ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Vocabulary Test About SHIPS AND BOATS Choose The Correct Answer MCQ Exercise 146

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Explanations

1. "Do you row?"

"I used to, but I haven't used a pair of _____ for years."
✔ **A) oars**
You row a boat with **oars**, long poles with a flat end, usually used in pairs. Not **paddles**: you use a paddle in a canoe, and you don't fix it to the boat.

2. The sea was so _____ that some of the passengers in the pleasure boat felt seasick.
✔ **B) choppy**
Choppy describes sea water with many small, rough waves, which can make people seasick. **Wavy** is used for hair or lines, not for the sea.

3. They moored the boat to a tree _____ and left it by the river bank.
✔ **D) stump**
A **stump** is the part of a tree left in the ground after the tree has been cut down. It is strong and fixed, so you can tie (moor) a boat to it.

4. They loaded the _____ for the voyage onto the ship.
✔ **A) food**
Food is the general word for what people eat, so you can load food onto a ship for a voyage. **Meals** and **portions** are amounts eaten at one time, and **menus** are lists of dishes, so none of them can be loaded as supplies.

5. The ship ran _____ on the beach near the harbour.
✔ **D) aground**
A ship **runs aground** when it hits the bottom in shallow water or gets stuck on land. Not **adrift**: that means floating without control, and it doesn't go with **ran ... on the beach**.

6. That boat has an _____ motor at the back.
✔ **A) outboard**
An **outboard motor** is an engine fixed to the outside of the back of a small boat. The other words do not form this fixed expression.

7. At first sight, the island seemed to be bare and _____ of any kind of vegetation.
✔ **B) devoid**
Devoid of means completely without something: **devoid of vegetation** = with no plants at all. Only **devoid** is followed by **of** with this meaning.

8. The captain realised that unless immediate action was taken to discipline the crew, there could be a _____ on the ship.
✔ **A) mutiny**
A **mutiny** is a rebellion by sailors or soldiers against their officers, so it is the exact word for trouble with a ship's crew. **Rebellion** is more general and usually used for people rising against a government.

9. The cargo in the hold of the ship _____ many times in the storm.
✔ **C) shifted**
Shift means to move from one position to another; heavy cargo **shifts** when a ship rolls in a storm. **Switched** means changed deliberately, which doesn't fit.

10. The sea is too far out; we can't swim till the _____ comes in.
✔ **C) tide**
The **tide** is the regular rise and fall of the sea. When the tide is out, the sea is far away; we wait until **the tide comes in**.

11. A lot of driftwood was washed up on to the _____.
✔ **D) shore**
The **shore** is the land along the edge of the sea, where things are **washed up**. **Coast** refers to a wider area of land near the sea, and **seaside** is a place for holidays.

12. The sea was so rough that the little boat _____.
✔ **B) capsized**
A boat **capsizes** when it turns over in the water. **Inverted** and **reversed** are not used for boats turning over at sea.

13. When we go fishing, we always take a lot of worms for _____.
✔ **B) bait**
Bait is food put on a hook or in a trap to catch fish or animals: **We use worms as bait.** Not **food**: worms are food for the fish, but in fishing the correct word is **bait**.

14. Swimming is dangerous here because of the strong _____ across the bay.
✔ **A) current**
A **current** is a strong, continuous movement of water in one direction, which makes swimming dangerous. The other words are not used for moving sea water.

15. The boat just _____ out to sea.
✓ **A) drifted**
Drift means to be carried slowly by water or wind without control: **The boat drifted out to sea.** **Strayed** and **wandered** are used for people or animals.

16. After the storm, the _____ of a small ship was thrown up on the shore.
✓ **D) wreckage**
Wreckage is the broken parts left after a ship, plane or car has been destroyed. **Ruin** is used for old buildings, and **breakage** means things broken by accident.

17. The ship was not allowed to unload its _____.
✓ **B) cargo**
Cargo is the goods carried by a ship or plane, and ships **load** and **unload** cargo. **Burden** means a heavy responsibility, and **unload its load** is repetitive and unnatural.

18. When the ship docked at Hamburg, they found a _____ in the hold.
✓ **C) stowaway**
A **stowaway** is a person who hides on a ship or plane to travel without paying. A **gate-crasher** goes to a party without an invitation, and a **trespasser** enters private land.

19. She was very enthusiastic about sailing around the world and now was just _____ to go.
✓ **D) raring**
Raring to go is an idiom meaning very eager and ready to start something. The other words are verbs of movement and do not form this idiom.

20. I _____ with the captain to abandon the ship before it was too late.
✓ **D) pleaded**
Plead with someone to do something means to ask them strongly and emotionally. Not **begged**: **beg** has no **with**, so we say **I begged the captain to ...**

21. Due to the bad weather conditions, the lifeboat crew were asked to _____ in case of emergency.
✓ **B) stand by**
Stand by means to be ready to act if needed. **Stand in** means to replace someone, and **stand up** means to get to your feet.

22. He had a _____ escape when his boat was capsized by a sudden gust of wind.
✓ **B) narrow**
A **narrow escape** is a situation where you only just avoid danger or death. We say **a close call** or **a close shave**, but not **a close escape**.

23. The waves gently _____ against the shore.
✓ **C) lapped**
When water **laps** against something, it touches it gently with small waves and a soft sound: **The waves lapped against the shore.**

24. We managed to grab a piece of wood that was floating nearby and we hung on for _____ life.
✓ **A) dear**
Hang on for dear life is a fixed expression meaning to hold something very tightly because you are afraid. Not **precious**: it means valuable, but it is not used in this expression.

25. The air-sea search operation is continuing, although hopes of finding survivors are _____.
✓ **C) fading**
When **hopes are fading**, they are slowly becoming weaker and people expect a bad result. **Reducing** needs an object (**reducing costs**), and hopes do not **dissolve** or **melt**.

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