



Answers

1. d) hardly
2. a) barely
3. c) later
4. d) recently
5. a) well
6. c) fluently
7. d) extremely
8. b) sincerely
9. c) quietly
10. d) poorly
11. b) slightly
12. a) almost
13. b) silently
14. a) beautifully
15. b) barely
16. c) successfully
17. c) nervously
18. b) efficiently
19. d) mostly
20. a) nearly



Explanations

1. “hardly” (d)

'Hardly' means 'almost not'. 'I can hardly remember' = I almost cannot remember. The phrase 'it was a long time ago' tells us memory is fading — 'easily' is wrong because something from a long time ago would not be easy to remember. 'Hard' means 'with effort', 'harder' is its comparative form.

2. “barely” (a)

'Barely' means 'only just, by a very small amount'. She finished, but barely = she almost didn't finish. 'Nearly' means 'almost' and would suggest she did NOT finish, contradicting the first clause. 'Bare' is an adjective, 'near' means 'close' in distance.

3. “later” (c)

'Later' means 'at a future time'. 'I'll try again later.' 'Late' means 'not on time', 'lately' means 'recently', and 'latest' means 'most recent' (adjective). Time adverbs like 'later' typically go at the end of a sentence.

4. “recently” (d)

'Recently' is an adverb of time meaning 'not long ago'. It can go before the main verb (mid-position) or at the end of a sentence. 'Recent' is an adjective, 'recency' is a noun, and 'more recent' is comparative.

5. “well” (a)

'Well' is the adverb form of 'good'. 'Behaved well' describes HOW they behaved. 'Good' is an adjective and cannot modify a verb in standard English. 'Best' is superlative, and 'goodly' is archaic.

6. “fluently” (c)

'Fluently' is an adverb of manner at the end of the sentence, describing how he speaks. Manner adverbs commonly appear after the verb or object. 'Fluent' is an adjective, 'fluency' is a noun.

7. “extremely” (d)

'Extremely' is a degree adverb that modifies the adjective 'small'. Degree adverbs go BEFORE the adjective they modify: 'extremely small'. 'Extreme' is an adjective, 'extremity' is a noun.

8. “sincerely” (b)

'Sincerely' is an adverb of manner that can go in mid-position (before the main verb). 'She sincerely apologised' emphasises the manner of apologising. 'Sincere' is an adjective, 'sincerity' is a noun.

9. “quietly” (c)

'Quietly' is an adverb of manner describing how the children sat. The teacher was reading a story, which requires a calm setting — 'noisily' is wrong because sitting noisily would disrupt the reading. 'Quiet' is an adjective, 'quietness' is a noun.

10. “poorly” (d)

'Poorly' is an adverb of manner describing how the instructions were written. The second sentence says 'nobody could understand them' — 'clearly' is wrong because clearly written instructions would be easy to understand. 'Poor' and 'bad' are adjectives.

11. “slightly” (b)

'Slightly' is a degree adverb meaning 'a little'. It modifies the comparative 'more expensive'. Degree adverbs go before comparatives: 'slightly more expensive', 'much better', 'a lot bigger'. 'Slight' is an adjective.

12. “almost” (a)

'Almost' means 'nearly, not quite'. 'Almost finished' = nearly finished. Mid-position adverbs like 'almost' go before the main verb or after the auxiliary. 'Mostly' means 'mainly', which has a different meaning.

13. “silently” (b)

'Silently' is an adverb of manner describing how the cat moved. A cat stalking a mouse needs to be quiet — 'loudly' is wrong because moving loudly would alert the mouse and ruin the hunt. 'Silent' is an adjective, 'silence' is a noun.

14. “beautifully” (a)

'Beautifully' is an adverb of manner describing how she plays. She has been practising since age five, so her playing would be skilled — 'awkwardly' is wrong because years of practice produce grace, not clumsiness. 'Beautiful' is an adjective, 'beauty' is a noun.

15. “barely” (b)

'Barely' means 'only just'. 'He had barely left' = he had just left a moment before. 'Nearly' means 'almost' and would suggest he hadn't actually left yet. 'Bare' is an adjective, 'near' means 'close by'.

16. “successfully” (c)

'Successfully' is an adverb of manner in mid-position (before the main verb). 'She successfully completed' emphasises the manner of completion. 'Successful' is an adjective, 'success' is a noun.

17. “nervously” (c)

'Nervously' is an adverb of manner in mid-position (before the main verb). It describes the subject's emotional state while performing the action. 'Nervous' is an adjective, 'nerve' is a noun.

18. “efficiently” (b)

'Efficiently' is an adverb of manner describing how the employee works. 'Efficient' is an adjective, 'efficiency' is a noun, and 'most efficient' is superlative.

19. “mostly” (d)

'Mostly' means 'mainly, for the most part'. 'I mostly agree' = I agree with most of it. The phrase 'but there's one point I'd like to discuss' tells us agreement is partial — 'completely' is wrong because complete agreement would leave nothing to discuss. 'Most' can be an adverb but needs a different structure. 'Large' is an adjective.

20. “nearly” (a)

'Nearly' means 'almost'. 'Nearly complete' = almost finished. It modifies the adjective 'complete'. 'Near' means 'close' in distance, 'nearer' is comparative, and 'nearest' is superlative.