Context Clues

Choose one answer per question. Circle A, B, C, or D.

1. Lio carried a compact umbrella, so small when closed that it fit into his coat pocket. What does compact mean here?
   A. Small and able to fit in a tight space
   B. Extremely heavy
   C. Made for several people
   D. Hard to fold

2. The stage crew will improvise, making up a new sound effect without a rehearsal. What does improvise mean?
   A. Ask the audience to be silent
   B. Repeat an old recording exactly
   C. Create something on the spot
   D. Practice a scene for several weeks

3. Ken expected a crowded trail. The path was deserted, with no other walkers in sight. What does deserted mean here?
   A. Very sunny
   B. Empty of people
   C. Marked by signs
   D. Paved recently

4. Every fragile object, including the thin glass vase and the cracked clay cup, went into a padded box. What does fragile mean?
   A. Full of water
   B. Very expensive
   C. Already repaired
   D. Easily damaged or broken

5. The signs were legible. Mina could read every word even from the far end of the room. What does legible mean?
   A. Written in two languages
   B. Clear enough to read
   C. Hung above a doorway
   D. Difficult to spell

6. Rae was meticulous about the display. She measured the spacing twice and moved one label by a few millimeters. Which detail best supports the meaning of meticulous?

A. She measured twice and corrected a very small difference.
B. The display had labels.
C. Rae worked near a wall.
D. She had a place to stand.

7. Moss was sparse on the steps, appearing in only a few patches. What does sparse mean here?

A. Completely gone
B. Slippery to walk on
C. Thickly layered
D. Thinly scattered

8. The first draft made three promises. When asked to qualify the last one, the author added the words if the weather allows. What does qualify mean here?

A. Remove all punctuation
B. Meet the requirements for a prize
C. Add a condition or limit
D. Make the promise more certain

9. A team needs portable equipment, meaning equipment that can be moved easily, for its outdoor concert. What kind of clue explains portable?

A. A definition in the same sentence
B. A list of opposites
C. A later event with no explanation
D. The spelling of a proper name

10. Teo’s explanation was ambiguous. Two teammates read it and reached different conclusions about where to meet. What does ambiguous mean?

A. Delivered too late to read
B. Completely false
C. Written in very small letters
D. Open to more than one interpretation

11. A mechanic heard a faint click at first. As the machine warmed, the click became loud enough to hear across the shop. Which meaning of faint fits the first sentence?

A. Brave
B. Unconscious
C. Barely noticeable
D. Unlikely to happen

12. The town tried a tentative schedule for one Saturday. It asked for feedback before deciding whether to keep the schedule. What does tentative mean here?

A. Required forever
B. Provisional and subject to change
C. Already rejected by everyone
D. Copied exactly from last year

13. A notice calls the original trail inaccessible. It says a fallen tree blocks the entrance and directs hikers to a nearby route. Which meaning is most supported?

A. Open only in the morning
B. Too expensive to use
C. Missing from every map
D. Unable to be entered through the usual route

14. Nina kept returning to the project schedule when the group got distracted. The schedule was her anchor during a hectic week. What does anchor mean here?

A. Something that gives stability
B. A metal object tied to a boat
C. A weight Nina carried in her bag
D. A way to postpone a decision

15. At first, a student thinks the word reserved means booked. Later a narrator says Ada seldom offered an opinion until asked and describes her as reserved. What does the later context show?

A. Reserved means Ada spoke before everyone else.
B. Reserved means Ada paid ahead for a seat.
C. Reserved describes someone who keeps thoughts to herself.
D. Reserved means Ada had the only correct opinion.