ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Use of English Vocabulary Test M

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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.)**

A Hectic Time

Dear Trevor,

I know it's been ages since I wrote to you but I've been very busy _____ we decided to move into the country.
✔ **B) ever since**
Ever since means 'from that time until now'. It goes with the present perfect **I've been very busy**: the busy period started when they decided to move and is still going on. Not **while**, because **while** describes two things happening at the same time, not a starting point.

2. The house in the village is not quite ready _____ but as you can imagine _____ the last few weeks we've had to chase up builders and plumbers and we've _____ got a long way to go.
✔ **C) yet**
Yet is used at the end of negative sentences for something we expect to happen but that hasn't happened: **not quite ready yet**. Not **still**, because **still** comes before the verb and doesn't go at the end of a negative like this.

3. The house in the village is not quite ready _____ but as you can imagine _____ the last few weeks we've had to chase up builders and plumbers and we've _____ got a long way to go.
✔ **A) for**
We use **for** + a period of time with the present perfect: **for the last few weeks we've had to…**. Not **since**, because **since** needs a starting point (**since May**), not a length of time.

4. The house in the village is not quite ready _____ but as you can imagine _____ the last few weeks we've had to chase up builders and plumbers and we've _____ got a long way to go.
✔ **D) still**
Still shows that something is continuing: **we've still got a long way to go**, so there is a lot of work left. Not **already**, because it means something is finished earlier than expected, which doesn't match 'a long way to go'.

5. It's been such a long time since we _____ to work on it.
✔ **D) started**
After **It's been a long time since…** we use the past simple for the finished action at the start: **since we started**. Not **have started**, because the starting point is a finished past moment.

6. I've almost forgotten how long it's been exactly. We must have started it about seven years _____ and we've _____ spent a small fortune on it.
✔ **B) ago**
Ago comes after a period of time to show how far back in the past something happened: **seven years ago**. Not **before**, which needs another past point (**seven years before that**), and not **since**, which needs a starting point.

7. We must have started it about seven years _____ and we've _____ spent a small fortune on it.
✔ **C) already**
Already with the present perfect shows something has happened, often sooner or more than expected: **we've already spent a small fortune**. Not **yet**, which is used in questions and negatives, usually at the end.

8. We are _____ living in our rather cramped flat where you _____ us a few years ago but it _____ to get unbearable and we _____ to moving out.
✔ **B) still**
Still shows a situation continues longer than expected: they **are still living** in the small flat because the house isn't ready. Not **already**, because the continuing situation is the point, not something happening early.

9. We are _____ living in our rather cramped flat where you _____ us a few years ago but it _____ to get unbearable and we _____ to moving out.
✔ **D) visited**
A few years ago refers to a finished time in the past, so we use the past simple: **where you visited us**. Not **have visited**, because the present perfect isn't used with **ago**.

10. We are _____ living in our rather cramped flat where you _____ us a few years ago but it _____ to get unbearable and we _____ to moving out.
✔ **B) is beginning**
The present continuous **is beginning** describes a situation that is changing now: the flat **is beginning to get unbearable**. Not **begins**, because the present simple is for habits and facts, not a gradual change happening now.

11. We are _____ living in our rather cramped flat where you _____ us a few years ago but it _____ to get unbearable and we _____ to moving out.
✔ **D) are looking forward**
Look forward to + -ing means to feel happy about something in the future; we usually use it in the continuous form: **we are looking forward to moving out**. Not **have looked**, because it is missing **forward** and doesn't fit the meaning.

12. We are still _____ around from morning _____ night and it's been particularly hectic _____ the last week.
✓ C) rushing
After **We are still** we need the -ing form to make the present continuous: **We are still rushing around**. Not **rushed**, because **are rushed** would be passive and changes the meaning.

13. We are still _____ around from morning _____ night and it's been particularly hectic _____ the last week.
✓ C) till
The fixed phrase is **from morning till night** (or **until night**), meaning all day long. Not **through**, because the pattern **from… till/to…** gives the start and end points.

14. We are still _____ around from morning _____ night and it's been particularly hectic _____ the last week.
✓ A) during
During + a noun phrase refers to a period of time: **hectic during the last week**. Not **while**, because **while** must be followed by a clause (subject + verb), not a noun phrase.

15. Anyway, _____ all this was going on, Karen fell and sprained her ankle, which was the last thing we needed!
✓ C) while
While is a conjunction and is followed by a clause: **while all this was going on**. Not **during**, because **during** must be followed by a noun (**during the move**), not a subject + verb.

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