me _____ this parcel, please?
✔ **A) tie up**
Tie up a parcel means fasten it with string. Not **tie in**, which means connect with or agree with something else.

38. If you didn't keep scratching that spot on your face, it would soon _____.
✔ **D) heal**
Heal means become healthy again, used for wounds and skin: **The cut healed quickly.** Not **cure**, which needs an object: **the cream cured the spot**.

39. Mary has given me a _____ for chocolate cake.
✔ **E) recipe**
A **recipe** tells you how to cook something: **a recipe for chocolate cake**. Not **prescription**, which is a doctor's note for medicine.

40. Mrs. Simpson _____ £1000 to the Dogs' Home when she died.
✔ **B) left**
Leave (past **left**) money to someone means give it to them after you die, in your will. The clue is **when she died**.

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