ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Vocabulary Test About ANIMALS Choose The Correct Answer MCQ Exercise 5

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Explanations

1. A number of gulls were _____ effortlessly high above the cliffs.
✔ **D) soaring**
To **soar** means to fly high in the air, often without moving the wings. The clue is **high above the cliffs**: soaring is about height. Not **skimming**, which means flying just above a surface such as water, so it cannot happen high above the cliffs. **Coasting** and **floating** are not used for birds flying high.

2. Crocodiles and alligators are _____.
✔ **D) reptiles**
Reptiles are cold-blooded animals with scaly skin that usually lay eggs, e.g. crocodiles, snakes and lizards. Not **mammals**, which feed their young on milk, and not **crustaceans**, such as crabs and lobsters.

3. Only after buying the cottage did we discover that it was _____ with mice.
✔ **B) infested**
A place is **infested with** pests such as mice, rats or insects when there are large numbers of them in it. Not **infected**, which is used for diseases and germs (**an infected wound**).

4. The sheep were herded into a _____ to protect them from stray dogs.
✔ **D) fold**
A **fold** (or **sheepfold**) is an enclosed area where sheep are kept. A **hutch** is for rabbits, a **kennel** is for dogs, and a **cage** is for birds or small animals.

5. I'm sure there are spiders in your room; look at those _____ in the corner.
✔ **A) cobwebs**
Cobwebs are spiders' webs, especially old, dusty ones in the corners of rooms. **Nets**, **meshes** and **networks** are not used for what spiders make.

6. The animals taken to the slaughterhouse must be killed by _____ methods.
✔ **B) humane**
Humane means kind, causing as little pain as possible: **humane methods of killing animals**. Not **human**, which simply means relating to people (**the human body**).

7. On the beach the crabs _____ from rock pool to rock pool.
✔ **A) scuttled**
To **scuttle** means to move quickly with short steps, often sideways. It is the typical verb for crabs and beetles. **Shuffled** means walking slowly without lifting your feet, and **strutted** means walking in a proud way.

8. A _____ hatches from an egg laid by a butterfly or moth.
✔ **A) caterpillar**
A **caterpillar** is the young form of a butterfly or moth, which hatches from its egg. A **maggot** is the young form of a fly, and a **toad** is an amphibian.

9. I'll _____ that mosquito if it settles on my arm.
✔ **D) swat**
To **swat** means to hit an insect with a quick, sharp blow, usually with your hand or a flat object: **swat a fly/mosquito**. **Slap** and **smack** are mainly used for hitting people, and **stab** means using a knife.

10. There is an old horse _____ over there, where animals could drink on the way to market.
✔ **D) trough**
A **trough** is a long, open container that holds water or food for animals: **a horse trough**. A **gutter** carries rainwater away, and a **moat** is the water around a castle.

11. Crows and vultures are _____ living on carrion.
✔ **D) scavengers**
Scavengers are animals that feed on **carrion**, the flesh of dead animals. **Predators** hunt and kill live animals, and **parasites** live on or inside other living creatures.

12. The frightened horse began to _____ away from the snake.
✔ **B) shy**
When a horse **shies (away)**, it suddenly moves back or sideways because it is frightened. Here **shy** is a verb, not the adjective meaning 'nervous with people'.

13. Wolves were _____ mournfully in the nearby forest.
✔ **C) howling**
Wolves **howl**: they make a long, loud, sad cry. **Mournfully** is the clue. **Growling** is a low, angry sound, and **roaring** is used for lions.

14. Squirrels and mice are _____.
✔ **D) rodents**
Rodents are small mammals with strong front teeth for gnawing, e.g. mice, rats and squirrels. Not **carnivores**, which eat meat, and not **amphibians**, such as frogs.

15. We could hear the hens _____ in the farmyard.
✔ **D) clucking**
Hens **cluck**: they make a short, low sound. **Chirping** is the sound of small birds or insects, and **chattering** is used for monkeys, magpies or people.

16. When it saw the dog by the water, the heron _____ its wings and rose into the air.
✔ **A) flapped**
Birds **flap** their wings, moving them up and down, to fly. Not **folded**, because a bird folds its wings when it stops flying. Dogs **wag** their tails.

17. Look at the marks on the cherries where the birds have _____ them!
✔ **D) pecked**
Birds **peck** things: they strike or bite them with their beaks. **Gnaw** is used for rodents biting hard things, and **nibble** means taking small bites, usually with teeth.

18. As he walked through the fields, he heard sheep _____.
✔ **A) bleating**
Sheep and goats **bleat**. Donkeys **bray**, and lions **roar**.

19. The snake _____ smoothly through the long grass.
✔ **B) glided**
To **glide** means to move smoothly and quietly; **smoothly** is the clue. **Skidded** means sliding out of control, and **strolled** means walking slowly for pleasure, which needs legs.

20. The bird had its nest on a _____ halfway down the cliff.
✔ **B) ledge**
A **ledge** is a narrow, flat piece of rock that sticks out from a cliff or wall. A **sill** is the ledge under a window, and a **shelf** is usually inside a cupboard or room.

21. Many insects, such as wasps and ants, use their _____ to touch objects.
✔ **B) antennae**
Antennae (singular: **antenna**) are the two long, thin feelers on an insect's head that it uses to touch and sense things. **Aerials** receive radio or TV signals.

22. A donkey _____ loudly all through the night.
✔ **A) brayed**
Donkeys **bray**: they make a loud, harsh sound. Horses **neigh**, and hens **cackle**.

23. Look at the seagulls _____ up and down on the waves near the fishing boats.
✔ **A) bobbing**
To **bob** means to move gently up and down on water: **boats bobbing in the harbour**. Not **bouncing**, which means springing back from a hard surface.

24. Unlike most birds, swifts rarely land on the ground. They use wind currents to _____ through the air.
✔ **C) glide**
To **glide** means to fly smoothly without moving the wings, using air currents. Not **flap**, which means moving the wings up and down; you do not need wind currents to do that.

25. The terrified hunter, _____ in the arms of a huge bear, fought desperately to loosen its grip.
✔ **C) locked**
Locked in someone's arms means held so tightly that you cannot escape. The clue is **fought desperately to loosen its grip**. **Cradled** and **nestled** suggest gentle, comfortable holding, which does not fit a terrified hunter.

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