Kerala PSC LDC 2027

General English: Vocabulary, 20 Questions with Answers

Singular & Plural, Gender, Collective Nouns

1. The plural of 'phenomenon' is:

(A) phenomenons

(B) phenomena

(C) phenomenas

(D) phenomenia

Answer: (B) phenomena

'Phenomenon' is of Greek origin and takes the irregular plural 'phenomena'.

2. The feminine gender of 'emperor' is:

(A) empress

(B) emperess

(C) queen

(D) lady emperor

Answer: (A) empress

Emperor → Empress.

3. A group of lions is called a:

(A) pride

(B) pack

(C) herd

(D) flock

Answer: (A) pride

A pride of lions. (A pack of wolves, a herd of cattle, a flock of sheep.)

Word Formation, Prefix and Suffix

4. The noun form of 'choose' is:

(A) choosing

(B) choice

(C) chose

(D) chosen

Answer: (B) choice

Choose (verb) → choice (noun).

5. Which word is correctly formed by adding a prefix to 'relevant' to give its opposite?

(A) unrelevant

(B) irrelevant

(C) inrelevant

(D) dirrelevant

Answer: (B) irrelevant

The prefix 'ir-' is used before words beginning with 'r': irrelevant.

Compound Words

6. Which of the following is a compound word?

(A) Beautiful

(B) Classroom

(C) Happiness

(D) Unkind

Answer: (B) Classroom

A compound word joins two words: class + room = classroom. The others are formed with prefixes or suffixes.

Synonyms

7. Choose the word closest in meaning to 'abundant':

(A) scarce

(B) plentiful

(C) tiny

(D) rare

Answer: (B) plentiful

Abundant means existing in large quantities, so 'plentiful' is the synonym.

8. Choose the word closest in meaning to 'candid':

(A) secretive

(B) frank

(C) shy

(D) clever

Answer: (B) frank

Candid means honest and straightforward, so 'frank'.

Antonyms

9. Choose the word opposite in meaning to 'generous':

(A) kind

(B) liberal

(C) stingy

(D) noble

Answer: (C) stingy

Generous means willing to give freely; its opposite is 'stingy'.

10. Choose the word opposite in meaning to 'expand':

(A) increase

(B) enlarge

(C) contract

(D) extend

Answer: (C) contract

Expand means to grow bigger; contract means to become smaller.

Phrasal Verbs

11. 'The match was called off because of rain.' Here 'called off' means:

(A) postponed

(B) cancelled

(C) started

(D) watched

Answer: (B) cancelled

'Call off' means to cancel.

12. 'She looks after her aged parents.' Here 'looks after' means:

(A) searches for

(B) takes care of

(C) looks down on

(D) waits for

Answer: (B) takes care of

'Look after' means to take care of.

Foreign Words and Phrases

13. The Latin phrase 'bona fide' means:

(A) in good faith / genuine

(B) at first sight

(C) for example

(D) against the law

Answer: (A) in good faith / genuine

'Bona fide' means genuine or in good faith, as in a bona fide traveller.

One Word Substitutes

14. A person who loves mankind and helps others:

(A) misanthrope

(B) philanthropist

(C) pessimist

(D) altruist

Answer: (B) philanthropist

A philanthropist works for the welfare of humanity, usually by donating generously. (A misanthrope hates mankind.)

15. A place where bees are kept:

(A) aviary

(B) apiary

(C) aquarium

(D) nursery

Answer: (B) apiary

Apiary = place where bees are kept; aviary = place for birds; aquarium = place for fish.

Words Often Confused

16. He bought pens, paper and other ___ from the shop.

(A) stationary

(B) stationery

(C) stationry

(D) stationnery

Answer: (B) stationery

'Stationery' means writing materials; 'stationary' means not moving.

Spelling Test

17. Choose the correctly spelt word:

(A) Acommodation

(B) Accomodation

(C) Accommodation

(D) Acomodation

Answer: (C) Accommodation

Accommodation has double 'c' and double 'm'.

Idioms and Their Meanings

18. The idiom 'to break the ice' means:

(A) to damage something

(B) to start a conversation in a social situation

(C) to become very angry

(D) to feel cold

Answer: (B) to start a conversation in a social situation

To break the ice is to ease tension and start a conversation among people who are meeting for the first time.

19. The idiom 'once in a blue moon' means:

(A) every night

(B) very rarely

(C) at midnight

(D) for a long time

Answer: (B) very rarely

'Once in a blue moon' means something happens very rarely.

Common Abbreviations

20. The abbreviation 'GDP' stands for:

(A) General Development Programme

(B) Gross Domestic Product

(C) Government Domestic Policy

(D) Gross Development Plan

Answer: (B) Gross Domestic Product

GDP = Gross Domestic Product, the total value of goods and services produced in a country.

Quick Revision

Item	Meaning / Rule
Irregular plurals	phenomenon→phenomena, criterion→criteria, datum→data, crisis→crises
Collective nouns	pride of lions, flock of sheep, herd of cattle, pack of wolves, swarm of bees

Latin phrases	bona fide = genuine; status quo = existing state of affairs; alma mater = one's former school/college
One-word substitutes	apiary = bees; aviary = birds; bibliophile = book lover; bilingual = speaking two languages
Confused words	stationary (still) / stationery (paper); accept (receive) / except (exclude); affect (verb) / effect (noun)
Abbreviations	i.e. = that is; e.g. = for example; GDP = Gross Domestic Product