ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

# Verbal Advantage – Level 09 Review Test

Verbal Advantage - Level 01-10 Vocabulary Tests · 34 questions · Online test and questions PDF: https://englishtestsonline.com/verbal-advantage-level-09-review-test/

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| 1 | **A** | 2 | **C** | 3 | **B** | 4 | **C** | 5 | **D** | 6 | **B** | 7 | **C** | 8 | **A** | 9 | **D** | 10 | **B** |
| 11 | **A** | 12 | **B** | 13 | **C** | 14 | **D** | 15 | **A** | 16 | **D** | 17 | **B** | 18 | **C** | 19 | **C** | 20 | **C** |
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## Explanations

**1.** Which word is an antonym of ***prolix***?
✔ **A) sententious**
**Prolix** means long-winded, using too many words. **Sententious** means short and pithy, expressing much in few words, so it is the opposite. **Tautological**, **pleonastic** and **circumlocutory** all describe wordiness or needless repetition, so they are near-synonyms of **prolix**.

**2.** Which word is a synonym of ***apocryphal***?
✔ **C) spurious**
**Apocryphal** describes a story or claim of doubtful authenticity, probably false though widely repeated. **Spurious** (false, not genuine) is the synonym. Not **scurrilous**, which means coarsely abusive or slanderous.

**3.** Which word is an antonym of ***cupidity***?
✔ **B) munificence**
**Cupidity** is greed, an eager desire for wealth. **Munificence** is great generosity, its opposite. **Avarice** and **covetousness** are synonyms of greed, and **venality** (openness to bribery) is closely related.

**4.** Which word means pertaining to summer?
✔ **C) estival**
**Estival** (British **aestival**) means relating to summer, from Latin **aestas**. **Hibernal** and **hiemal** refer to winter, **vernal** to spring, and **quotidian** means daily.

**5.** Which words are antonyms?
✔ **D) effrontery, diffidence**
**Effrontery** is shameless boldness or nerve; **diffidence** is shyness and lack of self-confidence, so they are opposites. The other pairs are near-synonyms: **temerity**/**imprudence** (rashness), **apprehension**/**timorousness** (fearfulness), **impetuosity**/**audacity** (boldness).

**6.** Which word is a synonym of ***proscribe***?
✔ **B) interdict**
**Proscribe** means to forbid or prohibit. **Interdict** means the same: to forbid by authority. Do not confuse it with **prescribe**. **Extol** means praise, **obviate** means make unnecessary, and **manumit** means set free from slavery.

**7.** Which words are synonyms?
✔ **C) probity, rectitude**
**Probity** and **rectitude** both mean moral uprightness and honesty. In the other pairs the words are opposites: **malfeasance** (wrongdoing), **perfidy** (treachery) and **duplicity** (deceitfulness) contrast with virtues.

**8.** Which phrase misuses ***convince***?
✔ **A) convinced her to do it**
In careful usage, **convince** is followed by **of** or a **that**-clause (**convinced him of the truth**, **convinced her that it was important**). To get someone to act, use **persuade** with an infinitive: **persuaded her to do it**. So **convinced her to do it** is the phrase traditionally considered a misuse.

**9.** Which word is an antonym of ***puissant***?
✔ **D) enervated**
**Puissant** means powerful or mighty. **Enervated** means weakened and drained of energy, so it is the opposite. Not **stalwart**, which means strong and sturdy, a near-synonym.

**10.** Which word is a synonym of ***peculate***?
✔ **B) defalcate**
**Peculate** means to embezzle, to steal money entrusted to one's care. **Defalcate** has the same meaning. **Importune** and **supplicate** mean beg, **desiccate** means dry out, and **excoriate** means criticize harshly.

**11.** Which word means excusable, forgivable, minor?
✔ **A) venial**
**Venial** means pardonable or minor, as in **a venial sin**. Do not confuse it with **venal**, which means corrupt or open to bribery.

**12.** Which words are antonyms?
✔ **B) niggardly, generous**
**Niggardly** means stingy and mean with money, the opposite of **generous**. The other pairs are synonyms: **beneficent**/**bountiful** and **liberal**/**munificent** (generous), **penurious**/**stingy** and **grasping**/**parsimonious** (mean or greedy).

**13.** What is a meretrix?
✔ **C) a prostitute**
**Meretrix** is a Latin word for a prostitute. It is the root of **meretricious**, which originally meant relating to prostitutes and now means attractive in a cheap, showy way.

**14.** What does the prefix ***xeno-*** mean?
✔ **D) strange**
The Greek prefix **xeno-** means strange or foreign, as in **xenophobia** (fear or dislike of foreigners). Wood is **xylo-**, animal is **zoo-**.

**15.** Which word is ***not*** a synonym of ***quotidian***?
✓ **A) frequent**
**Quotidian** means daily, and by extension ordinary or commonplace, like everyday routine. **Frequent** only means happening often, not every day or ordinary, so it is not a synonym.

**16.** Which phrase denotes something absolutely necessary or indispensable?
✓ **D) sine qua non**
**Sine qua non** (Latin, "without which not") is an essential condition, something absolutely indispensable. **Quid pro quo** is an exchange, a **bon mot** a witty remark, a **faux pas** a social blunder, and **pro bono publico** means for the public good.

**17.** Which phrase denotes something given in return for something else?
✓ **B) quid pro quo**
**Quid pro quo** (Latin, "something for something") is something given in return for something else. A **coup de grâce** is a final, decisive blow, and a **bête noire** is something one especially dislikes.

**18.** Which phrase denotes someone or something one especially dislikes or fears?
✓ **C) bête noire**
**Bête noire** (French, "black beast") is a person or thing one especially dislikes or dreads. **Caveat emptor** means "let the buyer beware".

**19.** Which phrase means an error or blunder?
✓ **C) faux pas**
**Faux pas** (French, "false step") is an error or blunder, especially an embarrassing social one. Not **bon mot**, which is a clever, witty remark.

**20.** Which word is an antonym of ***meretricious***?
✓ **C) diffident**
**Meretricious** means attractive in a showy, flashy, cheap way. **Diffident** (modest, shy, reserved and unassertive) suggests the opposite of flashy display. **Pusillanimous** means cowardly, **indefeasible** means cannot be annulled, and **pulchritudinous** means beautiful.

**21.** Which of the following means the unraveling or resolution of a plot?
✓ **B) denouement**
**Denouement** (French, "untying") is the final unraveling or resolution of a plot. Not **deus ex machina**, which is an unexpected, artificial device used to solve a problem in a story, not the resolution itself. A **disquisition** is a long formal essay or discussion.

**22.** ***Ephemeral*** and ***evanescent*** are synonyms of _____.
✓ **B) fugacious**
**Fugacious** means fleeting, lasting only a short time, the same as **ephemeral** and **evanescent**. **Mellifluous** means sweet-sounding, **inexorable** means unstoppable, **ubiquitous** means everywhere, and **peripatetic** means walking or travelling about.

**23.** Which words mean swollen, inflated?
✓ **A) turgid, tumid**
**Turgid** and **tumid** both mean swollen or inflated, and figuratively pompous or bombastic in style. **Turbid** is different: it means muddy, cloudy or confused, so every option containing it is wrong.

**24.** Which word means using coarse, vulgar, insolent language?
✓ **C) scurrilous**
**Scurrilous** means using coarse, vulgar, abusive language, as in **a scurrilous attack**. Not **flagitious**, which means shockingly wicked or criminal. **Cachinnating** means laughing loudly.

**25.** Which word means causing or characterized by delay?
✓ **D) dilatory**
**Dilatory** means causing delay or tending to delay, as in **dilatory tactics**. **Exigent** means urgent, **phlegmatic** means calm and unemotional, **temerarious** means rash, and a **miscreant** is a wrongdoer.

**26.** Which of the following is ***not*** one of the four humors?
✓ **D) apathy**
The four humors of old medicine were **blood**, **phlegm**, **choler** (yellow bile) and **melancholy** (black bile). They were thought to shape a person's temperament. **Apathy** is not one of them.

**27.** Which word is an antonym of ***desiccated***?
✓ **B) succulent**
**Desiccated** means dried out, lacking moisture or vitality. **Succulent** means juicy, full of moisture, so it is the opposite. Not **wizened**, which means shrivelled and dried up, close to a synonym.

**28.** Which word connotes an intent to mislead or deceive?
✓ **A) specious**
**Specious** means seemingly true or reasonable but actually false, and it connotes an intent to deceive, as in **a specious argument**. **Plausible** simply means appearing reasonable or believable, with no suggestion of deception.

**29.** ***Pernicious*** and ***putrid*** are synonyms of _____.
✓ **A) noisome**
**Noisome** has two senses: harmful or noxious (like **pernicious**) and offensive, especially foul-smelling (like **putrid**). Not **deleterious**, which means harmful but has no sense of a bad smell. **Salubrious** means healthy, and **lugubrious** means mournful.

**30.** Four of the following five words are related in meaning. Which word has a different, unrelated meaning?
✓ **D) expiate**
**Traduce**, **vilify**, **calumniate** and **excoriate** all mean to attack someone's reputation or criticize them harshly. **Expiate** means to atone or make amends for wrongdoing, so it is unrelated.

**31.** What is ***osculation***?
✓ **B) kissing**
**Osculation** is kissing, from Latin **osculum**, "little mouth" or "kiss". The verb is **osculate**.

**32.** To be in dishabille is to be _____.
✓ **C) partly clothed**
**Dishabille** (from French **déshabillé**, "undressed") is the state of being partly or carelessly dressed. Example: **She answered the door in dishabille.** Not **at one's wit's end**, which means desperate and unable to cope.

**33.** Which words are ***not*** synonymous?
✓ **C) egregious, pusillanimous**
**Egregious** means outstandingly bad or flagrant, and **pusillanimous** means cowardly, so they are not synonyms. The other pairs all mean extremely wicked or hateful: **atrocious**/**odious**, **execrable**/**heinous**, **flagitious**/**nefarious**.

**34.** Which word is associated with a school of philosophy founded by Aristotle?
✓ **B) peripatetic**
Aristotle's followers were called the **Peripatetics** because he taught while walking about. That is why **peripatetic** also means travelling from place to place. Not **stoic**, which comes from the Stoic school founded by Zeno.

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