ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Verbal Advantage – Level 02 Review Test

Verbal Advantage - Level 01-10 Vocabulary Tests · 34 questions · Online test and questions PDF: https://englishtestsonline.com/verbal-advantage-level-02-review-test/

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Explanations

1. When you read, the best thing you can do to help build your vocabulary is _____.
✓ **A) look for words you don't know**
Verbal Advantage teaches that you should actively **look for words you don't know** while reading, notice them and then look them up, rather than skipping over them. Not **guess from context**: the book warns that context alone often leads to vague or wrong ideas of a word's meaning.

2. Which word means exuding a fragrance, aromatic?
✓ **B) redolent**
Redolent means giving off a pleasant smell, fragrant (**a kitchen redolent of fresh bread**). It can also mean suggestive of something. Not **ambient**, which means surrounding (**ambient noise**).

3. Which one of the following words denotes a coin collector?
✓ **D) numismatist**
A **numismatist** collects or studies coins and medals (Greek **nomisma**, coin). Not **philatelist**, which is a stamp collector. A **sommelier** is a wine waiter and a **prestidigitator** is a magician.

4. Which word means to report widely, spread the word?
✓ **C) bruit**
To **bruit** (usually **bruit about**) means to spread a report or rumour widely (**The news was bruited about the office**). **Aver** means to state firmly, **eschew** to avoid, and **impugn** to attack as false.

5. Which word means softening, soothing?
✓ **B) emollient**
Emollient means softening or soothing, to the skin or, figuratively, to feelings (**an emollient reply**). Not **enervating**, which means weakening or draining energy.

6. Which word means belonging or native to a particular country or region?
✓ **A) indigenous**
Indigenous means native to a particular place (**indigenous plants**). Not **ingenuous**, which looks similar but means innocent and unsuspecting.

7. Which word means arousing sexual desire?
✓ **D) salacious**
Salacious means lustful or arousing sexual desire (**salacious gossip**). Not **carnal**, which simply means relating to the body and its appetites, not arousing desire. **Clandestine** means secret.

8. Which word means careful and persistent?
✓ **C) assiduous**
Assiduous describes someone who works with steady, careful, persistent effort (**an assiduous student**). Not **incessant**, which means never stopping, without the idea of care.

9. Which pair of words is not synonymous?
✓ **B) rudeness, rancor**
Rancor is deep, bitter, long-lasting resentment, much stronger than mere **rudeness**, so this pair is not synonymous. The other pairs all express hostility or ill will.

10. What is the proper pronunciation of poignant?
✓ **B) POYN-yint**
In **poignant** the g is silent and the gn sounds like the ny in canyon: **POYN-yint**. **POYG-nint** is a spelling pronunciation, and **POY-int** drops the n sound.

11. In convocation, the prefix con- means _____.
✓ **A) together**
The Latin prefix **con-** (also **com-**, **col-**) means **together** or with. A **convocation** is a calling together of people for a meeting.

12. Which of the following is not characteristic of a tirade?
✓ **C) It is enigmatic.**
A **tirade** is a long (**protracted**), angry, critical (**censorious**), abusive (**vituperative**) speech. It is not **enigmatic**: a tirade is usually all too clear, not mysterious.

13. What is the proper pronunciation of clandestine?
✓ **C) klan-DES-tin**
Elster recommends **klan-DES-tin**: stress on the second syllable, and a short final i as in **tin**. The versions ending in **-tyn** or **-teen**, and those stressing the first syllable, are newer variants that he advises against.

14. Vocal, vocational, and evocative come from the Latin vocare, which means _____.
✓ **A) to call**
Latin **vocare** means **to call** (related to **vox**, voice). A **vocation** is a calling, and something **evocative** calls up memories or feelings.

15. Who wrote the classic guide, Modern English Usage?
✓ **C) H. W. Fowler**
H. W. Fowler wrote **A Dictionary of Modern English Usage** (1926), the classic guide to usage. Not **Theodore M. Bernstein**, who wrote **The Careful Writer**. **Noah Webster** is known for his dictionary.

16. In which phrase is periphery used figuratively?
✔ **A) the periphery of experience**
Periphery literally means the outer edge of a physical area, as in **the periphery of town**. **The periphery of experience** uses it figuratively, for the edge of something abstract.

17. What is the nadir?
✔ **A) the lowest point**
The **nadir** is the lowest point (**the nadir of his career**). Its opposite, the highest point, is the **zenith**.

18. In modern usage, lucre usually implies _____.
✔ **B) ill-gotten gains**
Lucre means money or profit, but today it is used disapprovingly to suggest money gained dishonestly: **ill-gotten gains**, as in the phrase **filthy lucre**.

19. In which part of a newspaper are you most likely to come across words you can add to your vocabulary?
✔ **C) the editorial page**
Elster points out that **the editorial page** (editorials, opinion columns, letters) uses the most sophisticated vocabulary in a newspaper, so it is the best place to find new words.

20. Which of the following is least likely to make a person haggard?
✔ **B) eating too much**
Haggard means looking exhausted, thin and worn, as from overwork, lack of sleep, worry or hunger. **Eating too much** is least likely to cause such a gaunt, wasted look.

21. Improvident, prodigal, profligate, and spendthrift all mean _____.
✔ **D) wasteful**
All four words describe someone who spends money recklessly: **wasteful**. A **prodigal** son, for example, wastes his inheritance. Not **foolish**, which is too general.

22. Which word is not a synonym of verbose?
✔ **D) taciturn**
Verbose means using too many words. **Prolix**, **voluble**, **garrulous** and **loquacious** all refer to wordiness or talkativeness. **Taciturn** is the opposite: habitually silent, saying very little.

23. The phrase “a paragon of American ingenuity” would best describe which person?
✔ **B) Thomas Alva Edison**
A **paragon** is a perfect model or example. **Ingenuity** means inventive cleverness, so the inventor **Thomas Alva Edison** fits best.

24. What is the preferred pronunciation of -lived in short-lived and long-lived?
✔ **B) with a long i as in strive**
The **-lived** in **short-lived** comes from the noun **life**, not the verb **live**. The traditional pronunciation therefore has a long i, as in **strive** (**-LYVD**).

25. Which of the following is a privative prefix meaning “not”?
✔ **D) in-**
A **privative** prefix takes away or negates meaning. **In-** means not, as in **inaccurate** or **improvident**. Not **mis-**, which means badly or wrongly (**misuse**), not simply not.

26. What is the traditional and proper pronunciation of assuage?
✔ **B) uh-SWAYJ**
The traditional pronunciation of **assuage** (to ease or soothe) ends with a j sound: **uh-SWAYJ**, rhyming with **page**. The -ZH endings are newer and not recommended.

27. Three of the following words are related in meaning. Find the unrelated word:
✔ **A) investigate**
Authenticate, **corroborate** and **substantiate** all mean to confirm or prove something true.
Investigate means to examine or look into, which does not mean proving anything.

28. Which sentence illustrates the precise and proper use of comprise?
✔ **A) New York City comprises five boroughs.**
Comprise means to consist of or include: the whole **comprises** its parts (**The city comprises five boroughs**). Careful usage avoids **is comprised of**; use **is composed of** or **consists of** instead.

29. Which word properly refers to things experienced through the senses?
✔ **A) sensuous**
Sensuous refers to pleasure experienced through the senses, such as art, music or colour. **Sensual** suggests physical, often sexual, gratification.

30. Cursory, course, curriculum, and courier all come from the Latin currere, which means _____.
✔ **C) to run**
Latin **currere** means **to run**. A **courier** runs messages, a **course** is a path you run, and **cursory** means hasty, done on the run.

31. Enigmatic, cryptic, and equivocal are synonyms of which word?
✔ **B) ambiguous**
Enigmatic, **cryptic** and **equivocal** all describe something unclear or open to more than one interpretation: **ambiguous**. Not **ambivalent**, which means having mixed feelings.

32. Which word is an antonym of cursory?
✔ **A) protracted**
Cursory means hasty and superficial (**a cursory glance**). **Haphazard**, **slapdash** and **superficial** are close in meaning. **Protracted**, long and drawn out, is the opposite.

33. Someone who vacillates _____.
✔ **C) has difficulty making a decision**
To **vacillate** is to waver between choices or opinions, so someone who vacillates has trouble making up their mind. Not **puts things off**, which is to procrastinate.

34. Clement comes from a Latin word that means _____.
✔ **C) mild**
Clement comes from Latin **clemens**, meaning **mild**, calm or gentle. That is why it describes mild weather (**clement weather**) and a merciful attitude (**clemency**).