Number, quantity, degree and intensity

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

UPPER-INTERMEDIATE | B2

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1 Match each quantitative expression with its meaning.

1 negligible	____	a increasing through successive additions
2 marginal	____	b too large or small in relation to something else
3 moderate	____	c common or widespread
4 substantial	____	d extremely small or unimportant
5 abundant	____	e limited and difficult to obtain
6 scarce	____	f very numerous; impossible to count
7 prevalent	____	g neither low nor high
8 countless	____	h more than enough; plentiful
9 cumulative	____	i slight and close to a limit
10 disproportionate	____	j large in amount, value or importance

2 Complete the quantitative collocations.

cumulative | degree | extent | intensity | marginal | prevalent | substantial | virtually

1 to a limited _____

2 vary in _____

3 a _____ amount

4 a _____ improvement

5 the _____ effect

6 increasingly _____

7 _____ identical

8 to a remarkable _____

3 Choose the most precise term for the context.

1 The difference is too small to matter: *negligible / substantial*.

2 Resources are limited and hard to find: *scarce / abundant*.

3 The effect builds over time: *cumulative / marginal*.

4 The response is excessive relative to the cause: *disproportionate / moderate*.

5 The practice is widespread: *prevalent / countless*.

6 The increase is small but measurable: *marginal / abundant*.

7 The archive contains innumerable records: *countless / scarce*.

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4 Complete the analysis with terms from the box.

abundant | cumulative | disproportionate | marginal | moderate | negligible | prevalent | scarce | substantial | countless

The first change was **1** _____ and barely measurable, but repeated changes produced a **2** _____ effect. In urban areas, the practice became increasingly **3** _____. Evidence was **4** _____ in large databases but **5** _____ in smaller communities. **6** _____ individual examples supported the trend. Most effects were **7** _____, although one group showed a **8** _____ increase. Another group's response was **9** _____ to the small stimulus, while measurement error remained **10** _____.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

Intensity and perception

A physical increase in a stimulus does not always produce an equal increase in perceived intensity. Moving from a very quiet room to ordinary conversation feels dramatic, while adding the same number of decibels to an already loud environment may feel less striking. Context, adaptation and the starting level all influence judgement. For this reason, descriptions such as twice as intense should be used cautiously unless the measurement scale and response being compared are clear.

1 Does physical increase always match perceived increase? ___

2 Which change feels dramatic? _____

3 When may the same increase feel less striking? _____

4 Which three factors influence judgement? _____

5 Which description requires caution? _____

6 What must be clear before making that claim? _____

6 Rewrite using the expression in capitals.

1 The effect was so small that it did not matter. **NEGLIGIBLE** _

2 The shortage became more common. **PREVALENT** _____

3 Small changes built up over time. **CUMULATIVE** _____

4 The reaction was too strong for the cause. **DISPROPORTIONATE** _

OVER TO YOU

Write a **120-150 word** analysis comparing the amount, prevalence or intensity of two trends.

[ ] Use at least ten target terms. [ ] Qualify size and degree precisely. [ ] Distinguish absolute from relative change.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Quantitative expressions

1 **d** 2 **i** 3 **g** 4 **j** 5 **h** 6 **e** 7 **c** 8 **f** 9 **a** 10 **b**

2 Quantitative collocations

1 **extent** 2 **intensity** 3 **substantial** 4 **marginal** 5 **cumulative** 6 **prevalent** 7 **virtually** 8 **degree**

3 Precise terms

1 **negligible** 2 **scarce** 3 **cumulative** 4 **disproportionate**
5 **prevalent** 6 **marginal** 7 **countless**

4 Quantitative analysis

1 **marginal** 2 **cumulative** 3 **prevalent** 4 **abundant** 5 **scarce**
6 **countless** 7 **moderate** 8 **substantial** 9 **disproportionate** 10 **negligible**

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 No. 2 Quiet room to conversation. 3 In an already loud environment. 4 Context, adaptation and starting level.
5 Twice as intense. 6 The scale and response being compared.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 The effect was **negligible**. 2 The shortage became more **prevalent**. 3 The changes had a **cumulative** effect. 4 The reaction was **disproportionate**.

Over to you: Answers will vary. Check quantitative nuance, comparisons and appropriate qualification.