ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Use of English Vocabulary Test N

Use of English Vocabulary Tests · 15 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
https://englishtestsonline.com/use-of-english-vocabulary-test-n/

1	**B**	2	**C**	3	**D**	4	**D**	5	**B**	6	**A**	7	**B**	8	**C**	9	**A**	10	**D**
11	**D**	12	**D**	13	**C**	14	**C**	15	**D**										

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.)**

The Mystery Of The Marie Celeste

We spotted the Marie Celeste drifting in the mid-Atlantic on December 5, 1872. Since the ship looked damaged, the captain said the three of us _____ board her at once _____ investigate and _____ him back any information we could get hold of.
✔ **B) had to**
The ship looked damaged, so boarding it was an obligation in the past. Use **had to** + base verb: **the three of us had to board her**. Not **ought**, because it needs **to** (**ought to board**).

2. Since the ship looked damaged, the captain said the three of us _____ board her at once _____ investigate and _____ him back any information we could get hold of.
✔ **C) in order to**
To show purpose before a base verb, use **in order to** + verb: **in order to investigate**. Not **so that** or **in order that**, because they need a subject and a verb after them (**so that we could investigate**).

3. Since the ship looked damaged, the captain said the three of us _____ board her at once _____ investigate and _____ him back any information we could get hold of.
✔ **D) bring**
Bring means carry something towards the speaker or the person who asked for it. The information goes back to the captain, so **bring him back any information**. Not **take**, which means carry something away from here.

4. We _____ climb on board without too much difficulty but we couldn't see any sign of life anywhere.
✔ **D) were able to**
For success on one occasion in the past, use **were able to** + verb: **We were able to climb on board**. Not **managed**, because it needs **to** (**managed to climb**).

5. The crew of the Marie Celeste _____ have abandoned ship _____ the ship's small lifeboat was missing.
✔ **B) must**
Must have + past participle is a strong guess about the past based on evidence. The missing lifeboat is the evidence, so **The crew must have abandoned ship**. Not **can't**, because that would mean they certainly did not leave. **Can have** is not used for positive guesses about the past.

6. The crew of the Marie Celeste _____ have abandoned ship _____ the ship's small lifeboat was missing.
✔ **A) since**
A full clause (subject + verb) follows the gap: **the lifeboat was missing**. Only the conjunction **since** (= because) can introduce a clause. **On account of**, **as a result of** and **owing to** must be followed by a noun phrase.

7. Some navigational equipment which a ship of that kind _____ had on board was also missing.
✔ **B) should have**
Should have + past participle describes what was expected in the past: a ship like that **should have had** this equipment on board. Not **should be**, because **should be had** makes no sense here.

8. The crew _____ had much time to abandon ship because they had not _____ with them many of their personal possessions.
✔ **C) couldn't have**
Couldn't have + past participle is a confident negative guess about the past. The clue is that they left many possessions behind, so they **couldn't have had** much time. Not **must not**, because it can't be followed by **had**.

9. The crew _____ had much time to abandon ship because they had not _____ with them many of their personal possessions.
✔ **A) taken**
Take something with you means carry it away when you leave a place. The crew left the ship without many possessions, so they **had not taken** them. Not **fetched**, which means go somewhere and bring something back.

10. Luckily, we _____ to find the ship's log which helped us a great deal in our _____.
✔ **D) managed**
Managed to + verb means succeeded in doing something difficult: **we managed to find the log**. The **to** after the gap fits only **managed**. **Could** is not followed by **to**, and **able** needs **were** (**were able to**).

11. Luckily, we _____ to find the ship's log which helped us a great deal in our _____.
✔ **D) investigation**
An **investigation** is a careful search for the facts about something. The sailors boarded the ship to **investigate**, so the log helped them in their **investigation**.

12. The last time the captain of the Marie Celeste had _____ an entry in the ship's log was November 25.
✓ D) made
The usual phrase is **make an entry** (write a record in a log or diary): **had made an entry**. After **had** we need a past participle. Not **wrote**, because it is the past simple; the participle would be **written**.

13. Something extraordinary must have taken _____ between this date and December 5.
✓ C) place
Take place means happen: **Something extraordinary must have taken place**. **Take part** means join in, and **take care** means be careful.

14. The captain of the ship, Benjamin Briggs, had extensive _____ of the high seas so what had made him _____ the decision to abandon ship in the middle of nowhere?
✓ C) experience
Experience of something means knowledge you get from doing it for a long time. The captain had sailed for years, so he had **extensive experience of the high seas**. Not **travel**: we say **travel on the seas**, not **travel of**.

15. The captain of the ship, Benjamin Briggs, had extensive _____ of the high seas so what had made him _____ the decision to abandon ship in the middle of nowhere?
✓ D) take
In British English we **take a decision** (or **make a decision**): **what had made him take the decision**. Not **choose**, because we **choose** an option, not a decision.

Practise more on englishtestsonline.com
Take this test online, download its questions PDF, and find thousands of free English tests:
englishtestsonline.com · scan the code for this test
englishtestsonline.com