

12. She has a real talent ____ languages.
a) on
b) for
c) of
d) at
13. I could see the look of surprise ____ her face.
a) in
b) at
c) on
d) of
14. There is a growing demand ____ electric vehicles worldwide.
a) of
b) on
c) for
d) in
15. His attitude ____ his colleagues made him unpopular at work.
a) on
b) with
c) for
d) towards
16. The students had difficulty ____ understanding the instructions.
a) on
b) for
c) in
d) of
17. Can you see any difference ____ these two photographs?
a) of
b) from
c) between
d) in
18. She made no attempt ____ hiding her disappointment.
a) for
b) of
c) at
d) in
19. What is the key ____ success in business?
a) for
b) to
c) of
d) in
20. The government's ban ____ single-use plastics starts next month.
a) of
b) for
c) to
d) on



Answers

1. b) for
2. a) on
3. d) to
4. b) in
5. a) of
6. a) of
7. d) to
8. b) in
9. a) for
10. d) between
11. a) of
12. b) for
13. c) on
14. c) for
15. d) towards
16. c) in
17. c) between
18. c) at
19. b) to
20. d) on



Explanations

1. “for” (b)

'Reason for' is the standard collocation: reason for the change, reason for leaving. We do not say 'reason of'.

2. “on” (a)

'Effect on' means impact or influence: effect on the environment, effect on the economy. Note: do not confuse with 'affect' (verb).

3. “to” (d)

'Solution to' is the standard collocation: solution to the problem, solution to the puzzle. In everyday English, 'solution to' is strongly preferred.

4. “in” (b)

'Increase in' is the standard collocation: increase in sales, increase in temperature. The same pattern applies to 'decrease in', 'rise in', 'drop in'.

5. “of” (a)

'Sense of' is a fixed collocation: a sense of pride, a sense of humour, a sense of direction, a sense of responsibility.

6. “of” (a)

'Advantage of' is the standard collocation: advantage of being tall, advantage of the new system. The same pattern applies to 'disadvantage of'.

7. “to” (d)

'Damage to' is the correct collocation: damage to property, damage to the environment. We do not say 'damage on' or 'damage of'.

8. “in” (b)

'Interest in' is the standard collocation: interest in music, interest in learning languages. This matches the adjective form 'interested in'.

9. “for” (a)

'Need for' is the standard collocation when 'need' is used as a noun: need for change, need for more research, need for improvement.

10. “between” (d)

'Connection between' is used when linking two things: connection between A and B. Note: 'connection with' or 'connection to' are used when linking to a single thing.

11. “of” (a)

'Success of' is the standard collocation when talking about the success belonging to something: the success of the business, the success of the plan.

12. “for” (b)

'Talent for' is the correct collocation: talent for music, talent for public speaking, talent for solving problems.

13. “on” (c)

'Surprise on (someone's face)' is a fixed expression. We say: a look of surprise on her face, a smile on his face, tears on her cheeks.

14. “for” (c)

'Demand for' is the standard collocation: demand for housing, demand for skilled workers, demand for organic food.

15. “towards” (d)

'Attitude towards' (or 'attitude to') is the standard collocation: attitude towards life, attitude towards work. Both 'towards' and 'to' are correct here.

16. “in” (c)

'Difficulty in' is the standard pattern before gerunds: difficulty in understanding, difficulty in finding a job. Note: 'difficulty with' is used before nouns (difficulty with maths).

17. “between” (c)

'Difference between' is used when comparing two things: difference between A and B. Similar to 'connection between'.

18. “at” (c)

'Attempt at' is the standard collocation when 'attempt' is a noun followed by a gerund or another noun: an attempt at humour, an attempt at solving the problem.

19. “to” (b)

'Key to' is a fixed collocation: the key to happiness, the key to good health. We do not say 'key of' or 'key for'.

20. “on” (d)

'Ban on' is the standard collocation: ban on smoking, ban on advertising, ban on imports. We do not say 'ban of'.