

ANSWERS TO ENGLISH, 2008

1. A: Clue: **Idiom** – for something to **be at hand** means it is close to you in time or distance.
2. B Clue: **Base infinitive**: any verb that follows make, see, feel, watch, and hear must be in the present tense, not past.
Example: "I saw her steal the money yesterday". (not stole)
3. A: Clue: **Accompaniment Concord** – When: with, alongside, as much as, like, etc is used, the subject of the clause i.e. the noun before the accompaniments determines whether the verb is singular or plural. In this case, 'the Principal' is the subject and so it takes a singular verb, 'has arrived'.
4. B: Clue: **"One another"** is used when there are more than two entities involved. While **"each other"** is used when only two entities are involved.
5. D: Clue: **"Run"** is the past participle form of the verb "run" it is only the past participle form that goes with the past form of the auxiliary verb **"had"**.
6. D: Clue – **Phrasal verb**: To **switch something off** means to turn a light or machine off by pressing a button or switch.
7. A: Clue – **Phrasal verb**: **Wrest something from somebody** means to take something from somebody with great effort.
8. D: Clue – **"Forlorn hope"** means unlikely to succeed or unlikely to come true.
9. B: Clue: **Idiom** – **Sword of Damocles** – a threat of something bad that is likely to happen at any time. This expression refers to a legend in which Damocles was forced by Dionysius of Syria to sit through a banquet with a sword hanging by a single hair over his head.
10. A: Clue: **Idiom** – **Steal a march on someone** means to gain an advantage over someone by doing something earlier than expected (Refers literally to moving an army unexpectedly while the enemy is resting).
11. B: Clue: **Idiom** – **Take the bit between one's teeth** means to act on one's own and cease to follow other people's instructions or advice.
12. C: Clue: **Idiom** – **Take time by the forelock** means to act quickly and without delay.
13. D: Clue: **Idiom** – To **laugh up one's sleeve** is to be secretly amused.
14. A: **Despoiled** means to steal something valuable from a place or to make a place less attractive by damaging or destroying it. Others words are: rob, sack, plunder, ransack, pillage, loot, maraud, ravage.
15. C: **Novelty** means the quality of being new, different and interesting. Others are: freshness, rarity, strangeness, uncommon, modern, newness
16. A: **Ominous** means suggesting that something bad is going to happen in the future. Others are: premonitory, unpropitious, inauspicious, portentous, baleful, minatory, threatening.
17. B: **Abject** means terrible and without hope. Synonyms are: beggarly, cringing, ignoble, miserable, paltry, pitiful, servile, slavish, grovelling.
18. A: **Priceless** means extremely valuable or important. Others are: inestimable, invaluable, precious, expensive,

19. A: **Surmount** means to deal successfully with a difficulty. Others words are: overtop, subdue, vanquish, transcend, surpass, conquer, master etc.
20. C
21. D
22. A
23. C
24. D
25. A: **Latter** means being the second of two things or the last in a list.
Words opposite in meaning are: antecedent, anterior, foregoing, preceding, previous, quondam, erstwhile, prior, earlier.
26. C: **Extant** means (of something very old) still in existence (surviving, existent, living, existing).
Opposites are: ended, terminated, vanished, quenched, extinguished.
27. C: **Euphemistic** means using indirect or mild word or phrase to refer to embarrassing or unpleasant situations so as to make it more acceptable
Opposites are: stern, unfeeling, ill-tempered, cruel, crabby, stringent, cacophonous, abusive, austere.
28. A: **Enervate** means to make somebody feel weak and tired.
Opposites are: energize, brace, fortify, nerve, quicken, vivify, stimulate, strengthen, refresh.
29. C: **Remorse** means the feeling of being extremely sorry for something wrong or bad that you have done.
Opposites are: Callous, graceless, hardened, impenitent, irreclaimable, obdurate, abandoned, incorrigible.
30. A: **Erratic** means not happening at regular times; not following any plan or regular patten.
Opposites are: foreseeable, predictable, prognosticable, certain