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Fluency Boost: Opinions, Academic Discourse & Adverb+Adjective Collocations

Medium | B2 | Upper Intermediate | C1 | Advanced | Adjective | Adverb | Conjunction | Participle | Phrase | Sentence | Verb | Passive voice | Collocations | Idiom

1. Complete the campus gossip's observation about a rather oblivious freshman. Choose the correct adverb to form a natural English expression.

While the rest of the class panicked about the surprise midterm, Kevin sat in the back row, _____ unaware of the impending academic doom.

Select one.

A) happily
B) blissfully
C) gladly
D) joyfully

2. Help the local film critic finish his dramatic review of the summer's biggest blockbuster by choosing the correct adverbs.

Long-time fans of the franchise were _____ disappointed by the chaotic plot of the sequel. Despite the terrible reviews, it remains _____ impossible to get a ticket for opening weekend.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) virtually
B) bitterly
C) heavily

Blank 2

A) bitterly
B) virtually
C) deeply

3. Help the exhausted grad student finish her thesis statement without sounding completely informal. Select the most natural academic collocation.

The professor's new theory on time travel is _____, sparking heated debates and minor shouting matches in the physics department.

Select one.

A) strongly controversial
B) deeply controversial
C) highly controversial
D) heavily controversial

4. Complete the weary professor's feedback on a rather chaotic student essay by matching the adverbs to the right gaps.

While your first premise is a _____ accepted fact in the scientific community, your final conclusion that time-traveling aliens built the pyramids is _____ ridiculous!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) utterly
B) widely
C) thickly

Blank 2

- **A)** widely
- **B)** utterly
- **C)** heavily

5. Choose the best phrase to describe the cutthroat world of the university debate team.

Getting a spot on the national debate squad is _____; you have to out-argue fifty other brilliant students just to get an audition.

Select one.

- **A)** violently competitive
- **B)** strongly competitive
- **C)** fiercely competitive
- **D)** heavily competitive

6. Select the correct adverbs to complete the dramatic movie director's angry public response to the critics.

I am _____ disappointed by the reviews of my latest masterpiece, "Shark Tornado 5." The critics' claim that the plot is unrealistic is _____ absurd. It is _____ obvious that they simply do not understand high art!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** heavily
- **B)** highly
- **C)** bitterly

Blank 2

- **A)** deeply
- **B)** sorely
- **C)** patently

Blank 3

- **A)** virtually
- **B)** heavily
- **C)** painfully

7. Help the peer reviewer politely but firmly destroy their rival's academic paper by choosing the correct adverb-adjective pairing.

Although the author presents an interesting premise, the methodology used to collect the survey data is _____.

Select one.

- **A)** deeply flawed
- **B)** highly flawed
- **C)** vastly flawed
- **D)** strongly flawed

8. Help the exhausted college student refine the dramatic conclusion of their research paper on caffeine by choosing the correct adverbs.

While it is _____ impossible to survive finals week without coffee, students are becoming _____ dependent on espresso shots. Consequently, university health officials are _____ concerned about this rising trend.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) highly
B) deeply
C) virtually

Blank 2

A) highly
B) deeply
C) heavily

Blank 3

A) heavily
B) virtually
C) deeply

9. Help the debate club president polish her opening statement by choosing the correct adverb for each gap.

The proposed policy on artificial intelligence is _____ controversial among tech experts. Meanwhile, many ordinary citizens remain _____ concerned about the long-term privacy implications.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) brightly
B) highly
C) strictly

Blank 2

A) heavily
B) deeply
C) loosely

10. Complete the sociology professor's formal feedback on a student's slightly chaotic thesis about the social lives of house cats.

Your argument that cats secretly rule the human world is _____ flawed. You must _____ into account that cats sleep sixteen hours a day. Furthermore, your conclusion is _____ reliant on a single YouTube video, which is _____ unscientific.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) highly
B) heavily
C) fundamentally

Blank 2

A) make
B) give
C) take

Blank 3

A) deeply
B) virtually
C) heavily

Blank 4

A) sorely
B) bitterly
C) highly

11. Complete the detective's rather sarcastic notes on a terribly hidden crime.

It was _____ that the "burglar" was just the owner's cat, given the tiny paw prints left on the broken vase.

Select one.

A) sorely obvious
B) hurtfully obvious
C) achingly obvious
D) painfully obvious

12. Help Professor Higgins grade a research paper by choosing natural English collocations. Select ALL the phrases that correctly and naturally complete his feedback sentence.

"While your topic is fascinating, I must warn you that your final hypothesis is _____."

Select all that apply.

A) highly controversial
B) highly unlikely
C) highly huge
D) highly impossible
E) highly beneficial

13. Select the most natural academic phrasing to start off a history essay introduction.

It is _____ among historians that the ancient library was not destroyed in a single fire, but rather suffered centuries of neglect.

Select one.

A) broadly believed
B) vastly believed
C) largely believed
D) widely believed

14. Choose the correct adverbs to complete the meeting minutes for the somewhat disastrous annual board meeting.

The board of directors was _____ aware of the upcoming budget cuts. However, by the end of the presentation, it became _____ obvious that the new software project was going to fail anyway.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) painfully
B) fully
C) thickly

Blank 2

A) heavily
B) painfully
C) strictly

15. A historian is giving a lecture on ancient civilizations and their trade routes. Select ALL the natural collocations that correctly complete his sentence.

"Because they lived in a desert, the empire's economy was _____ on maritime trade."

Select all that apply.

A) heavily dependent
B) heavily reliant
C) heavily true
D) heavily empty
E) highly dependent

16. Choose the correct adverb to complete the art student's critique of a modern painting.

The artist's late geometric period was _____ influenced by the architecture of the industrial cities she visited in her youth.

Select one.

- **A)** heavily
- **B)** thickly
- **C)** strictly
- **D)** fiercely

17. Help the confused food critic complete their review of a bizarre avant-garde restaurant that serves meals on iPads.

I am _____ of the opinion that plates should be made of ceramic, not glass screens. The chef's decision to serve hot soup directly on a tablet is _____ ridiculous. I was _____ tempted to just drink the broth straight from the tureen!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** heavily
- **B)** deeply
- **C)** firmly

Blank 2

- **A)** highly
- **B)** virtually
- **C)** utterly

Blank 3

- **A)** bitterly
- **B)** heavily
- **C)** sorely

18. Help an exhausted college student finish their literature review at 2 AM. Select ALL the phrases that naturally complete the academic statement below.

"In the scientific community, it is _____ that climate change is accelerated by human activity."

Select all that apply.

- **A)** widely accepted
- **B)** widely believed
- **C)** widely convinced
- **D)** widely recognized
- **E)** widely undeniable

19. Choose the most appropriate academic phrases to help the sleep-deprived history major finish their essay introduction at 2 AM.

It is _____ accepted that the Roman Empire was vast, but I _____ believe its road network was its greatest asset. This essay _____ light on the engineering marvels of the era and _____ into question the idea that modern roads are vastly superior.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** heavily
- **B)** bitterly
- **C)** widely

Blank 2

- **A)** heavily
- **B)** thickly
- **C)** firmly

Blank 3

- **A)** draws
- **B)** makes
- **C)** sheds

Blank 4

- **A)** puts
- **B)** takes
- **C)** calls

20. The terrifying head librarian is explaining the rules of the Rare Books Archive. Select ALL the adverb-adjective combinations she can naturally use to complete her warning.

"Listen closely, students. Access to these ancient, crumbling manuscripts is _____."

Select all that apply.

- **A)** strictly forbidden
- **B)** strictly limited
- **C)** strictly optional
- **D)** strictly regulated
- **E)** strictly destroyed

21. Act as the editor-in-chief and fix the collocations in this passionate opinion piece for the campus newspaper.

Free tutoring resources must be _____ available to all students on campus. Furthermore, it is _____ important that the administration addresses the library's shortened hours before finals week.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** vitally
- **B)** readily
- **C)** deeply

Blank 2

- **A)** readily
- **B)** vitally
- **C)** strictly

22. Complete the debate club captain's opening statement about extraterrestrial life by selecting the best academic phrases for each gap.

_____, we must consider the sheer vastness of the universe. The opposing team's argument _____ recent discoveries of habitable exoplanets. _____, the statistical probability of alien life is strikingly high, which strongly supports our position.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** To my mind
- **B)** From a scientific standpoint
- **C)** In a nutshell

Blank 2

- **A)** makes fun of
- **B)** looks down on
- **C)** fails to account for

Blank 3

- **A)** Therefore
- **B)** However
- **C)** Furthermore

23. Complete the dramatic film critic's review of this year's saddest documentary. Select ALL the adverb-adjective collocations that apply.

"The director's perspective on the historical conflict is _____."

Select all that apply.

- **A)** deeply moving
- **B)** deeply concerning
- **C)** deeply awake
- **D)** deeply offensive
- **E)** deeply hilarious

24. Assist the lead researcher in writing the methodology section of her paper by choosing the best adverb for each gap.

The initial phase of our sleep experiment was _____ reliant on volunteer participation. To protect privacy, access to the confidential data was _____ limited to the lead investigators.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** strictly
- **B)** heavily
- **C)** deeply

Blank 2

- **A)** bitterly
- **B)** strictly
- **C)** thickly