

## Check your ALCE Vocabulary Skills: Activity 2

### Key and item analysis

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#### Question 1

Record companies are lowering their prices so as to \_\_\_\_\_ people from purchasing pirate CDs.

- A. convince
- B. detest
- C. dissuade
- D. persuade

#### ANSWER KEY

C.

#### LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

More challenging

#### ITEM INFORMATION

C fits the gap because it means 'persuade people not to do something' and takes the preposition 'from', while also fitting the meaning of the sentence. D and A do not fit the meaning of the sentence and take the full infinitive, while B means 'hate'.

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#### Question 2

The high cost of a college education \_\_\_\_\_ many students from applying.

- A. denies
- B. forbids
- C. deters
- D. avoids

#### ANSWER KEY

C.

#### LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Medium

#### ITEM INFORMATION

C fits the gap because it means 'discourage' and takes a direct object and the preposition 'from'. A takes a gerund and means 'to say something is not true'; B takes a direct object and a full infinitive; while D also takes a gerund.

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### Question 3

The newspaper was quick to print a \_\_\_\_\_ upon realizing its error.

- A. speculation
- B. negotiation
- C. contradiction
- D. retraction

#### ANSWER KEY

D.

#### LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

More challenging

#### ITEM INFORMATION

D fits the gap because it means 'a statement saying that something previously said or written by the person making the statement is not true' and collocates with 'print' or 'issue'. None of the other three answer choices fits with 'upon realizing its error'. A refers to guesswork, B refers to a discussion to reach an agreement, while C refers to a statement which is opposite in nature to a previous statement in a discussion or text.

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### Question 4

Three different writers \_\_\_\_\_ on the screenplay of an award-winning film.

- A. coordinated
- B. collaborated
- C. coincided
- D. converged

#### ANSWER KEY

B.

#### LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Medium

#### ITEM INFORMATION

B fits the gap because it means 'work together' and is used with 'on' for a product and 'with' for a co-worker. A means 'organize others so that they work together effectively'; C means 'happen at the same time', while D means 'come together'.

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## Question 5

As the project moved into its final \_\_\_\_\_ it appeared to be successful.

- A. phase
- B. section
- C. issue
- D. portion

### ANSWER KEY

A.

### LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

More challenging

### ITEM INFORMATION

A fits the gap because 'final' collocates with 'phase' and this phrase in turn collocates with 'project' and 'move into'. Although the other three answer choices collocate with 'final', they do not collocate with 'project' and 'move into'.

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## Question 6

Scientists believe it is too early to \_\_\_\_\_ conclusions about the experiment.

- A. take
- B. receive
- C. invent
- D. draw

### ANSWER KEY

D.

### LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Medium

### ITEM INFORMATION

D fits the gap because 'draw conclusions' is a collocation which is almost a fixed expression. The other three answer choices do not collocate with 'conclusions'.

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## Question 7

If DVD piracy continues to \_\_\_\_\_, the film industry will face severe financial problems.

- A. ascertain
- B. dabble
- C. escalate
- D. entertain

### ANSWER KEY

C.

### LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Medium

### ITEM INFORMATION

C fits the gap because it means 'to increase' and has a negative connotation, often associated with crime or violence. A means 'to make oneself certain' or 'find out', B requires the preposition 'at' or 'in' and means 'to do something in a casual or amateur way', while D requires an object.

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## Question 8

Students will be expelled from school if they \_\_\_\_\_ disgraceful behavior.

- A. exhibit
- B. influence
- C. restrain
- D. reveal

### ANSWER KEY

A.

### LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

More challenging

### ITEM INFORMATION

A fits the gap because it means 'display' and collocates with 'behavior'. B also collocates with behavior, but it does not fit the sentence as it would imply that disgraceful behavior was desirable. C means 'limit', but does not collocate with behavior. D means 'show' but does not collocate with behavior.

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## Question 9

It is imperative that all merchandise be \_\_\_\_\_ before it is shipped to the customer.

- A. examined
- B. distributed
- C. exported
- D. developed

### ANSWER KEY

A.

### LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Medium

### ITEM INFORMATION

A fits the gap because it means 'investigated thoroughly' and fits the meaning of the sentence. The sentence contains a word for transportation 'shipped' and so B and C which also refer to transportation do not fit the sentence. D does not collocate with 'merchandise', which can be 'manufactured', but not 'developed'.

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## Question 10

In an attempt to control inflation, the government has decided to \_\_\_\_\_ wages.

- A. certify
- B. freeze
- C. transform
- D. withstand

### ANSWER KEY

B.

### LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Medium

### ITEM INFORMATION

B fits the gap because 'freeze wages' is a fixed expression meaning to keep wages at the same level. A means 'to assess for a certificate' and does not fit with 'wages', C requires 'into' and another object, while D means 'resist' and does not fit with 'wages'.

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## Question 11

The sales of the new product have gone beyond the company's \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. beliefs
- B. budget
- C. enterprise
- D. expectations

### ANSWER KEY

D.

### LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Less challenging

### ITEM INFORMATION

D fits the gap because to 'go beyond expectations' is a common expression. 'Sales' cannot go beyond beliefs, budget or enterprise and therefore A, B and D cannot be the correct answer choice.

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## Question 12

The project was \_\_\_\_\_ because of lack of funding.

- A. axed
- B. conceived
- C. embarked
- D. pioneered

### ANSWER KEY

A.

### LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

More challenging

### ITEM INFORMATION

A fits the gap because it means 'stopped completely and suddenly' and usually collocates with projects, finances, jobs, etc. 'Conceived' collocates with 'project', meaning 'think of the idea' or 'initiate'. C means 'start', but requires 'on' or 'upon', while D means 'start something previously untried'. Neither C nor D fit the meaning of the sentence as projects are not begun because of lack of funding.

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### Question 13

No one knows who \_\_\_\_\_ the identity of the CIA agent to the press.

- A. assumed
- B. disguised
- C. leaked
- D. traced

#### ANSWER KEY

C.

#### LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

More challenging

#### ITEM INFORMATION

C fits the gap because it means 'provide confidential information secretly'. To 'assume an identity' means 'to impersonate' someone, B does not collocate with 'identity' and is followed by the preposition 'as', while 'to trace someone's identity' means to find out who their real identity is and is not followed by an indirect object.

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### Question 14

Some lawyers manage to free their clients because of \_\_\_\_\_ in the law.

- A. an annulment
- B. a constitution
- C. an enactment
- D. a loophole

#### ANSWER KEY

D.

#### LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

More challenging

#### ITEM INFORMATION

D fits the gap because it refers to imprecise wording or a lack of mention in legislation and so collocates with 'law'. To 'annul' a law means to cancel it, but 'annulment' is not followed by 'in'. To 'enact' a law means to bring it into effect, but 'enactment' is followed by 'of'. A 'constitution' is a document defining the legal framework of a country's legislative powers and cannot be followed by 'in the law'.

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## Question 15

The FBI is trying to \_\_\_\_\_ the exact location of the hostages and kidnappers.

- A. diffuse
- B. dismiss
- C. instill
- D. pinpoint

### ANSWER KEY

D.

### LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Medium

### ITEM INFORMATION

D fits the gap because it means 'precisely find'. A means 'spread thinly over a wide area', B means 'send away' and is used for employees who lose their jobs, while C means 'put into' or 'inspire' and is used for virtues, such as pride. Only D fits the meaning of the sentence.

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