ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Vocabulary Test About GARDENING Choose The Correct Answer MCQ Exercise 73

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Explanations

1. The garden was surrounded by _____ wire.
✔ **A) barbed**
Barbed wire is wire with sharp points on it, used for fences to keep people or animals out. The other words do not form a fixed phrase with **wire**.

2. Our villa in Greece is on the top of a hill overlooking some olive _____.
✔ **B) groves**
A **grove** is a small group of trees, and **olive grove** is the fixed collocation for olive trees. Not **orchards**: we usually say **orchard** for apple, pear or cherry trees, not olives.

3. The sack with the vegetables was far too heavy for me to carry, so I _____ it across the floor.
✔ **A) dragged**
To **drag** something means to pull it along the ground because it is too heavy to lift: **I dragged the sack across the floor.** Not **drew**: **draw** in this sense is old-fashioned and is not used for pulling a heavy sack.

4. If I _____ you again in my orchard, looking for pears, you'll be sorry!
✔ **A) catch sight of**
To **catch sight of** someone means to suddenly see them. Here it works like **catch you**, meaning see you doing something wrong. **Make eyes at** means to flirt with someone. **See through** means to understand someone's trick.

5. Mrs Lazy's garden had been badly neglected and was completely _____ with weeds.
✔ **C) overgrown**
Overgrown with weeds means covered with plants that have grown wild because nobody looked after the garden. The clue is **badly neglected**. Not **suffocated**: we do not say a garden is **suffocated with** weeds.

6. Digging the garden is a very _____ task.
✔ **D) laborious**
Laborious describes a task that needs a lot of hard work and effort: **a laborious task**. Not **industrious** or **conscientious**: these describe people who work hard, not tasks.

7. If you want this apple tree to bear good fruit next year, you will have to _____ it.
✔ **D) prune**
To **prune** a tree means to cut off some of its branches so that it grows better and gives more fruit. Not **fell**: to **fell** a tree means to cut it down completely.

8. All the farmers are in a terrible _____ because of the water shortage.
✔ **D) plight**
A **plight** is a very difficult or unpleasant situation, and the fixed phrase is **in a terrible plight**. Not **disaster**: we say **a disaster happened**, not **be in a terrible disaster** about a situation like this.

9. I like sitting over there in the shade in the middle of that _____ of trees.
✔ **B) clump**
A **clump of trees** is a small group of trees growing close together. Not **scrub**: **scrub** means low bushes and rough plants, and we do not say **a scrub of trees**.

10. I was startled by the sound of a twig _____ on the window.
✔ **D) tapping**
Tapping is the sound of something hitting a surface lightly again and again, like a twig moving against glass in the wind. Not **pattering**: this is used for rain or small feet, not a single twig.

11. If you want a beautiful lawn, you will have to _____ it.
✔ **B) mow**
To **mow** a lawn means to cut the grass with a machine called a lawnmower. **Hoe** means to remove weeds from soil, **prune** is for trees and bushes, and **uproot** means to pull a plant out of the ground.

12. Our garden has become a _____ since the house was abandoned, with weeds growing everywhere.
✔ **D) wilderness**
A garden that has become a **wilderness** is wild and uncontrolled because nobody takes care of it. The clue is **weeds growing everywhere**. Not **desert**: a desert is dry, with almost no plants.

13. A last swing of the axe sent the old tree _____ to the ground.
✔ **B) crashing**
Send something crashing to the ground means to make it fall heavily and noisily. **Crashing** is the usual verb for a big tree falling down. Not **rushing**: it means moving fast and does not describe falling.

14. In our garden, we can sunbathe on the _____ in the summer.
✔ **C) lawn**
A **lawn** is an area of short, cut grass in a garden, a good place to lie in the sun. Not **meadow** or **field**: these are large areas of land in the countryside, not part of a garden.

15. I was able to see the garden through a _____ in the hedge.
✔ **B) gap**
A **gap** is an empty space or opening in something: **a gap in the hedge**. Not **cleft**: a cleft is a narrow split in rock or in a chin, not an opening in a hedge.

16. Keep out! _____ will be prosecuted!
✔ **D) Trespassers**
Trespassers are people who go onto private land without permission. **Trespassers will be prosecuted** is a common warning sign. Not **transgressors**: this means people who break a moral rule or law in general.

17. Can you hold the ladder _____ while I climb up and pick the apples?
✔ **D) steady**
To **hold something steady** means to keep it still so that it does not move or shake: **hold the ladder steady**. Not **rigid** or **stiff**: these describe things that do not bend. They do not mean keeping something still for someone else.

18. The _____ windows opened onto the garden.
✔ **C) French**
French windows are a pair of glass doors that open onto a garden or balcony. The other nationalities do not form this fixed phrase. **Dutch** goes with **door** (**a Dutch door**), not **windows**.

19. That old apple tree _____ us from the sun on hot days.
✔ **C) shades**
To **shade** someone **from the sun** means to protect them from direct sunlight. Not **prevents**: **prevent** is followed by **from** + -ing (**prevents us from getting burnt**), not **from the sun**.

20. How do you _____ his sudden interest in gardening?
✔ **A) account for**
To **account for** something means to explain the reason for it: **How do you account for his sudden interest?** = How do you explain it? The other verbs do not have this meaning with an object like **interest**.

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