ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Vocabulary Test About HOUSES Choose The Right Answer MCQ Exercise 118

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Explanations

1. Greg is in the garden, chopping _____ for the fireplace.
✔ **D) wood**
Wood is the material from trees that we burn in a fireplace, and we **chop wood** with an axe. Not **twigs**: these are very small thin branches, which you break rather than chop.

2. It was very _____ in the cottage with the comfortable armchairs by the fire.
✔ **D) snug**
Snug means warm, comfortable and cosy, especially in a small place: **a snug little cottage**. **Easy** and **refreshing** do not describe a cosy room.

3. In spite of the thunderstorm, the children slept _____ all night.
✔ **D) soundly**
Sleep soundly is a fixed collocation meaning to sleep deeply and peacefully. **In spite of the thunderstorm** tells us they were not woken. Not **roundly**, which goes with criticism: **roundly criticised**.

4. Do open the window; this room seems very _____.
✔ **D) stuffy**
A **stuffy** room is warm and has no fresh air. That is why the speaker wants to **open the window**. Not **mouldy**: that describes food or walls with mould on them.

5. Believing herself alone in the house, she was _____ when she heard someone moving about in the hall.
✔ **D) startled**
Startled means suddenly surprised or slightly frightened by something unexpected, such as a noise. She thought she was alone, so the sound gave her a shock. Not **amazed**, which means very surprised, often in a positive way, not by a sudden fright.

6. He took out a big _____ of keys and opened the door.
✔ **B) bunch**
We say **a bunch of keys**, meaning several keys on one ring. **Bunch** is also used for flowers and bananas: **a bunch of flowers**.

7. The children _____ round the fire to keep warm.
✔ **C) huddled**
Huddle means to crowd closely together, usually to keep warm or because you are afraid: **They huddled round the fire**. Not **grouped**, which usually needs an object (**grouped the chairs**) and does not suggest keeping warm.

8. The _____ of the family home following the divorce was a great shock to the children.
✔ **D) break-up**
A **break-up** is the end of a relationship, marriage or family living together, so a divorce causes **the break-up of the family home**. Not **break-in**, which is when someone enters a building illegally, and not **break-out**, which is an escape.

9. The house looked _____ in the failing evening light.
✔ **A) austere**
Austere describes a place that is very plain, with no decoration or comfort, so it looks cold and unwelcoming. In the failing evening light, the house looked bare and grim. **Strict** and **serious** describe people, not buildings.

10. I have lived near the railway for so long now that I've grown _____ to the noise of the trains.
✔ **A) accustomed**
Grow accustomed to something means to get used to it: **I've grown accustomed to the noise**. Not **familiar**, which takes **with** (**familiar with the noise**) and does not mean 'no longer bothered by'.

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