ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Vocabulary Test About LANGUAGE-LEARNING Choose The Right Answer MCQ Exercise 52

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Explanations

1. The new school claims to _____ students all the English they need in a few months.
✔ **D) teach**
We say **teach someone something**, so **teach students all the English they need** is correct. Not **learn**, because the student learns and the teacher teaches. **Explain** and **instruct** don't fit this pattern.

2. I never _____ a chance of improving my English if I can help it.
✔ **C) miss**
The collocation is **miss a chance**, which means not use an opportunity. **If I can help it** means 'if I can avoid it'. Not **lose**, because we don't normally say 'lose a chance of doing something'.

3. Will you _____ me how to make that sound?
✔ **C) show**
We say **show someone how to do something**: **Can you show me how to use this?** Not **learn**, because you learn something yourself; you can't 'learn me'.

4. Franck thought that the other students would think he was English, but his accent gave him _____.
✔ **A) away**
The phrasal verb **give someone away** means to show who someone really is, or reveal a secret about them. Franck's accent showed the others that he was not English. **Give up** means stop trying, which does not fit here.

5. _____ that he only started learning it one year ago, his English is excellent.
✔ **B) Considering**
Considering (that) means 'when you think about the fact that'. It introduces a surprising fact: **Considering that he only started a year ago, his English is excellent.** The other words cannot start a sentence in this way.

6. We were the _____ students in the class who could speak Russian.
✔ **C) only**
The only students who... means no other students could do it. Not **single**, because **the single students** would mean students who are not married. **Alone** cannot come before a noun.

7. Your pronunciation would improve if you _____ with a tape recorder.
✔ **B) practised**
Practise (British spelling of the verb) means do something again and again to get better at it. This second conditional uses the past form, **practised**. Not **exercised**, which is used for the body, e.g. sport.

8. The students _____ ever use the language laboratory.
✔ **B) hardly**
Hardly ever means almost never: **The students hardly ever use it.** We cannot say **almost ever** or **nearly ever**. We say **almost never** instead.

9. Priscilla asked for _____ lessons at home as she thought she would learn English more quickly that way.
✔ **D) private**
Private lessons are lessons for one student, often at home, not in a class. Not **personal**, because 'personal lessons' is not a normal collocation. **Peculiar** means strange.

10. Learners of English as a foreign language often fail to _____ between unfamiliar sounds in that language.
✔ **B) distinguish**
Distinguish between A and B means to notice the difference between them: **Some learners can't distinguish between 'ship' and 'sheep'.** Not **differ**, because **differ** describes things that are different, not a person noticing the difference.

11. Jonathan was surprised that Sonia's English was so _____ as she had never been to England.
✔ **B) fluent**
Fluent English is spoken easily and well, without stopping: **She speaks fluent English. Liquid** is about water and other liquids, not language.

12. If you want to learn a new language you must _____ classes regularly.
✔ **B) attend**
Attend classes means go to classes. Not **assist**, which in English means help (in some languages a similar word means 'attend'). **Follow** is used with **a course**, not usually with **classes regularly**.

13. Would you _____ to me studying English privately?
✔ **B) agree**
Only **agree** is followed by **to**: **agree to something / someone doing something** means say yes to it. Not **approve**, because it needs **of** (**approve of**). **Allow** and **permit** take an object without **to** (**allow me to study**).

14. Spanish is the _____ language of most Spaniards.
✓ **C) native**
Your **native language** is the first language you learn as a child. Not **mother**, because the usual phrase is **mother tongue**, not 'mother language'.

15. They are learning English, but they haven't _____ much progress.
✓ **C) made**
The collocation is **make progress**: **They haven't made much progress.** Not **done**, because we don't say 'do progress'.

16. There has been a great _____ in his English.
✓ **B) improvement**
An improvement in something means it has become better: **There has been a great improvement in his English.** Not **increase** or **rise**, because they are about numbers or amounts getting bigger, not quality.

17. If you don't know what that word means, _____ in the dictionary.
✓ **B) look it up**
Look something up means find information in a dictionary or book: **Look it up in the dictionary.** Not **make it up**, which means invent something.

18. Some language students reach a high _____ of competence in communication.
✓ **A) degree**
A high degree of something means a large amount or level of it: **a high degree of competence/skill**. Not **grade** or **mark**, which are scores given for tests or work.

19. Don't _____ to correct me if I make a mistake.
✓ **A) hesitate**
Don't hesitate to do something means do it freely, without waiting or worrying: **Don't hesitate to ask.** Not **mind**, because **mind** is followed by **-ing**, and **Don't mind** would not be polite here.

20. Please _____ your hand if you want to ask a question.
✓ **C) raise**
Raise your hand means lift it up. **Raise** takes an object. Not **rise**, because **rise** has no object (**The sun rises**).

21. At the language school, each student is assigned to his or her own _____.
✓ **D) tutor**
A **tutor** is a teacher who works with one student or a small group and looks after their progress. Not **staff**, because it means all the workers together, not one person. Not **professor**, which is a senior university teacher.

22. A (an) _____ mistake which many students make is to leave out the definite article.
✓ **A) common**
A **common mistake** is one that many people make. Not **ordinary**, because it means normal or not special, and we don't say 'an ordinary mistake' for a frequent error.

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