

Check your ALCE Vocabulary Skills: Activity 1

Key and item analysis

Question 1

Trade unions do not _____ the use of violence in any industrial dispute situation.

- A. agree
- B. condone
- C. inflict
- D. insist

ANSWER KEY

B.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Medium

ITEM INFORMATION

B fits the gap because 'inflict' and 'insist' require the preposition 'on', and 'agree' requires the preposition 'to', whereas 'condone' does not need a preposition. 'Inflict' also requires a direct and indirect object.

Question 2

All applications for political _____ are handled in accordance with United Nations guidelines.

- A. asylum
- B. consideration
- C. opposition
- D. turmoil

ANSWER KEY

A.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Medium

ITEM INFORMATION

A fits the gap because 'political asylum' is a noun phrase meaning to give refuge to those persecuted for their political beliefs. None of the other answer choices can be applied for and would not come under United Nations guidelines.

Question 3

The new tax plan _____ an angry response from public-sector workers in particular.

- A. compelled
- B. inhibited
- C. led
- D. provoked

ANSWER KEY

D.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Less challenging

ITEM INFORMATION

D fits the gap because it means 'caused' and does not require a preposition. C requires the preposition 'to'; A means 'forced' or 'obliged'; B carries the meaning of not feeling free to act/speak, and this would not fit with 'angry response'.

Question 4

The defendant insisted on his innocence and that the evidence against him had been _____.

- A. fabricated
- B. admitted
- C. implicated
- D. weighed

ANSWER KEY

A.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Medium

ITEM INFORMATION

A fits the gap because it means that the evidence had been invented and collocates with 'evidence'. To 'admit evidence' means to allow evidence to be used in court, but this does not fit the meaning of the sentence. To 'weigh evidence' means to consider it critically and also does not fit. To be 'implicated' in a crime means that there is a strong suggestion of involvement in a crime.

Question 5

Many people are buying property since it has proved to be _____ investment.

- A. an imprudent
- B. a lucrative
- C. a precarious
- D. a naive

ANSWER KEY

B.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

More challenging

ITEM INFORMATION

B fits the gap because it means 'bringing wealth' and collocates with investment. A, C and D have a negative meaning and this does not fit the fact that people are buying property because of it.

Question 6

New research suggests people who are _____ to kidney stones should limit their coffee intake.

- A. impartial
- B. liable
- C. prone
- D. subject

ANSWER KEY

C.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Medium

ITEM INFORMATION

C fits the gap because it means 'subject to' or to 'suffer frequently' and is followed by the preposition 'to'. A does not take a preposition or object and means 'unbiased'; B takes the preposition 'to' and has a similar meaning to C, but collocates with actions. D also takes 'to' and has a similar meaning to C, but does not collocate with states.

Question 7

Failure to _____ to the terms of the contract could result in its immediate termination.

- A. adhere
- B. comply
- C. follow
- D. observe

ANSWER KEY

A.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

More challenging

ITEM INFORMATION

A fits the gap because although all four answer choices collocate with 'terms of the contract' and have similar meanings, A is followed by 'to', B is followed by 'with', while C and D do not take a preposition.

Question 8

To prevent the _____ of the virus avoid close contact with other people.

- A. detection
- B. immunity
- C. spread
- D. susceptibility

ANSWER KEY

C.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Less challenging

ITEM INFORMATION

C fits the gap because it means transmission of the virus from one person to another, whereas B would mean that the virus cannot contract a disease; A would mean that close contact with other people should be avoided in order for the virus not to be found, which is not an appropriate meaning; while D would refer to the ease with which the virus contracts a disease.

Question 9

Taking out a _____ can bring the inventor quite a fortune.

- A. commodity
- B. loan
- C. patent
- D. product

ANSWER KEY

C.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

More challenging

ITEM INFORMATION

C fits the gap because a patent is a document showing ownership of a new idea or product and fits the meaning that it would enrich an inventor. A and D do not collocate with 'taking out', while B does not fit the meaning of the sentence, where the result is an increase in wealth.

Question 10

Goals are much easier to _____ if they are broken down into small steps.

- A. attain
- B. seek
- C. strive
- D. work

ANSWER KEY

A.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Medium

ITEM INFORMATION

A fits the gap because 'to attain a goal' is to achieve an objective; B does not collocate with 'goal'; while C and D require the preposition 'for'.

Question 11

No small business is _____ to the effects of international competition.

- A. attributed
- B. immune
- C. offset
- D. reduced

ANSWER KEY

B.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

More challenging

ITEM INFORMATION

B fits the gap because 'immune' is followed by 'to' when it takes an object, collocates with 'effects' and has the meaning 'not affected by' which fits the sentence. C and D are followed by 'by' when they take an object, and neither collocates with 'business'. A is followed by 'to' but has the meaning of 'suggested as the cause of', which does not fit with 'business'.

Question 12

Farmers have produced a crop of potatoes which have been genetically _____ to resist pests.

- A. modified
- B. transformed
- C. reproduced
- D. experimented

ANSWER KEY

A.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Medium

ITEM INFORMATION

A fits the gap because 'genetically modified' has become a fixed expression referring to the alteration of genes, whereas the other three answer choices do not collocate with 'genetically' when referring to crops.

Question 13

A devaluation of the dollar would _____ New York's position as a financial centre.

- A. abuse
- B. jeopardize
- C. resign
- D. realize

ANSWER KEY

B.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Medium

ITEM INFORMATION

B fits the gap because it means 'put in danger' and fits the meaning of the sentence. A means 'exploit'; C means 'leave a job'; while D means 'make real' – none of these fit the meaning of the sentence.

Question 14

Two car manufacturing companies formed a joint _____ which will produce a new small car.

- A. venture
- B. custody
- C. decision
- D. agreement

ANSWER KEY

A.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

More challenging

ITEM INFORMATION

A fits the gap because 'joint venture' is a fixed expression meaning 'a cooperation between two businesses'. 'Joint custody' is awarded to two parents who are given equal responsibility for the care of a child; 'joint decision' is a decision made equally by two persons; and 'joint agreement' is an agreement between two parties. None of these answer choices collocates with 'formed'.

Question 15

LCT Corp., the world's biggest television set maker, was _____ in 1982.

- A. launched
- B. emerged
- C. grown
- D. culminated

ANSWER KEY

A.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

More challenging

ITEM INFORMATION

A fits the gap because it has the meaning of 'established'. B is not used in the passive voice as 'emerge' does not take an object; C is not used in the passive voice with companies; while D is also not used in the passive voice and requires the preposition 'in'.
