Diagnostic Test for the Word Up Project

Instructions for Test Administration

The diagnostic test found on our website is intended to help you determine the appropriate Word Up Project level for your class. If you are unsure of the reading level of the students in your class—or of certain students in particular—you may want to give this diagnostic test. There are 6 questions taken from each level, and the questions increase in difficulty.

For efficiency's sake, we recommend that you instruct students to answer questions until they reach three questions in a row where they need to guess the right answer. At that point, they should stop (since the questions will only get harder and randomly correct guesses can skew your data). Remind students that this test will not be graded, but rather, the purpose is to help them learn as much vocabulary as possible.

Use the following chart to determine the correct level for your students. You could take the average of your students' results, or you may want to use these results to differentiate instruction.

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<th>Number of correct answers</th>
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The answer key is below, followed by the test itself.

**Diagnostic Test Answer Key**

Diagnostic Test for The Word Up Project

Choose the answer or phrase that best answers the question.

1. What part of your body allows you to chew?
   (A) your teeth  
   (B) your nose  
   (C) your lips  
   (D) your eyes

2. The construction crew was working on the base of the building. Where are they working?
   (A) on the roof of the building  
   (B) on the third floor of the building  
   (C) in the hallways of the building  
   (D) on the bottom part of the building

3. Keisha loves to travel. Which of these things would be a good present for her?
   (A) a plant  
   (B) a video game  
   (C) a plane ticket  
   (D) a necklace

4. If you say someone is weak, you mean: 
   (A) He is not strong.  
   (B) He is very smart.  
   (C) He is big.  
   (D) He is young.

5. The kids had to guess how many gumballs were in the jar. There were 98. Which kid is only slightly wrong?
   (A) Paul guessed that there were 96 gumballs in the jar.  
   (B) Claire guessed that there were 136 gumballs in the jar.  
   (C) Mayte guessed that there were 137 gumballs in the jar.  
   (D) Brett guessed that there were two gumballs in the jar.

6. When Nora took the clothes out of the dryer, they were damp. What does that mean?
   (A) They were a little wet.  
   (B) They were too small.  
   (C) They smelled nice.  
   (D) They were hot and dry.

7. What is the opposite of light?
   (A) the sun  
   (B) turning on a lamp  
   (C) sleeping  
   (D) darkness

8. Which would be the most brilliant?
   (A) the sun on a summer day  
   (B) a candle going out  
   (C) a spider crawling on the ground  
   (D) a light bulb

9. If someone finds the solution to a problem, what do they do?
   (A) They get the answer.  
   (B) They work by themselves.  
   (C) They paint on a ceiling.  
   (D) They do extra homework.

10. What would happen if you read a book gradually?
    (A) You would remember every line.  
    (B) You would read a little bit each day.  
    (C) You would read it backwards.  
    (D) You would have to read it for school.

11. How would you journey from one country to another?
    (A) call someone on the phone  
    (B) watch the t.v.  
    (C) ride your skateboard  
    (D) take a plane

12. If someone has a theory, what does she have?
    (A) a thick book  
    (B) a big idea  
    (C) a talk with their teacher  
    (D) the wrong answer

13. Which of the following is an example of the word “practice”?
    (A) a team of programmers making a new video game  
    (B) a caterpillar growing into a beautiful butterfly  
    (C) a man working on a machine in a factory  
    (D) a basketball team working on their shots before the game
14. If Jasmine can afford a watch, that means she
   (A) could buy a watch
   (B) won a free watch
   (C) keeps losing her watch
   (D) already owns a watch

15. What would you use to tidy the kitchen?
   (A) a broom
   (B) a plate
   (C) a table
   (D) a fork

16. Which of the following is an example of the word “annual”?
   (A) a bird
   (B) a week
   (C) a birthday
   (D) a hamburger

17. Which of these is surface damage on a car?
   (A) a flat tire
   (B) a dead battery
   (C) a broken radio
   (D) a scratch in the paint

18. Which of these is a disaster?
   (A) a funny movie
   (B) a tornado
   (C) a lunch food
   (D) a board game

19. What does a pedestrian use for transportation?
   (A) a car
   (B) a train
   (C) a bike
   (D) her feet

20. On which day is it most common for people to cause mischief?
   (A) the Fourth of July
   (B) April Fool’s Day
   (C) Thanksgiving
   (D) Presidents’ Day

21. What is a negative way to get attention?
   (A) telling your mom she looks pretty when she doesn’t
   (B) punching someone in the arm
   (C) winning the lottery
   (D) performing in a school play

22. Which of these is a way in which someone is usually compensated?
   (A) an umbrella
   (B) a paycheck
   (C) the flu
   (D) an excuse

23. Which of these things cannot be budged?
   (A) a bicycle
   (B) a mountain
   (C) a box of tissues
   (D) a lion

24. Which of the following is an example of the word “approximate”?
   (A) I didn’t have a watch on, but I guessed that it was about three o’clock.
   (B) Things have been quiet around here since the bandits left town.
   (C) Mindy felt totally exhausted after staying up all night.
   (D) The tailor created a beautiful new outfit for the king’s visit to Germany.

25. Which of the following things mimics something else?
   (A) a parrot
   (B) an eagle
   (C) an elephant
   (D) a goldfish

26. Amber has great negotiation skills. She is good at
   (A) changing her story
   (B) getting things done
   (C) making deals
   (D) working hard

27. Bridget loathes peanut butter. She
   (A) loves it
   (B) promises to eat it
   (C) can’t stand it
   (D) expects it

28. In the alphabet, what is the subsequent letter to W?
   (A) V
   (B) X
   (C) U
   (D) Y
29. Ben experienced a deluge of happiness after he graduated. He was
(A) extremely sad
(B) pretty sad
(C) extremely happy
(D) pretty happy

30. Brenda's parents felt that the school stifled her creativity. They felt the school
(A) encouraged it
(B) limited it
(C) ignored it
(D) mourned it

31. Which of these items can quench a fire?
(A) smoke
(B) wood
(C) matches
(D) water

32. If I told you a saga, I would be telling you a(n)
(A) lie
(B) joke
(C) story
(D) apology

33. On a lavish date, you would be most likely to
(A) watch a movie at home
(B) take a long walk in a park
(C) eat at an expensive restaurant
(D) go bowling at midnight

34. Which phrase is a reprimand?
(A) “Great job!”
(B) “I'm sorry.”
(C) “Behave yourself!”
(D) “Let's go.”

35. Someone who devours Count Basie CDs
(A) has not heard of Count Basie
(B) can't stand Count Basie
(C) works for Count Basie
(D) listens to Count Basie frequently

36. Which would be most useful for a vocation?
(A) a travel agent
(B) a college education
(C) a guide to restaurants
(D) a map

37. Ricardo was vying for a nomination for student council president. He was
(A) hoping he wouldn't get nominated
(B) submitting a nomination for his friend
(C) fighting to win a nomination
(D) sabotaging another candidate

38. Lina vilified Hiro when she
(A) robbed him
(B) spoke unfavorably of him
(C) grabbed him
(D) bought him a sandwich

39. Which of the following sentences best demonstrates the meaning of the word assimilate?
(A) Jim divided the money in three.
(B) After moving to Oakland, Sreng slowly learned to like baseball.
(C) John stepped between the two arguing customers.
(D) Keith baked a cake every Saturday.

40. The students were sweltering. They were
(A) failing their class
(B) arguing with each other
(C) sweating a lot
(D) becoming weak

41. Kyron was known for his disposition or
(A) personality
(B) fear
(C) wealth
(D) looks

42. A disgruntled employee is
(A) fed up with her job
(B) better than all the others
(C) someone who is doing her job first
(D) skilled at her job