ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Use of English Vocabulary Test K

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Explanations

1. **(Please note: Questions 1-15 are part of a cloze test. They are interrelated, meaning that the information provided in each question is connected to the others.)**

Yachtswoman

Lisa Clayton's dream was to become the first woman in history to sail single-handed, non-stop and unassisted around the world. On 17 September 1994, she set sail in Spirit of Birmingham on what could have been the final _____ of her life. Here are some of her notes on the journey.
✔ **C) journey**
A **journey** is a trip from one place to another, especially a long one, and **the final journey of her life** is a fixed way of talking about a dangerous trip. Not **travel**: it is uncountable and can't follow **the final**. An **excursion** or a **tour** is a short trip for pleasure or sightseeing.

2. Day 182

The loneliness got worse _____ the day.
✔ **B) by**
By the day means 'each day, gradually'. **Get worse by the day** is a common fixed phrase. **From day to day** exists, but **from the day** does not have this meaning.

3. When you haven't _____ a ship or land for four months, _____ talked to anyone, it really gets you _____.
✔ **C) passed**
Pass a ship means to go past it at sea, so you see it. She means she hasn't seen any ship or land for four months. Not **crossed**: you cross a sea or a road, not a ship.

4. When you haven't _____ a ship or land for four months, _____ talked to anyone, it really gets you _____.
✔ **A) let alone**
Let alone means 'and certainly not'. It comes after a negative and adds something even less likely: she hasn't even seen a ship, so of course she hasn't talked to anyone. **Not only** needs **but also**, and **without even** would need **talking**, not **talked**.

5. When you haven't _____ a ship or land for four months, _____ talked to anyone, it really gets you _____. The sense of isolation is frightening.
✔ **D) down**
Get someone down is a phrasal verb that means 'make someone feel sad or depressed'. The next sentence, **the sense of isolation is frightening**, confirms this negative feeling. **Get you back**, **out** or **off** have completely different meanings.

6. Day 217

I _____ a lot of my trip feeling frustrated and frightened, _____ it was because of the _____ winds, a broken heater or the sharks.
✔ **B) spent**
We use **spend** + time + **-ing** for how time passes: **I spent a lot of my trip feeling frustrated**. **Took** and **had** don't work in this pattern, and **stayed** needs a place, not a period of time.

7. I _____ a lot of my trip feeling frustrated and frightened, _____ it was because of the _____ winds, a broken heater or the sharks.
✔ **A) whether**
Whether it was X, Y or Z means 'it didn't matter which of these things was the cause'. Not **either**: it needs **or** in a pair, as in **either the winds or the heater**, and doesn't fit **either it was**. **If** can't introduce a list of alternatives like this.

8. I _____ a lot of my trip feeling frustrated and frightened, _____ it was because of the _____ winds, a broken heater or the sharks.
✔ **D) light**
Light winds is the usual collocation for winds that are not strong. For a sailor, light winds are frustrating because the boat moves slowly. **Weak** and **low** winds are not natural collocations, and **mild** describes weather or temperature.

9. I remember thinking, 'This is crazy!' The sun was out, the sea was _____ and here I was _____ tears!
✔ **A) sparkling**
Sparkling means shining with many small points of light. It is the typical word for water in the sunshine: **the sea was sparkling**. **Glowing** is a steady soft light, and **flickering** and **flashing** describe lights going on and off.

10. The sun was out, the sea was _____ and here I was _____ tears!
✔ **B) in**
In tears means 'crying'. The contrast is clear: the weather was beautiful, but she was crying. **Full** would need **of**, as in **full of tears**, and **down with** is used for illnesses (**down with flu**).

11. Then I saw the most wonderful _____ - a 12 m whale which swam _____ the boat for hours.
✔ **C) sight**
A **sight** is something you see that is interesting or impressive, often an animal or an event: **a wonderful sight**. Not **view**: a view is what you see of a landscape from a place. **Scenery** is uncountable and means the natural landscape.

12. Then I saw the most wonderful _____ - a 12 m whale which swam _____ the boat for hours.
✓ A) alongside
Alongside means 'next to and moving beside'. The whale swam beside the boat for hours. **Close** would need **to** (**close to the boat**), and **besides** means 'in addition to', not 'next to'.

13. Day 286

Two days before I crossed the _____ line a helicopter came out scanning the seas for me.
✓ C) finishing
The finishing line is the fixed expression for the line that marks the end of a race. American English uses **finish line**. **Final line** and **last line** refer to the last line of a text, not a race.

14. That's when I finally thought, 'I'm going to do it.' About 50 boats escorted me into the harbour where thousands of people were waiting, _____ me on.
✓ B) cheering
Cheer someone on means to shout to encourage someone, especially someone finishing a race or challenge. Only **cheer** combines with **on** this way. **Shouting**, **crying** and **screaming** don't form this phrasal verb.

15. And, as I docked, fireworks and cannons _____. It was just mad!
✓ D) went off
Fireworks and guns **go off** when they explode or are fired: **fireworks went off**. Not **set off**: people set off fireworks, so here it would need the passive, **were set off**. **Broke out** is used for wars or fires starting, and **let out** means to release a sound.

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