ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Word Order Test 2

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1	C	2	E	3	E	4	B	5	B	6	E	7	E	8	A	9	E	10	D
11	C	12	C	13	C	14	A	15	C	16	A	17	A	18	A				

Explanations

1. (I) The young man and woman (II) sitting (III) in the theatre (IV) were having an argument.

Into which position can the words "behind me" be put correctly?
✔ **C) III**
Behind me describes where the people were sitting, so it goes straight after **sitting**: **The young man and woman sitting behind me in the theatre…** At position IV it would sound as if the theatre was behind me.

2. The children (I) were not paying any attention (II) to the new substitute teacher (III) that had started (IV) to work with them (V).

Into which position can the words "just recently" be placed correctly?
✔ **E) V**
Time expressions like **just recently** usually go at the end of the clause: **…that had started to work with them just recently.** Not IV, because it would split **started** from **to work**.

3. (I) They gave (II) us a very good (III) seat on the bus (IV) ride (V).

Into which position can the words "to Oxford" be placed correctly?
✔ **E) V**
To Oxford tells us where the bus ride went, so it follows the noun **ride**: **a very good seat on the bus ride to Oxford.** Not IV, because **bus ride** is one compound noun and cannot be split.

4. (I) He was (II) sad about the new (III) job because he (IV) would have to (V) leave his old friends.

Into which position can the word "almost" be placed correctly?
✔ **B) II**
Almost modifies the adjective **sad**, so it comes right before it: **He was almost sad about the new job.** Placing it after **he** or **have to** would make the sentence unnatural.

5. The (I) expensive (II) jacket (III) was (IV) dark blue with (V) white stripes.

Into which position can the word "designer" be placed correctly?
✔ **B) II**
Designer is used like an adjective that tells us the type of jacket, so it goes directly before the noun, after the opinion adjective: **the expensive designer jacket**.

6. The (I) pet turtles (II) were (III) small but they could (IV) run faster than the old stories about turtles (V).

Into which position can the word "suggested" be placed correctly?
✔ **E) V**
The comparison needs a verb at the end: **faster than the old stories about turtles suggested.** **Suggested** completes the clause after **than**.

7. (I) It was a shame (II) that (III) the man died (IV) young, at (V) thirty-five.

Into which position can the words "the age of" be placed correctly?
✔ **E) V**
We say **at the age of** + number: **He died young, at the age of thirty-five.** So the words go between **at** and **thirty-five**.

8. (I) We visited (II) the Metropolitan Museum of Art in (III) New York and today we are going to go (IV) to Washington (V).

Into which position can the word "yesterday" be placed correctly?
✔ **A) I**
Yesterday fits at the start of the sentence, where it balances **today** in the second clause: **Yesterday we visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and today we are going to go to Washington.** Not IV or V, because that part of the sentence is about the future. Not III, because **yesterday** cannot split the phrase **in New York**.

9. The (I) porcelain plate was (II) a collector's item (III) which many people wished to own (IV) but which (V) few could afford.

Into which position can the words "only a" be placed correctly?
✔ **E) V**
Only a few means a very small number of people: **...but which only a few could afford.** It contrasts with **many people** earlier in the sentence.

10. (I) Science and (II) technology are (III) making (IV) improvements in our (V) lives every day.

Into which position can the word "notable" be put correctly?
✔ **D) IV**
Notable is an adjective, so it goes before the noun it describes: **making notable improvements** (= important, worth noticing). It cannot describe **science** or **lives** naturally here.

11. (I) Farmers in this (II) area of the world have been assured by scientists that (III) changes (IV) will not affect their (V) yields this year.

Into which position can the word "climatic" be put correctly?
✔ **C) III**
Climatic is an adjective meaning 'related to the climate', so it goes before the noun **changes**: **climatic changes will not affect their yields.** Don't confuse it with **climactic**, which means 'related to a climax'.

12. (I) A group (II) of (III) students collaborated (IV) with the police (V) in a new anti-drug campaign.

Into which position can the word "fourteen" be placed correctly?
✔ **C) III**
A number goes directly before the noun it counts: **a group of fourteen students**. It is the students, not the groups, that number fourteen.

13. The fumes (I) emitted (II) from the chemical (III) fire were so (IV) dangerous that the surrounding (V) towns were all evacuated.

Into which position can the word "warehouse" be placed correctly?
✔ **C) III**
Warehouse is a noun used like an adjective to say what kind of fire it was, so it goes directly before **fire**: **the chemical warehouse fire**.

14. The (I) Egyptian (II) civilisation (III) was well known in its (IV) time for its (V) greatness.

Into which position can the word "ancient" be placed correctly?
✔ **A) I**
Adjectives of age come before adjectives of origin: **the ancient Egyptian civilisation**. Not II, because **Egyptian ancient** breaks the normal adjective order.

15. The (I) old (II) worn-out (III) knitted sweater (IV) is my (V) favourite.

Into which position can the word "red" be placed correctly?
✔ **C) III**
In adjective order, colour comes just before material: **red knitted sweater**. So **red** goes after **worn-out** and before **knitted**: **the old worn-out red knitted sweater**. Not II, because colour does not come before a description like **worn-out**.

16. The (I) young (II) child fell (III) off his (IV) bicycle and broke his (V) leg.

Into which position can the word "unfortunate" be placed correctly?
✔ **A) I**
Opinion adjectives come before age adjectives: **the unfortunate young child**. Not II, because **young unfortunate child** breaks the normal adjective order.

17. The (I) book (II) fell out of my hands (III) and onto the (IV) floor (V).

Into which position can the word "open" be placed correctly?
✔ **A) I**
Open is used as an adjective before the noun: **The open book fell out of my hands.** None of the other positions give a natural sentence.

18. The (I) white (II) pages that sat in front (III) of him made the (IV) writer wonder about his (V) abilities.

Into which position can the word "blank" be placed correctly?
✔ **A) I**
Blank (= with nothing written on it) is a quality adjective, and these come before colour: **the blank white pages**. Not II, because **white blank pages** breaks the normal order.